

The Main Presentation at a Glance

The new English translation of the Roman Missal will help the celebrant and congregation better understand the relationship between the priest and Christ. The new translation will help clarify the nature of the Church and Christ's salvific actions through a more authentic presentation of the Church's official prayer. The style of the new translation is memorable and theological, and its content is rich.



CHAPTER ONE

Introduction to the New English Translation

Through the Sacrament of Holy Orders, the priest is ordained to act in the Person of Christ. In the Mass, he offers sacrifice and conveys the living presence of Christ to the faithful, performing the same actions that Christ performed on the Cross.

CHAPTER TWO

The Order of Mass

The rhetorical style of the Roman Missal, now reflected in the new English translation, is thick, memorable, and theological. The formal rhetoric of some of America's greatest statesmen is similar to that of the new translation, whose rhetoric is rich, memorable, and ripe with theological meaning. The collects and prefaces are a rich source for homiletic, catechetical, and theological reflection. It will take hard work, study, and prayer to receive the benefits of this new translation. These benefits will include the ability to celebrate the liturgy in its authentic form and to be so affected by these mysteries that we are transformed into the image of Christ from the inside out.

CHAPTER THREE

A New Way of Speaking

Because the prayer of the Church reveals what she professes to be, the Church's liturgical books best define her. In *Liturgiam authenticam* (an instruction from the Holy See, issued in 2001, giving guidelines on how translations are to be made from the Latin original), Pope John Paul II criticized liturgical translations carried out under theories incapable of conveying the true power of the Latin liturgical texts. He called for liturgical translations that are easily understandable yet which preserve the dignity, beauty, and doctrinal precision of the Latin texts. The International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL), made up of members from the Catholic Bishops' Conferences from Europe, North America, Australia, and Asia, prepares English translations of the Latin liturgical books in accord with the directives of the Holy See. Vox Clara is an international committee of bishops and scholars that assists and advises the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments with regard to the English translations of liturgical texts. The presentation offers many examples of improved translations in the new English translation of the Roman Missal.