

THE MASS AS YOU KNOW IT IS ABOUT TO CHANGE

Since I discussed only a portion of the Eucharistic Prayer last week, I will continue to discuss more of it. Specifically speaking, I will focus on the *Mysterium Fidei* or Memorial Acclamation. This comes after the consecration whereby simple bread and wine truly become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. The priest says, "Let us proclaim the Mystery of Faith." We have multiple options in responding. As of right now, the new translation of the Roman Missal does not include the acclamation of "Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again." The other 3 acclamations have been revised. For the sake of brevity, I will simply provide the new translations: (1) "***We proclaim your death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.***" (2) "***When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your death, O Lord, until you come again.***" (3) "***Save us, Savior of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection, you have set us free.***" The focus of these acclamations is to show the connection between Christ's Crucifixion and Resurrection and that we also await His second coming to Earth.

Before receiving the Eucharist is the *Agnus Dei* (Lamb of God): "Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world; have mercy on us." This does not change. After this, the priest currently says, "This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are those who are called to his supper." This will be changed to the following: "***Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.***" The reason for the change to saying "***Behold the Lamb of God***" is because it alludes to John 1:29 where St. John the Baptist points out Jesus to his followers using the same exclamation.

We will have a new response to this, which is, "***Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.***" There is a noticeable difference. It seems awkward to say "that you should enter under my roof," but it directly connects with Matthew 8:8 and Luke 7:6 where the centurion asks Jesus to heal his servant, and when Jesus offers to come to the centurion's home, the centurion finds himself unworthy to have Jesus enter his house.

From this point forward in Mass, there are no changes except at the very end when the priest says, "The Lord be with you." Of course, our response is: "***And with your spirit.***" It will be good to become acquainted with these changes, which are planned to begin in all parishes beginning in Advent 2011. If you wish to learn more, a good start may be the USCCB's website (www.usccb.org). Let us pray that because of the new translation, we may be drawn into a deeper communion with our Lord at Mass. By: Matt Frisbee

The Memorial Acclamations are a part of the Eucharistic Prayer that the priest and the assembly pray TOGETHER. As the gathered faithful, we acclaim what the priest has proclaimed in the Eucharistic Prayer.