

October 28, 2011

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Regular readers here know that I'm writing a series of letters related to the new translation of our liturgical prayers which will be introduced on the weekend of November 26/27, 2011, the First Sunday of Advent and the beginning of a new liturgical year. This letter is the seventh in that series - the previous installments can be found on the parish website at [www.HolyFamilyConcord.org](http://www.HolyFamilyConcord.org) (click on "Letters" on the sidebar menu).

My last letter on this topic (Oct 16) featured the new translation of the Nicene Creed. The new Missal we'll begin using in Advent also allows for use of the Apostles' Creed in place of the Nicene. The Apostles' Creed is shorter than the Nicene and will allow for some variety in the text with which we profess our faith at Sunday Mass. Some of you will remember learning this Creed in your youth and some will know it from praying the Rosary. Here's the text as it's given in the new Missal:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son,  
our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended into hell;  
on the third day he rose again  
from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand  
of God the Father almighty;  
from there he will come to judge  
the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting. Amen.**

The translation of the *Holy, Holy, Holy* will also be new although the difference between it and our present text is not a substantial one. You'll find a side-by-side comparison with the Latin text interpolated at the top of the reverse side.

**Holy, Holy, Holy,**  
*Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus,*  
**Lord God of hosts.**  
*Dominus Deus Sabaoth*  
**Heaven and earth are full of  
your glory.**  
*Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua.*  
**Hosanna** in the highest.  
*Hosanna in excelsis.*  
**Blessed is he who comes**  
*Benedictus qui venit*  
**in the name of the Lord.**  
*in nomine Domini.*  
**Hosanna in the highest.**  
*Hosanna in excelsis.*

**Holy, Holy, Holy**  
*Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus,*  
**Lord, God of power and might.**  
*Dominus Deus Sabaoth*  
**Heaven and earth are full of  
your glory.**  
*Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua.*  
**Hosanna** in the highest.  
*Hosanna in excelsis.*  
**Blessed is he who comes**  
*Benedictus qui venit*  
**in the name of the Lord.**  
*in nomine Domini.*  
**Hosanna in the highest.**  
*Hosanna in excelsis.*

Some of us remember when our celebration of Mass moved from Latin to English. I've always considered it a privilege to have known and experienced our worship as Catholics in both the "old" and the "new" forms. I never forget that it was the "old" way that sustained the faith of Catholic people for centuries, right down to my own family who handed on that faith to me. We who remember the change from Latin to English will also remember that it was a time of confusion and no small amount of discussion and disagreement. If you follow such topics currently, you know that this new translation is also the subject of disagreement and, I'm sure, it will, for some time, cause confusion as we grapple with these new texts beginning in Advent.

As I've pointed out before, I've been highlighting the changes in the peoples' parts of the Mass. The major portion of changes in translation, however, will be found in the priest's parts of the Mass:

- in the three "collects" of the liturgy,
  - the Opening Prayer, the Prayer Over the Gifts and the Prayer after Communion
- and in the Eucharistic Prayers, the longer prayer beginning after the *Holy, Holy, Holy* and concluding with the *Through him, with him, in him...Amen.*

This past spring we held two sessions on the new translation and we'll be holding two more on the weekend of November 5/6, one after the Saturday 5:00 Mass and one after the Sunday 11:30 Mass. Because there's little time between the 7:30 and 9:30, and the 9:30 and 11:30 Masses (and considering the comings and goings in our parking lot at that time) we're not able to offer sessions after every Mass but, of course, regardless of what Mass you come to that weekend, you are most welcome to join us for one of the sessions. (Both the Saturday and Sunday sessions will include a meal catered by SlowPokes BBQ!) To register for one of those sessions, please call the parish office: 978-369-7442.

The new translations mean that we'll need new musical settings for some of the acclamations we sing at Mass. At the two sessions in November we'll begin to introduce some of the new music we'll be singing.

Sincerely,  
Fr. Fleming