

## **Homily for the Feast of Christ the King**

### **Part 4 in Introduction of Roman Missal**

This final installment of the series on the new translation is really a collection of brief thoughts and comments.

I begin with this question: what are we going to do to help everyone with the introduction of the new translation?

Terry and I have worked diligently on coming up with an answer to this question. Realizing that if we put a sheet of paper with the new responses in the pews plus another sheet of paper with the new music plus the hymnals we would end up with a very messy church, we decided to make it simple.

This week all the hymnals in the church will be removed and replaced by smaller booklets. These booklets will contain the responses, the music changes and the hymns that we will be using for the coming season. Each season (Advent, Christmas, and so forth) we will put in a new booklet. These will be very much like the booklets we use at Easter Time. By the time we get to Easter everyone should be comfortable enough so that we can remove the booklets and put the hymnals in place. Also, just for the first six weeks, there will be no missalettes. These will be returned in January.

We are doing this to make every effort to insure the smoothest possible transition to this new translation

The translation, in many ways, is not complicated. But the introduction of these changes also offers us an opportunity to speak about our liturgical celebrations. And I would like to end this series by offering some brief thoughts about what happens here, in our parish, week after week.

I begin with a very simple thought: it is an honor to celebrate Mass with all of you. You are a wonderful congregation. You participate and you give of yourselves to these celebrations far better than many parishes. Every priest who comes here to help always comments on what a joy it is to celebrate with you. And they're right.

But even at our best, we can always be better. So...I have come up with three very simple principles to remember and to put into action.

Principle #1: Exercise is good. My job is to preside and preach. It demands that I prepare carefully for this. If I didn't, you would be angry at my wasting your time. Terry has a job. He need to prepare, practice and work hard to make sure he plays property. If he doesn't then all of you would be upset. I would be upset.

All of you have a job to do. We have a responsibility to participate and to sing. Here is where the exercise comes in. Picking up

the hymnal (or the booklets) offers everyone a simple but proven method of getting a little exercise in our lives. And unless you do this, we will not be able to increase our level of participation. The bottom line is that what each of us brings to the Celebration of Eucharist determines the quality of what we celebrate.

Principle #2: What we do is sacred. We need to apply this principle when coming to Communion. This isn't a time to greet other people, shake their hands or have a conversation. We come forward singing because we are coming forward to receive Jesus Christ. The same thing is true of how we behave in the back of the church...it's not a place to have conversations.

Principle #3: Zaccagnini's will wait. Here's a problem that is a bit disheartening...leaving early. Mass ends when I process up the aisle and Terry finishes the closing hymn. Communion is not the time to leave. When I am processing up the aisle it is not a time to start leave nor a time to start talking to each ....please don't do that. Please don't start conversations until Mass is finished. Let us end Mass respecting both each other and the Eucharist we have just celebrated.

I, for one, am happy to finish this series of sermons on the introduction of the new translation. I welcome the opportunity to return to

sharing the Word of God rather than giving a road map to changes and behaviors at Mass.

I end by returning to something I said earlier: it is an honor and a privilege to celebrate Mass with you week after week. You are the finest congregation I know. I could never thank you enough. I invite you, then, to patience and prayer as we begin new changes in our liturgy and hopefully new habits of our attention to what we do and how we pray each week as we celebrate the great gift of God's love made visible in the gift of the Eucharist.