



Diocese of Birmingham in Alabama

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Very Reverend Justin L. Ward, S.T.L
Vicar for Sacred Liturgy

MEMORANDUM

To: Priests and Deacons of the Diocese of Birmingham
From: Fr. Justin Ward, Vicar for Sacred Liturgy
Date: February 6, 2020
RE: Changes to the Concluding Doxology of the Orations- **Effective February 17, 2021**

In the most recent edition of *Fratres in Unum*, Bishop Steven J. Raica alluded to the fact that the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments recently pointed out that our current translation of the concluding doxology – which concludes “... in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever” – is incorrect. It was rightly noted that there is no mention of “one” in the Latin, and “Deus” in the Latin text refers to Christ. Therefore, the correct translation, which is already reflected in the Missal in other languages (including our own USCCB *Misal Romano*) is simply: “[...] **in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.**”

The Latin Rite Bishops recently voted to amend no. 54 of the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* to reflect this change and the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments has confirmed this decision. Please note that this change is therefore not optional.

When should this change take place?

This change to the concluding doxology of orations is to be implemented on **Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021**. The words “one God, for ever and ever” are simply replaced with “God, for ever and ever.”

Is there a need to purchase a new Missal?

No. It should not be difficult for the celebrant simply to omit the word “one” when offering the prayer. However, publishers are being informed of this change, and any reprints or new editions of the Missal will reflect the new translation.

Does this change apply to other liturgical books, besides the Roman Missal?

Yes. Any time the formula appears in a liturgical book the new translation should be used. Besides the Missal, the Liturgy of the Hours is the book where it is encountered most often. Note that the orations in the current breviary are an older translation than what is found in the Missal, but the final line is the same and the new conclusion is easy to apply.