

This week we address Questions & Answers About Changes to the Mass.

**What is going to be different?** The change people will notice will be in the response we make several times during the course of the Mass. We currently say or sing ***And also with you*** in response to the priest's prompt, ***The Lord be with you***. Instead of ***And also with you***, we will sing or say ***And with your spirit***. When the Mass first changed from Latin to English in the mid 1960s, for a while ***And with your spirit*** was the wording of the response. When the final version of the Sacramentary came out in 1974, the official English version became ***And also with you***, which is what we now use. The wording of many of the other prayers we sing or say together during the Mass also will slightly change.

**Why these changes?** All the words we say or sing, the prayers the priest says, come from the Sacramentary. This book is the English version of the Roman Missal, the book used for Mass by Catholics throughout the world. After the Second Vatican Council, when the Mass was reformed and took the familiar shape we know today, the Vatican issued the official Latin book for the new Mass, Missale Romanum, (The Roman Missal). This Latin book is the original text the bishops of each country have translated into their local language or languages. The Sacramentary we use today is a translation from 1985 of the second edition of the Latin Missal that came out in 1975. In 2000, Pope John Paul II approved a third edition of the Missale Romanum. This Latin text is the version from which the new English is being done.

**Who does the translation?** Because so many countries are English-speaking, the process of translating the Latin into English is more complicated than for other languages. Several groups are involved: the Bishops' Conferences of the English-speaking countries, The International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL), the Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments and *Vox Clara*, a group that acts as advisors to the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments. ICEL does the primary translation: their work is reviewed and voted upon by the various Bishops' Conferences and then sent to Rome for final approval. The process of translation, underway since 2002, is now complete, with the new edition of the English-language Roman Missal published September 1.