

# THE ROMAN MISSAL 3RD EDITION

December 4, 2011

## **Chant and Sacred Music**

“Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God” (Colossians 3:16). The Church sings because she loves. All the liturgical traditions of the Church have developed forms of chant for the praise of God, the proclamation of the Word, and prayer. Chant is language clothed in the vesture of melody. Chant is born of the word; it elevates the spoken discourse and adapts it to the sacredness of the liturgy.

In any Mass, the first things to be sung are the acclamations and simple dialogues. Priests and deacons are responsible for knowing how to sing the parts of the Mass that belong to them. To the people belong, first of all, the unchanging parts easily learned by heart and sung from memory. The Roman Liturgy gives pride of place to Gregorian Chant; other forms of song also have their place, provided that they “express in melody the truth of the Mystery that is celebrated in the Liturgy” (John Paul II, November 22, 2003). “Some parts of the Ordinary of the Mass in Latin, especially the Creed and the Lord’s Prayer, set to the simpler melodies” (GIRM, art. 41) should be familiar to all Catholics.

Apart from the chants of the Mass itself, there is room for polyphony and other types of sacred music. The pipe organ, an instrument capable of expressing everything from majestic jubilation to humble recollection, holds an esteemed place in our heritage.



## WHAT'S 'OLD' & WHAT'S 'NEW'?

*Look for a different example of the new translation of the Roman Missal in our bulletin each week!*

DURING THE LITURGY OF THE WORD, AS WE PROFESS OUR FAITH:

We are used to praying:

*We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, one in Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation He came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit He was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man.*

*For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered, died, and was buried. On the third day He rose again in fulfillment of the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.*

*We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in One, Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

With the new translation, we will soon pray:

*I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through Him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation He came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.*

*For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate, He suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and His kingdom will have no end.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.*

*I believe in One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

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