

29 Sunday A – 2011
Roman Missal 4
Divine Mercy Parish

This is the fourth and final section of my series on the 3rd edition of the Roman Missal. You are probably glad to see this project completed, but I do hope it has given you some insights as to the history, the how and the why. If I accomplished that then I am pleased because I think it will make the transition on the First Sunday of Advent easier. You may have noticed that the only translation changes I have spoken about are the ones that are said by you, the people. The majority of the changes are really in the priest's prayers. Those I will need to begin practicing once the missals arrive. I did say missals because we had to buy three of them, one for each campus. Anyway, I want to just make a couple of comments about a few of the other changes.

As it is now when we sing or say the Holy, holy what we say is Lord God of power and might. The new translation says "Lord God of hosts." When the prophet Isaiah had his inaugural vision in the temple he saw God seated on his throne surrounded by the angles. What did they say? "Holy, holy holy is the Lord of hosts." The words indicate that God makes his power manifest in a special way through the hosts of angels who attend him. When he made the world, as we read in the book of Job, "all the sons of God shouted for joy." These are the angels who minister about his altar in heaven, or who guard us in our weakness, or who fight on our behalf against the forces of darkness. The angels and saints are one in the Church triumphant, and they defend us against whose attacks, says Jesus, "the gates of hell shall not prevail." God is indeed the Lord of all the hosts of angles.

Another change is found in the first word of the Creed. The word in Latin is Credo, which means, "I believe." We believe would be credamus, and that is not the word used. When we are baptized each of us is baptized into the community of believer, but we receive the sacrament in our own person, one by one. When we pray the Creed we place ourselves again at the baptismal font. It is, therefore, not enough to declare what Christians in general believe, but I need to declare what I believe. I do not believe just as a non-descript part of the group, rather I am committed to that to which I have given the assent of my heart, mind and soul. With the Creed I am proclaiming what I believe.

There is one other point I want to address today and it has nothing to do with the new translation. You know that I am working to get us all doing the same things at all three campuses. There is a value to unity. However, some have asked, "Why at Paulding and Payne do people stand until they get back from communion, but in Antwerp they kneel?" That's a good question. To give you an answer we have to go back to 2003. That was the year the new General Instruction for the Roman Missal went into effect. I don't know how many times and hours I spent reading and studying that document. In it it stated that the posture for the reception of communion was standing. Now did that mean standing just when you were receiving communion or standing until you had received communion. I couldn't find an answer so I made the arbitrary decision that we would stand together until one had returned to their pew after receiving communion. Now I will not apologize for that decision. Come to find out Cardinal George of Chicago had the same question, and he wrote to Rome for a clarification. So if the Cardinal archbishop of Chicago didn't know what to do, how can you expect a poor little country pastor like me to know? I have never been able to find Rome's reply to

Cardinal George's question so I am going to invoke an ancient guide in these matters.

Do it the way your bishop does it. I called the cathedral and asked what the posture was for the people as they waited to go forward to receive. They kneel so that's what we will do. Beginning today let's all use the same posture and kneel before and after the reception of Communion. And as Paul Harvey used to say, "That's the rest of the story."