

# ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of the Archbishop



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Dear Friends in Christ:

Our receiving the English translation of the Third Edition of the Roman Missal is a moment of grace for the Catholic Church in the United States. This new translation has a beauty that captures the richness of the original Latin in a way that is proper to classical English. The Scripture allusions are immediate, and there is a rhythm and great beauty to the vocabulary and cadence of the text that underscores the profound significance of the words of the Mass.

This new Missal also offers us the opportunity for conversion—intellectual, moral, and spiritual. When we allow ourselves to be spiritually renewed, we will be given the strength and courage to transform the world into the kingdom of God. This kingdom is already present in the Mass, and it is through the Mass that we are given by Christ the grace to be saints, and sent forth to build strong Catholic families, to transform the workplace and the marketplace into paths to salvation and, ultimately, to prepare ourselves to be part of the heavenly liturgy where the risen Christ offers himself eternally to the Father.

This is also an opportune moment for catechesis on the Mass, which is first of all a mystery of faith. The Mass is an action of the risen Christ, who makes his self-sacrifice, his Passion, Death, and Resurrection sacramentally present under the forms of bread and wine. The risen Christ is present through sacramental acts, offering himself as a sacrifice to the Father, and inviting us to participate in his self-sacrifice. The new words of the Roman Missal in English will open up these meanings in a more forceful way.

While we should pay special attention to the words of the new Missal, it is more important to open ourselves to the inner movement of grace. I have every confidence that this new English translation will be of great spiritual benefit to the Church, and I look forward to celebrating the Mass with these approved texts.

This DVD, which has been prepared by Monsignor James Moroney, the Executive Secretary of *Vox Clara* and former Executive Director of the USCCB Secretariat for the Liturgy, is intended to be a part of this preparation for receiving the newly translated Missal. It will be a particularly valuable resource for priests and seminarians who desire to have a greater understanding of the Missal, the changes that have been made and the reasons behind those changes. It will also be helpful for the laity who wish to gain a greater understanding of the beauty and theological depth of the Roman Missal, so as to enter more fully into the prayer of the Mass. As we worship in spirit and truth, may the Lord make us his holy people.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Francis Cardinal George".

Francis Cardinal George, OMI  
Archbishop of Chicago