

The First Eucharistic Prayer

(24:05 – 27:19)

Basic Question

- ❑ How does the new English translation of the First Eucharistic Prayer reflect the “thick, memorable, and theological” approach of the Latin Mass?

Key Idea

- ❑ The new English translation of the First Eucharistic Prayer puts the focus on God rather than on us and uses a more formal rhetoric that has more theological meaning.

Beginning Reflection

Explain that the next section of the DVD will discuss how the new English translation of the First Eucharistic Prayer reflects the style of the Latin original.

Show DVD (24:05 – 27:19)

Activity

Group Discussion

Ask participants the following question and discuss responses.

- ❑ According to the DVD, why does the new translation of the First Eucharistic Prayer begin with the seemingly awkward phrase “To you, therefore, most merciful Father,” instead of our current “We come to you, Father” ?

The new translation is faithful to the original Latin, which puts the focus on God rather than on us.

Partner Discussion

Ask the participants to partner with another person to identify a few examples of thick, memorable, and theological language in the new translation of the First Eucharistic Prayer.

Possible examples may include:

These gifts, these offerings, these holy and unblemished sacrifices.

Be pleased to grant her peace, to guard, unite, and govern her.