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## June 16-18 Meeting of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

On June 17, 2005 the Bishop members of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops considered an action proposed by the Committee on the Liturgy concerning approval of adaptations to the Order of Mass which were previously approved and confirmed for use in the 1970 edition of the Sacramentary. These adaptations, which would also require the recognitio of the Holy See, would then be included in the third vernacular edition of the Roman Missal for use in the dioceses of the United States of America. The members of the USCCB voted to table this action until such time as they are able to review the final translation of the Roman Missal.

## June 14-15, 2005 Meeting of the USCCB Committee on the Liturgy

On June 14-15, 2005 in Chicago, Illinois, the Bishop members and consultants, and the advisors of the Committee on the Liturgy considered a number of important liturgical questions:

The Committee reviewed and approved the Plans and Programs of the Committee and its Secretariat in preparation for their incorporation into the Plans and Priorities of the Conference of Bishops.

Abbot Gregory Polan, O.S.B. of Conception Abbey presented a report on the principles of translation applied to a recent revision of the Grail Psalter that is presently under consideration by the Bishops' Committee for the Review of Scripture Translations. The extraordinary efforts of the revisers to assure that the psalter would be suitable for singing in liturgical celebrations was noted.

The Committee reviewed and approved Volume I (Sundays and Solemnities) of the Spanish-language Leccionario. The Psalms of this volume are drawn from the liturgical books of Spain and the non-Psalm texts from the Sunday readings of the Mexican Leccionario. Both have already received the recognitio of the Holy See. The complicated course of obtaining copyrights will now be undertaken so that publication proceeds as quickly as possible.

The Lectionary for Masses with Children was also reviewed and approved for presentation to the full body of Bishops in November, 2005. The text for the scriptures in this edition is based on the Lectionary for Mass for use in the dioceses of the United States of America. The revision involves the abbreviation of texts, alteration of the cursus and variations in syntax and vocabulary in order to render it more appropriate for a liturgical assembly comprised largely of children. The Introduction to the Lectionary for Masses with Children has been reworked based on the experience of the past thirty years. This revised liturgical book will require approval by two-thirds of the Latin Church members of the USCCB and the subsequent recognitio of the Holy See before it may be published for liturgical use.

The Committee also considered a report on the ongoing revision of the Lectionary for Mass for use in the Dioceses of the United States of America. The process for revision consists of several stages, the first of which is the redaction of comments from several consultations conducted over the past several years. The texts were subsequently reviewed by Secretariat staff, specialists in drama and proclamation (William and Mary Graham of The Catholic University of America) and a prominent New Testament scholar (Reverend Frank Gignac, S.J.). The Committee was pleased with most of the proposed changes in the text and only a few were resubmitted for reexamination. The Committee encouraged the continuation of the project and added two Bishops and an additional scripture scholar to the review. Work is presently underway on the Sunday and Weekday Readings of Lent.

In reviewing possible USCCB participation in a mixed commission for publication of a Lectionary for Mass based on the New Revised Standard edition of the Bible, the Committee recalled the significant progress which had been made in refining the present USA Lectionary for Mass. The Committee, therefore, recommended no USCCB participation in such a project at this time.

The Committee continued its ongoing discussion on the place of dance in the Roman rite, reflecting on a revised edition of a paper submitted by Ms. Kathryn Mihelick on liturgical dance and its relationship to the 1975 article in *Notitiae* on the place of dance in the liturgy. The role of ritualized movement in diverse ethnic groups was discussed at length, with a conclusion that further guidance from Bishops of other Conferences and a certain maturing of this question is appropriate. The Committee will continue to monitor ongoing developments in this area.

The Committee responded to the request of Bishop Kevin Boland, Chairman of the Committee on Marriage and Family Life, on the question of the National Pastoral Initiative on Marriage. The Committee indicated that its main focus in this regard will be to review the final ICEL translation of the *Ordo Celebrandi Matrimonium* and oversee the integration of appropriate ritual adaptations. The time for this work is dependent on when the work for the translation of the third edition of the Roman Missal is completed.

The Committee reviewed the latest translation of the *Ordo of Missae* submitted by the International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL). In 2004 approximately sixty recommendations for improvement to the ICEL translation of the Order of Mass were made by the USCCB Committee on the Liturgy. Thirty percent of these recommendations were accepted by the mixed commission and twenty five percent were partially accepted. In order to make available to the Bishops of the Conference the best possible means by which they can express their views on the ICEL translation of the Order of Mass an evaluation tool was developed (see following article in this Newsletter).

The Committee approved a revision of Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers, with the condition that once the texts from the third edition of the Roman Missal are available, the work be redone to incorporate those texts. Reports were also received from the Hispanic Liturgy Subcommittee, the Liturgy and Music Subcommittee, the Instituto Nacional Hispano de Liturgia and the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions.

## Consultation with Members of the USCCB on the Second Draft ICEL Translation of the Ordo Missae

On July 1, 2005, Bishop Donald Trautman, Chairman of the Committee on the Liturgy, wrote to all Bishop members of the USCCB in regard to the most recent ICEL translation of the Ordo Missae, requesting their participation in a consultation on the latest revision of this text. In his letter, Bishop Trautman wrote:

Since the publication of the *Missale Romanum, editio typica tertia* on March 18, 2002, the International Commission on English in the Liturgy has been hard at work on producing a common English language translation for the consideration of its member conferences. The completion of a translation of the Missal which is at once precise, proclaimable and memorable, in accord with the instruction *Liturgiam authenticam*, is an enormous task.

To date, the members of the USCCB have approved, adapted and published a translation of the *Institutio Generalis Missalis Romani* and participated in a first consultation on ICEL's rendering of the Ordo Missae. During the next two years, we will begin our consideration of an increasing volume of texts. I ask for your prayers and your patience as the mixed commission seeks to complete its translation of the close to thirteen hundred pages of the Missal, and as your own BCL looks for ways to facilitate your careful consideration of these texts.

You will recall that our late Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, urged that the translation of the Missal be accomplished as soon as possible, when he wrote to Cardinal Francis Arinze, Prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments in 2001:

In a special way, I wish to commend to the Pastors of the Church the important task of making available to the faithful, as quickly as possible, the vernacular translations of the *editio tertia* of the *Missale Romanum*, the publication of which I authorized last year. I am pleased to learn that the members of the Vox Clara Committee have generously pledged to assist the Holy See in expediting the revision and recognition of these translations by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments.

For this reason, the Committee on the Liturgy seeks to work closely with all Bishop members of the USCCB in the process of your consideration of the new Roman Missal. In particular, we will be seeking the assistance and advice of the Bishop members of our Conference who serve on ICEL and on the Vox Clara Committee, who have developed a close working knowledge of the texts which the BCL will bring before you.

Enclosed with this letter, please find the latest translation of the Ordo Missae prepared by the International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL), which I send to you for your review and comment.

As you will recall, last year the International Commission on English in the Liturgy completed a first draft of its translation of the Ordo Missae. One month later, Cardinal Francis George, O.M.I., asked for your assistance in reviewing this draft translation.

That consultation of the USCCB resulted in more than eight hundred individual recommendations from Bishop Members of our conference. In addition, the Committee on the Liturgy prepared a report for ICEL, highlighting and explaining sixty of these suggested modifications. In its subsequent revision of

the 2004 draft, ICEL incorporated just under half of the BCL recommendations into its revised translation of the Ordo Missae.

This revised translation, attached with a cover memo from the Chairman of ICEL, Bishop Arthur Roche, was approved several months ago by the ICEL Episcopal Board. On June 15, 2005, the Committee on the Liturgy met for the purpose of conducting a preliminary review of this latest draft translation of the Ordo Missae, in preparation for the next consultation of the full body of Bishops. In the course of this review, the Committee on the Liturgy reached several preliminary conclusions:

- There is much to recommend in this latest translation, which the members noted is much improved over the first draft examined by the Bishops last year.
- At the same time, the Committee was unanimous in its concern that many of suggestions formulated by the BCL and the members of the USCCB were not accepted by ICEL in this latest revision.

To facilitate your review, the Committee has developed two fax response sheets, one of which is general in nature and the other designed to elicit particular observations in regard to individual texts. Please feel free to make additional copies of this second sheet as needed.

I would ask that you return all consultation sheets to the BCL by September 10, 2005, in order that we might have the time to redact and carefully consider your observations. Once the BCL has prepared a summary based on this consultation, I will ask for thirty minutes on the agenda of the November meeting in order to provide you with one last opportunity to express your views at this stage of the process.

Please know that the Committee on the Liturgy appreciates the incredible demands which are placed upon you in the fulfillment of the Episcopal ministry. The Committee is convinced, however, that the translation of the Order of Mass is one of the most important matters to have ever come before us. For this reason, we gratefully anticipate your full participation in this consultation.

## Instrumentum Laboris for the Synod on the Eucharist

The Instrumentum Laboris for the Eleventh Ordinary General Assembly on the Eucharist: Source and Summit of the Life and Mission of the Church was made public on July 7, 2005. The Instrumentum, which is based on the responses of Bishops to the Lineamenta, forms the basis of immediate preparations for the work of the synod fathers and is divided into four parts: (1) The Eucharist and Today's World, (2) The Faith of the Church in the Mystery of the Eucharist, (3) The Eucharist in the Life of the Church, and (4) The Eucharist in the Mission of the Church. While the entire text may be found at:

[http://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/synod/documents/rc\\_synod\\_doc\\_20050707\\_instrlabor-xi-assembly\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/synod/documents/rc_synod_doc_20050707_instrlabor-xi-assembly_en.html)

The following excerpts from the Instrumentum Laboris on “Liturgical Song” and the “Dignity of Sacred Space” are offered for the reflection of our readers:

### Liturgical Song

60. The People of God, gathered in the Lord’s House, give thanks and praise through speaking, listening, singing and moments of silence. Various responses to the Lineamenta recommend that singing at Mass and Eucharistic Adoration be done in a dignified manner. The faithful need to know the standard Gregorian chants, which have been composed to meet the needs of people of all times and places, in virtue of their simplicity, refinement and agility in form and rhythm. As a result, the songs and hymns

presently in use need to be reconsidered. To enter into sacred or religious usage, instrumental or vocal music is to have a sense of prayer, dignity and beauty. This requires an integrity of form, expressing true artistry, corresponding to the various rites and capable of adaptation to the legitimate demands of inculturation. This is to be done without detracting from the idea of universality. Gregorian chant fulfills these needs and can therefore serve as a model, according to Pope John Paul II. Musicians and poets should be encouraged to compose new hymns, according to liturgical standards, which contain authentic catechetical teaching on the paschal mystery, Sunday and the Eucharist.

61. Some responses particularly mentioned the use of musical instruments, referring to the general guidelines contained in the Constitution *Sacrosanctum concilium*, the suggestion was made that, at international gatherings, the liturgy be in Latin, at least the Eucharistic Prayer, to facilitate a proper participation of the concelebrants and those who are not familiar with the local vernacular language.

A certain satisfaction is drawn from the fact that some countries have a sound tradition of religious songs and hymns for special times in the liturgical year: Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter. These songs, known and sung by the people, promote recollection and assist the faithful to live in a particularly spiritual way the celebrations of the mystery of faith in each liturgical season. Many hope that this positive experience might spread to other nations and provide a certain tone to these significant seasons in the liturgical year, thereby allowing the faithful to perceive the season's message through music and lyrics.

#### The Dignity of the Sacred Space

62. The *Lineamenta* made reference to the role of art. The dignity of what pertains to the celebration of the Eucharist expresses faith in the sacred mysteries and effectively contributes to nourishing the faith of both the sacred ministers and the faithful. This attitude is seen in the proper arrangement of the sacred space, in an appropriate placement of the tabernacle and chair and also in the special care given to particulars, such as cleaning, furniture and fresh flowers. Indeed, the faithful's formation in Eucharistic doctrine greatly depends not only on what they hear, but also on what they see. Neglecting these points is a sign of a weak faith.

Based on the Bible, the Church has traditionally set aside an area reserved for the sacred ministers, as a powerful sign that the Lord is the one who chooses his ministers and brings them into his service. This distinction has been maintained in the Eastern Churches, through the delineation of the sanctuary, and in the West, through the presbytery. The liturgy manifests that the People of God is hierarchically ordered and geared to active participation. The altar is the most holy part of the Church building and is elevated to indicate that God's work is far superior to all human works. The linens which cover it are symbolic of the purity which is necessary to encounter the divine. Like the Church building, the altar is dedicated to the Lord only, and cannot be used for any other purpose.

63. The responses raise the concern that oftentimes the Church building is used for profane events, such as concerts and theatrical events which are not always religious in nature. The liturgy of the dedication of a Church recalls that the community offers the Church building entirely to the Lord. Therefore, it cannot be used for any other purpose apart from its consecration.

Some responses reported other occurrences, opposed to aforementioned Church tradition, which obscure the sense of the sacred and the transcendent character of the sacred mysteries. For example, many new Churches—not to mention older ones after renovation—are built on the fundamental architectural plan of bringing the faithful into close proximity to the altar to ensure visual contact and communication between the celebrant and the assembly. Likewise, the tendency to turn the altar around to face the people—in practice eliminating the presbytery—is based on the same idea. In doing so, what might be gained in communication might not sufficiently safeguard a sense of the sacred, which is also an essential part of liturgical celebrations.

Some responses are very encouraging, however. Based on the guidelines set down in The General Instruction on the Roman Missal, diverse initiatives have been undertaken to ensure that sacred spaces in already existent Churches and those under construction be true places of prayer and adoration, where art and iconography become instruments to serve liturgical needs. For example, in some Churches, kneelers have returned along with the practice of the faithful kneeling during the Eucharistic Prayer. Tabernacles, previously not clearly visible, have again been placed in the sanctuary or in a prominent place. The planning of new Churches is providing greater prominence to art, decoration, vestments and sacred vessels. This seeks to bring into harmony the nearness of the celebrant to the people and the sacred nature of the divine mysteries which are, at one and the same time, immanent and transcendent.

### July 7, 2005 Meeting of the Vox Clara Committee

The Vox Clara Committee met for the eighth time from July 5-7, 2005 in the offices of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments in Rome. This Committee of senior Bishops from Episcopal Conferences throughout the English-speaking world was established on July 19, 2001, to give advice to the Congregation regarding matters of translations of Latin liturgical texts into the English language and to strengthen effective cooperation with the Conferences of Bishops in this regard.

The Vox Clara Committee is chaired by Cardinal George Pell, Sydney (Australia). Present at this meeting were Archbishop Oscar Lipscomb, Mobile (USA), who serves as First Vice-Chairman; Cardinal Justin Rigali, Philadelphia (USA), who serves as Treasurer; Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, Westminster (England), who serves as Secretary; Archbishop Alfred Hughes, New Orleans (USA); Archbishop Peter Kwasi Sarpong, Kumasi (Ghana); Archbishop Kelvin Felix, Castries (Saint Lucia), Archbishop Terrence Prendergast, S.J., Halifax (Canada); and Bishop Philip Boyce, O.C.D., Raphoe (Ireland). Other members of the Committee, though not present at the meeting, include Archbishop Oswald Gracias, Agra (India), who serves as Second Vice-Chairman; Cardinal Francis George, O.M.I., Chicago (USA); and Bishop Rolando Tria Tirona, O.C.D., Prelate of Infanta (Philippines). In attendance were the following Advisors to the Committee: Monsignor Gerard McKay (Rome), Abbot Cuthbert Johnson, O.S.B. (England), Reverend Jeremy Driscoll, O.S.B. (USA), Deacon Dennis McManus (USA), and Monsignor James P. Moroney (USA).

Various and recent draft translations of the *Missale Romanum*, editio typica tertia were reviewed by the Committee at the request of the Congregation. The members noted, with great satisfaction, that the most recent renderings of the International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL) constitute an immense step forward in the translation project of the Roman Rite as envisioned by the Instruction *Liturgiam authenticam*. At the same time, the Committee's extended discussion of the theological, liturgical, biblical and patristic dimensions of ICEL's rendering of the prayers from the Proper of Seasons resulted in both general and specific recommendations to the Congregation in regard to these renderings.

Vox Clara recalled, on several occasions, the admonition of Pope John Paul II at the start of its work in March, 2002 that an English-language edition of the Roman Missal be completed at the earliest possible date. While the Committee shares the general concern for the reception of these texts by the Bishops, priests and people of the English-speaking world, the members expressed their conviction that this reception not be impeded by delays in a timely completion of the project.

The Committee also reviewed and presented to the Congregation a working draft of the *Ratio Translationis*. A *Ratio Translationis* for each language group was first proposed by the instruction *Liturgiam authenticam*, no. 9. The instrument is an illustrative document, designed to spell out the practical implications of current requirements. It is hoped that the availability of a basic guide in the English language will be of help to the International Commission on English in the Liturgy and to those experts they call to assist them in such a pastorally crucial, technically difficult and time-consuming task.

Cardinal Francis Arinze, Prefect of the Congregation, introduced the members and advisors of the Committee to Pope Benedict XVI in the course of the General Audience of July 6, 2005. On the next day, the Prefect addressed the group and discussed their various proposals. The Prefect discussed means by which the Ratio Translationis might be published as soon as possible, various details in the publication of the Ratio Translationis, and other translation issues.

The next meeting of the Vox Clara Committee is scheduled for November, 2005.

### Catholic Press Association Award

35 Years of the BCL Newsletter has tied for third place in the recent Catholic Press Association awards for best reference book of 2004. The first issue of the BCL Newsletter appeared in September, 1965, as the Second Vatican Council was drawing to a close. Published by the Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy, the newsletter was intended primarily for the bishops of the United States and their diocesan liturgical commissions. This volume reproduces the text of all the newsletters from 1965 to 2000. Over 1800 pages in large format, the collection has a 104-page index, with listings including names, sacraments, liturgical practices, and elements of the liturgy.

## Thirty-Five Years of the BCL Newsletter 1965-2000

The Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy's newsletter has been a leading voice in liturgical renewal since the Second Vatican Council. From its beginning in the mid-sixties to the dawn of a new millennium, this new volume is an essential resource for leaders in liturgical ministry. The newsletters are organized chronologically and extensively indexed to make this an easy-to-use reference tool in tracing developments in liturgical thought and action.



To purchase copies of Thirty-Five Years of the BCL Newsletter (publication number 5-402, \$129.95 each), call toll-free 800-235-8722. In the Washington metropolitan area or from outside the United States, call 202-722-8716.

“The BCL Newsletter has provided a unique and consistent insight into the liturgical reform mandated by the Second Vatican Council as it has been implemented by the Bishops of the United States of America. With the pages of this volume the student of liturgy can find the excitement of the first flush of the reform, and the sometimes agonizing search for the full meaning of the liturgical reform.”

Cardinal Francis George, O.M.I.  
Introduction to Thirty-Five Years of the BCL Newsletter

Most Reverend Joseph P. Delaney  
May the Angels Lead You Into Paradise



Bishop Joseph P. Delaney , leader of the Diocese of Fort Worth for twenty four years, died on July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2005. He was ordained in 1960 for the Diocese of Fall River and in 1966, became a priest of the Diocese of Brownsville, Texas, where he served as Chancellor for many years. In 1981 he was chosen bishop of Forth Worth.

Bishop Delaney was appointed a member of the Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy by Bishop John S. Cummins in 1981. In 1984 he was appointed to a three-year term by Archbishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk. From 1981 to 1984 he served as Chairman of the Committee's Hispanic Liturgy Subcommittee.

On November 13, 1986, Bishop Delaney was elected to a one-year term as chairman of the Committee on the Liturgy of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops/ United States Catholic Conference, completing the unexpired term of Archbishop Pilarczyk who was elected Vice President of the Conference in November, 1986. At the November 16-19, 1987 meeting, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops elected Bishop Delaney Chairman of the Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy for a full term (1987-1990).

During Bishop Delaney's time of service as Chair, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults received "recognitio" from the Holy See. Publication of the work, complete with American adaptations, was initiated and a plan for implementation was developed. He saw the initiation of work on the second edition of the Lectionary for Mass based on the second Latin typical edition, and also supported continuing work in the Lectionary Masses with Children and other Celebrations. During this period, task forces considered questions raised by cremation and other burial practices, as well as by televised Masses.

On Wednesday, October 17, 1990, at the meeting of the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions in Chicago, Bishop Delaney provided insight that is as true today as it was on that day he spoke to the assembled liturgists: "The liturgical renewal mandated by the Second Vatican Council is far from over. And the work of diocesan commissions and offices in liturgical formation, research and adaptation, and multilevel collaboration remains an ever-present challenge."

Bishop Delaney's commitment to the liturgical reform was steady, patient and ever sure. May the Lord reward him for his labors.

All-powerful God,  
you made Joseph Patrick Delaney, your servant,  
the guide of your family.  
May he enjoy the reward of all his work  
and share the eternal joy of his Lord.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen