



Diocese of Austin

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Office of the Bishop

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

As the bishop of the Diocese of Austin, it is with great joy that I announce the implementation of the Third edition of the Roman Missal on this First Sunday of Advent 2011. This is indeed a historic time in the life of our Church. Following the Second Vatican Council, the Church called for all of the liturgical texts of the Church to be revised and eventually published in the vernacular (the language of the people), so greater participation in the Church's liturgical life could be experienced.

In the year 2000, as we began to celebrate the Millennium Jubilee, Pope John Paul II called for a new translation of the Roman Missal. Since 2002, bishops in the English speaking countries have been working together to produce a new English translation of the Mass that is closer in translation to the Latin language. Well that time has come for this new edition of the Roman Missal to be implemented. Obviously there will be some adjustments for all of us in the Church, as we become accustomed to some noticeable changes in the parts of the Mass that are spoken and prayed by the presbyter (priest) and laity alike.

It is my belief that this new Third edition of the Roman Missal can help us to be more conscious of the words we pray. This new translation has uncovered and brought to new light some of the ancient treasures of the Church in our prayers, acclamations and dialogues. Likewise, it has recaptured some biblical images that were left out of the 1st and 2nd edition that are rich and inspiring in faith. It will also provide us with many new proper prayers for the feast days of saints who have been canonized since the 1985 revision.

Change is never easy for any of us, but I would like to suggest that these 'changes' will and can help us to pray the celebration of Eucharist in a deeper and more profound way. It is my belief that this new translation has the ability to deepen our faith and most importantly our understanding of the celebration of Eucharist.

As we receive this Third edition of the Roman Missal, let us pray that we will come to a deeper appreciation and love for the mystery of the Eucharist. My prayers are with you and your loved ones as we enter into this blessed and holy season of expectation and joy.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joe S. Vásquez
Bishop of Austin