

**Homily for the 33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Introduction of the Roman Missal**  
**What You Will Say.**

Don't you love it when someone comes up to you and says: "I have good news and I have bad news. What do you want to hear first?"

I must admit that as I begin this third sermon in the series I feel as if I am going to give you the bad news that followed the good news last week that 99% of the changes in the new Roman Missal rest on the shoulders of the priest. Now I'm going to share with you what is going to rest on your shoulders. Is it really bad news? No...it isn't. But some people are looking at it as if it were the end of the world. It isn't that either. So let me try to lead you through the changes that you will have to deal with.

The most obvious is the response to "The Lord Be With You." For years we have been responding: "And also with you." Not anymore! It will soon be: "And with your spirit." Why? I knew you would ask that question. When someone is ordained a priest, the Holy Spirit comes upon him in a unique way enabling him to perform the sacred rites of the Mass. The words "and with your spirit" acknowledge the Holy Spirit's activity through the priest during Mass. It is not a personal greeting but an

acknowledgment of the working of the Holy Spirit through the gift of Holy Orders.

The prayers that will have the most change are the Glory to God and the Creed. I would like to take a moment to look at the Creed. When we stand up to profess the Creed we begin by saying “We believe...” Now we will say “I believe...” By saying “I believe” we not only correctly translate the word “Credo” but we also reflect the profound truth that I can’t believe for you nor you for me.

Also the most unusual change is to take the phrase “one in being with the Father” and change it to “consubstantial with the Father.” Consubstantial means of the same substance as the Father. We are proclaiming that Christ is God. We are also being faithful to the original Latin text.

The response to “pray my friends” has some minor changes as does the dialogue when we all stand and prepare for the Eucharistic Prayer.

Last weekend we learned a new version of the “Holy, Holy, Holy.” Most people didn’t even notice that the text had changed. This weekend we learned one of the new Eucharistic acclamations...of which there are now three instead of four.

Finally I wanted to highlight the response to the invitation to communion: “Behold the Lamb of God.” The new response is “Lord, I am not worthy that you should come under my roof...” The reason for this change is actually pretty obvious. You recall the story of the centurion who comes to beg Christ to heal his servant who is dying. Christ responds that He will go to the centurion’s home immediately. The Centurion is so humbled that he says: “Lord I am not worthy that you should come under my roof...” The new response is simply meant to reflect this very faith-filled story from the New Testament.

Next weekend I am going to try to tie everything together by explaining in more detail what we will use to help us through this transition. I will also try to look at our participation at Sunday Mass and what we as a community of faith can do together to help each other truly celebrate the Eucharist of Jesus Christ.

I end today the same way that I have ended my previous sermons...be open, be patient and be prayerful.