



We continue to look at the changes that will happen with the more accurate translation of the prayers at Mass.

What will happen after the texts are used in liturgical celebrations?

The long-term goal of the new translation is to foster a deeper awareness and appreciation of the mysteries being celebrated in the Liturgy. The axiom *lex orandi, lex credendi*—"what we pray is what we believe"—suggests that there is a direct relationship between the content of our prayers and the substance of our faith.

What opportunities does the new translation of the Mass offer the Church?

Implementing the new Missal will give the Church an opportunity to take a fresh look at its liturgical practice and to renew its celebration of the Sacred Liturgy, which is the "source and summit" of Christian life (Second Vatican Council, Dogmatic Constitution on the Church [*Lumen Gentium*], no. 11). The faithful, encountering the Liturgy anew in the new text, can deepen their sharing in Christ's sacrifice, offering their lives to the Father as they worship "in Spirit and truth" (John 4:23).

What can I do to make the process of change a good one for my parish?

Everyone has a role to play in preparing to use the new translations:

- Study the new texts with an open heart and an open mind so that you will be ready to use them in the Liturgy.
- Be very intentional about celebrating the Liturgy each Sunday and holy day. Arrive on time (or a bit early). Pray and sing with attentiveness. Stay focused on the action of the Liturgy rather than letting your mind wander.
- Hold the Sacrament of the Eucharist in great reverence.
- Visit the Roman Missal Web site (www.usccb.org/romanmissal) to study the new texts and to learn more about the changes.
- Read the new texts of the people's parts at Mass. Begin to study them so that you will be able to pray them well when the new Roman Missal is implemented.
- Pray for a renewal of love for the Liturgy in your parish and in the Church.
- Finally, give thanks to God in your heart for so great a gift.

Times of change are always a challenge. But from this challenge can come a deeper appreciation of who we are as the Body of Christ, gathering to celebrate the Paschal Mystery of the Lord.

Do these changes mean that the old translation was not valid and orthodox?

The current translation was approved by the conferences of bishops and confirmed by the Holy See. Until the new text becomes effective, the current translation remains the valid ordinary form of the Liturgy in the Roman Rite. The revised translation attempts to address some inadequacies in the present translation by introducing a more elevated style of language and by retaining many poetic texts and scriptural allusions. The current translation fostered the faith of two generations of Catholics and retains a valid place in church history.

