



NEWS ARCHIVE:

## Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon

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# ***Reflecting on new translation of Mass at diocesan gatherings in June 2011***

BY KIPLY LUKAN YAWORSKI

On two hot sunny days in June, priests, ministry leaders and parish representatives from across the Catholic diocese of Saskatoon gathered at Holy Family parish to discuss changes to the Mass that will be implemented on the first Sunday of Advent.

Priests, deacons and semin-arians gathered June 28 to consider the new translations of the Eucharistic prayers in the revised Roman Missal that has been approved for all English-speaking peoples around the world. The next day, lay leaders joined priests for a look at the changes in the Mass and acclamations from the perspective of the congregation.

In his welcome to some 300 participants at the larger gathering June 29, Bishop Donald Bolen thanked parish and ministry leaders for their daily commitment to the life of the church, and acknowledged some of the challenges around implementing the new translation of prayers for the Mass.

“Our conviction as a diocese is that first of all, we need to prepare, we need to do this well. Secondly, we need to enter into these changes in a spirit of community,” said Bolen.

“It is good to remind ourselves that it is because of love of the Eucharist, and it is because of the power of God’s presence in our midst, that we do bring so much emotion and energy to this.”

The two inservice days were organized by the diocesan Liturgy Commission, under the leadership of commission chair Karen Schreiner and director of liturgy Fr. David Tumback.



Liturgy Commission chair Karen Schreiner and director of liturgy Fr. David Tumback led diocesan workshops about the revised Roman Missal held in June. Changes to the Mass will be implemented beginning Nov. 26-27, the First Sunday of Advent.

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At the June 29 session, Schreiner noted how the new translation is closer to the Latin original, with clearer allusions to scripture in many cases. The changes provide a perfect opportunity to deepen understanding about the liturgy in general, she added.

“It is going to be wonderful for the people, when we begin to catechize, to explain,” she said. “All that’s asked of us is to enter into it with our heart and soul.”

Schreiner walked through the changes in the prayers, acclamations and responses of the assembly, describing how Latin words and phrases are restored in the new translation.

For instance, when the presider says “*The Lord be with you,*” the response in English will be “*And with your spirit,*” adhering to the Latin, and bringing the English response in line with other languages around the world, Schreiner noted, referring to a range of biblical references for the scripturally-based greeting.

“This new translation is there to enrich the text along the lines of a long liturgical tradition, and along with its biblical roots.”

In the “*confiteor*” or “I confess,” the original Latin wording of “*Through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault*” has been restored – one of several “triads” found throughout the Mass, Schreiner described.



Hundreds attended the June 29 meeting about the liturgy.

“It is stronger language, more colourful language,” she said, noting that the General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM) will also again ask the assembly to strike the breast at this point – something that will be familiar to those who remember Mass in Latin.

In another instance, the scriptural roots of “*Lord I am not worthy to receive you*” will be clearer with the restoration of the words “*under my roof,*” she described.

Slight changes to the wording of both the Nicene and Apostle’s Creed were also reviewed. It was noted that catechetical materials and teaching resources about the new translation were expected in the weeks ahead.

Schreiner gave a brief over-view of the Eucharistic prayers. In response to a question about posture, she noted that the General Instruction calls for the assembly to kneel during the consecration. The objective is to have unity in posture, she said.

## Musical settings

The new translation will mean revisions to musical settings of the Mass, with new wording affecting the Gloria and the Sanctus (“*Holy, Holy, Holy*”).

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In addition, one familiar Memorial Acclamation – “*Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again*” – will no longer be used.

Addressing questions of music, Fr. David Tumback began by inviting the assembly to sing a familiar version of the *Sanctus*, teaching the revised wording in a matter of seconds.

“Do not fret, because the majority of this has already been rewritten for you in Masses that you are familiar with,” Tumback assured the crowd.

He urged parish music leaders to begin to look at options, which include purchasing the music for revised Mass settings, or for one of the new settings being introduced for the new translation.

Any Mass settings that have not been rewritten to accommodate the new wording of the prayers cannot be used after Nov. 27, he stressed, adding that copyright laws prohibit anyone from making changes to settings on their own.

The diocesan Liturgy Commission is available to assist parishes in making the transition, added Tumback, acknowledging that for some smaller congregations with limited musical re-sources, having to learn something new may be very taxing. “We want to assure you that we are here to help you as much as we can.”

He encouraged parish leaders to check out Oregon Catholic Press and GIA Publications website information and sample their sound files, as well as going to the CCCB website for options and resources.

A musical workshop “*Keynotes in the New Missal*” will also be offered Oct. 18-19 at St. Augustine’s parish in Humboldt.

“The spirit in which this is done is going to be so important. You in your communities already know what this is going to take in terms of implementation,” Tumback said. “We need to move forward in a spirit of oneness.”

Challenges abound, and there will be mistakes, predicted Tumback, suggesting that all be prepared to laugh together when that happens.

A few minutes later, when the assembly reverted to “*And also with you*” during the closing blessing by the bishop, the diocesan gathering did just that: bursting into laughter at the return to the familiar phrase.

“Let’s use this opportunity to build and strengthen the unity of the church,” concluded the bishop.

“Let us be very creative and very faithful in our efforts to implement these changes.”

