

## Pastor's Corner – Upcoming changes to the Mass – May 1, 2011

You may have heard that changes are coming to the Mass. Yes, that is true, but they will only come into effect on the First Sunday of Advent, which this year will be on November 27, 2011. Let me assure you that **this does not mean that there will be a new mass! The changes are in the texts of the mass, in the translation of the responses and in the Biblical texts used in the songs** (especially the psalms). For more than a year now we have already used the revised translation of the Lectionary for Sunday readings: again changes in the translation of the wording, not fundamental changes to the actual texts. We need to understand that the texts we have now came about in 1970 with the renewal of Vatican II. At the time it was understood that adaptations were going to be needed in a few years. Well, now forty years later, these adaptations and revisions have been made and will come into effect.

After many years of preparation the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) has received “recognito” or approval for the English translation of the revised General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM) for use in Canada (note, there is a different one for the USA !). The Permanent Council agreed that **the first Sunday of Advent, November 27, 2011, will be the date for the implementation** of the English translation of the Missal. The English Sector National Liturgy Office and the CCCB Publications Department are busy preparing the new publication and their work is on schedule. As well, the National Liturgy Office is preparing to start the launching of the catechetical material it has already prepared. A resource, **Celebrate and Song**, which contains the parts of the Mass spoken by the people, as well as three newly composed Mass settings and the ICEL chants, is now finished, and is available from the CCCB Publications Service. This resource, which contains the texts of Eucharistic Prayers I-IV and 40 hymns not currently found in the Catholic Book of Worship III, is available from the Publications Service at <http://www.cccbpublications.ca>. The National Liturgy Office is preparing power-point slides to be used for workshops at the local level - workshops dealing with the theology of Eucharist, the process of translation and revision, and the history of the Eucharist. These will be available on the website of the National Liturgy Office, <http://www.nlo.cccb.ca>. Two DVD's will also be produced by the National Liturgy Office in collaboration with Salt & Light TV. These will be ready for distribution by the end of August. One will be a two-hour presentation on the theological emphases of the General Instruction of the Roman Missal. The second will be an hour-long presentation with a teaching DVD on the structure of the Mass and the meaning of each part of the Mass. The National Liturgy Office will provide a packet of material including suggested workshop formats and questions for discussion at the parish level. The 2012 Sunday Missal available in the fall will contain all the changes.

As you can see great attention is being paid to properly prepare all of us for the implementation of the new Missal. I will try over the next few weeks and months to use this corner to explain the actual changes and their rationale so that we can all come to an understanding before they are implemented later in November of this year. This will also be a great opportunity for us all to learn more about the Mass and deepen our understanding and appreciation of the liturgy and its meaning and relevance for us in our lives today.

*Fr. Rolf*