



NewsLetter

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Pope Benedict XVI Appoints New CDWDS Officials

On June 16, 2009, Pope Benedict XVI transferred the Secretary of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, Archbishop Malcolm Ranjith, to the Metropolitan Archdiocese of Colombo, Sri Lanka. In his place, the Holy Father appointed American-born Father J. Augustine DiNoia, O.P. to serve as the new Secretary. Fr. DiNoia was also ordained as Titular Archbishop of Oregon City on July 11 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC.

Born in New York on July 10, 1943, Archbishop DiNoia joined the Order of Preachers (Dominican Friars) in 1964, and was ordained a priest in 1970 as a member of the Order's Eastern Province of St. Joseph. The following year, DiNoia received his licentiate in theology at the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, DC. From 1993 to 2001 he served as Executive Director of the USCCB Secretariat for Doctrine and Pastoral Practices. DiNoia was a member of the International Theological Commission from 1997 to 2002. In 1998, he received the title "Master of Sacred Theology" from the Order. DiNoia was appointed Undersecretary of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith on April 4, 2002.

In a statement, Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I., USCCB President, hailed Archbishop DiNoia as "a fine scholar dedicated to the pursuit of truth" and noted that the U.S. Bishops were "grateful that Archbishop-Elect DiNoia will bring his talents to the Vatican office responsible for the liturgy and sacraments throughout the entire world." Bishop Arthur J. Serratelli, Chairman of the Committee on Divine Worship, said that the new Secretary's experience in serving the Church both in the U.S. and at the Vatican "more than adequately prepares him for his new work."

Pope Benedict XVI also appointed a second Undersecretary for the Congregation on July 4; Monsignor Juan Miguel Ferrer Grenesche previously served as Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Toledo, Spain. The Committee on Divine Worship looks forward to working with the new Secretary and Undersecretary, along with the other officials of the Congregation, as the work on the translation of the new *Roman Missal* moves toward completion.

USCCB Approves Six Divine Worship Action Items

The June 2009 plenary meeting of the USCCB in San Antonio, Texas saw the immediate approval of two of the six action items presented by the Committee on Divine Worship. The text of a Mass in Thanksgiving for the Gift of Human Life as a U.S. adaptation to the forthcoming third edition of the *Roman Missal*, and the *Leccionario*, a Spanish-language Lectionary for the dioceses of the United States, received the necessary two-thirds vote.

Four “Gray Books” prepared by the International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL) were presented for vote by the body of bishops, but none received the requisite two-thirds majority during the meeting itself, so mail ballots were sent to the Latin Church bishops absent from the meeting. After counting the mail ballots in mid-July, however, all of the Gray Books received a sufficient majority and were approved. All six action items will now be sent to the Holy See for the *recognitio*.

ICEL Gray Books

The USCCB considered four Gray Books: the *Order of Mass II* (containing the Prefaces, Solemn Blessings and Prayers over the People, and six additional Eucharistic Prayers), *Masses for Various Needs and Intentions*, *Ritual Masses*, and *Votive Masses and Masses for the Dead*. The issue of the treatment of subordinate clauses in the Prefaces of the *Order of Mass II* was still a matter of concern to the bishops, and a review of the question was asked for in the amendments. In addition, other modifications and amendments to the four Gray Books will be sent to the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments.

The body of bishops has taken great time and energy to review the translation of the various parts of the *Roman Missal*, and has provided the bulk of the critique that will be reviewed by the Congregation as it moves toward a text for the entire English-speaking world.

Mass in Thanksgiving for the Gift of Human Life

By a vote of 183 to 3 and three abstentions, the Bishops approved the English and Spanish texts of the Mass in Thanksgiving for the Gift of Human Life. The text of this Mass was based on a text originally considered in 1990 at the request of John Cardinal O’Connor. The text had been revisited and reviewed by the Committees on Pro-Life Activities and Divine Worship. The intent is to include this text with the Masses for Various Needs and Intentions in the U.S. edition of the *Roman Missal*. Also approved was a revision to paragraph 373 of the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* that would allow for this Mass to be celebrated on January 22 (or January 23, when January 22 falls on a Sunday).

Leccionario

Finally, the Latin Church Bishops adopted a Spanish-language Lectionary, called the *Leccionario*, for use in the dioceses of the United States; the vote was 182-1. Readings in the U.S. *Leccionario* use the Spanish translation as approved for Mexico, while the Psalms use the translation approved for Spain. Since both translations have previously received the Holy See’s *recognitio*, a speedy confirmation is expected for the *Leccionario*.

New Roman Missal Formation Website – www.USCCB.org/romanmissal

The Secretariat for Divine Worship is launching an updated website to catechize the priests and faithful on the forthcoming third edition of the *Roman Missal*. The new website is www.USCCB.org/romanmissal.

Presented in a more user-friendly format, the *Roman Missal* site will offer sections tailored to priests, the lay faithful, and worship leaders. The new *Order of Mass* text is included, along with examples of changes that will take effect when the third edition is published. A section in Spanish will allow Hispanic Catholics who attend English-language Masses to learn more about the changes.

As the time draws closer for implementation of the *Missal*, the website will be updated regularly.

June 2009 Meeting of the Committee on Divine Worship

Meeting in San Antonio, Texas on June 15-16, 2009, the USCCB Committee on Divine Worship discussed a number of items related to the forthcoming third edition of the *Roman Missal*, including two “Gray Books” and one “Green Book” prepared by the International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL), the U.S. Proper of Saints, final American adaptations, catechetical documents, and implementation timetables. The Committee also spent time reviewing part of the revised Lectionary readings for the Sundays in Ordinary Time.

ICEL Green & Gray Books and U.S. Proper of Saints

The Committee reviewed two Gray Books (the *Commons* and the *Proper of Saints*) and one Green Book (*Roman Missal* Supplement, which contains rubrics and prayers for the extended Pentecost Vigil, and additional prayers not included in two original Gray Books). Many of the concerns raised during the Green Book review of the two Gray Books have been addressed; the word order and vocabulary have been improved to aid in the clarity of some of the more complex orations. The Committee on Divine Worship agreed to submit the texts to the Administrative Committee for inclusion on the agenda of the November 2009 plenary meeting. It is hoped that the modification and amendment process will enable completion of the approval of the *Roman Missal* at that meeting.

The Committee also reviewed the text of the Proper of Saints for the Dioceses of the United States of America. Minor edits were done, resulting in improved texts. Along with the final ICEL Gray Books, the U.S. Proper of Saints requires approval by two-thirds of the Latin Church Bishops and subsequent *recognitio* by the Holy See to be integrated into the new *Roman Missal*.

U.S. Adaptations and Other Elements Needed in the New *Roman Missal*

In addition to the American adaptations that have already been sent to Rome for *recognitio*, as well as the adaptations to the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* already contained in the text, the Committee on Divine Worship reviewed the present *Sacramentary* to see what elements should be included in the third edition of the *Roman Missal*. For example, it is important that the *Rites of Blessing of Oils and Consecrating the Chrism* in the Chrism Mass be included in the new text; the Rites are not found in any other available liturgical book. The Committee also considered whether or not to integrate the Rites into the proper texts of the Chrism Mass.

Another question raised was the inclusion in the new *Missal* of the Easter Sunday Renewal of Baptismal Vows, which has been a custom in the United States. This text would have to be placed in the new *Roman Missal* for the United States. A discussion also centered around whether the Proclamation of the Birth of Christ, the Proclamation of the Date of Easter, and the Rite of Reception of Oils at the Chrism Mass should be in an appendix of the *Missal*. (These texts, currently part of the 2004 *Sacramentary Supplement*, are rarely used by or are unknown to many priests.)

The Committee reviewed a number of related issues, and will present them for review at the November 2009 plenary meeting. These considerations are important, in that the approved American adaptations can easily be inserted into the *Roman Missal* for publication when the final *recognitio* arrives from the Holy See.

Catechesis and Implementation of the New *Roman Missal*

Reviewing the state of catechesis in the United States regarding the forthcoming *Missal*, the Committee perceived a misunderstanding about the implementation date for the third edition. At present, there has been no date for implementation given, and none can be until the final *recognitio* from the Holy See is received. This does not mean, however, that remote preparation should not be done on the basis of material that presently exists. Priests are encouraged to review the new texts of the Eucharistic Prayers and the Order of Mass found at www.USCCB.org/romanmissal in order to get a sense of the cadence, flow, and vocabulary of the prayers.

The Committee discussed the necessity of having a minimum of at least one year from the *recognitio* for preparation by the Secretariat and liturgical publishers. Depending on the time of year when the *recognitio* comes, the implementation time might even be longer. While not ruling out other options, the Committee felt that

there was merit to introducing the new *Missal* on the First Sunday of Advent of the appropriate year, depending on when the final *recognitio* is received from the Holy See. The Committee also understands the necessity of allowing music publishers to begin advertisement and announcement of music as soon as the *recognitio* is granted.

With the exception of the popular setting of the Lord's Prayer by Robert J. Snow, the Committee is open to the inclusion of the new chants that have been provided by ICEL. It will also request that publishers make those chant settings in the *Missal* the first option provided in participation aids. Other settings could be used as well, but this approach is meant to encourage use of the chants.

Further discussion took place on the material being provided by the Leeds Group and the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions; the groups are two extremely important sources of material for the implementation and formation process. Within the USCCB itself, there are also plans to develop materials, such as a parish implementation kit, that can be used in the proximate preparation phase of the implementation. The use of the Internet and other media sources was also discussed.

Revised Lectionary Readings for the Sundays in Ordinary Time

Finally, the Committee continued its review of the Lectionary texts that has been underway for several years. Approximately two-thirds of the New Testament texts have been reviewed for the Sundays in Ordinary Time. In conjunction with this review, there was also a discussion about the Lectionary project in general and what needed to be accomplished in the future.

Pope Benedict XVI Restructures Pontifical Commission *Ecclesia Dei*

The Holy Father has issued an Apostolic Letter *motu proprio* on the restructuring of the Pontifical Commission *Ecclesia Dei*. The document, titled *Ecclesiae Unitatem*, places the Commission under the auspices of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF); its Prefect, William Cardinal Levada, now serves also as President of the Commission.

Following the illicit episcopal consecrations performed by the late Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre for the Society of St. Pius X on June 30, 1988, and the subsequent excommunications of Archbishop Lefebvre and the ordinands, Pope John Paul II issued the Apostolic Letter *motu proprio Ecclesia Dei* on July 2, 1988. The document established a Pontifical Commission, *Ecclesia Dei*, to oversee the concerns of those who desired to celebrate the 1962 *Missale Romanum*, now called the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite Mass.

Pope Benedict XVI lifted the excommunications on the four ordained bishops earlier this year, and stated his intention to place the Pontifical Commission with the CDF; this desire is now accomplished by *Ecclesiae Unitatem*. The operative part of the Apostolic Letter, paragraph 6, is reprinted for the benefit of our readers:

The Pontifical Commission *Ecclesia Dei* will, then, have the following configuration:

- a) The president of the Commission is the prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.
- b) The Commission has its own staff, composed of the secretary and officials.
- c) It will be the task of the president, with the assistance of the secretary, to submit the principal cases and questions of a doctrinal nature for study and discernment according to the ordinary requirements of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, and to submit the results thereof to the superior dispositions of the Supreme Pontiff.

Ecclesiae Unitatem was signed by the Pope on July 2, 2009, the twenty-first anniversary of the formation of the Pontifical Commission *Ecclesia Dei*, and released on July 8, along with the appointment of a new Secretary for the Commission, Monsignor Guido Pozzo. Msgr. Pozzo formerly served as adjunct secretary of the International Theological Commission and as an official in the CDF.