

THE ROMAN MISSAL 3RD EDITION

November 13, 2011

The Priest

Nowhere does a parish community show forth the mystery of the Church more clearly than in the celebration of Holy Mass. The Mass requires the presence and ministry of a priest. Like John the Baptist, the priest is the “friend of the Bridegroom” (John 3:29), rejoicing in the union of Christ with his Bride, the Church. The priest effectively fosters that union by standing at the head of the assembly, by presiding over its prayer, by preaching the Word of God, and by offering the Sacrifice of Christ in the Holy Spirit to the Father. “When he celebrates the Eucharist, therefore, he must serve God and the people with dignity and humility, and by his bearing and by the way he says the divine words he must convey to the faithful the living presence of Christ” (General Instruction of the Roman Missal, art. 93).

The priest must be ablaze with what John Paul II calls “Eucharistic amazement” (*Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, art. 6). When the priest speaks the words of consecration first uttered by Christ in the Upper Room, he places his voice and his whole being at the disposal of the Lord. Then, awed by what happens on the altar before which he stands, he proclaims the presence of the Mystery of Faith in the midst of the Church. Everything in the life of the priest flows into this moment, and flows out of it.

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#6: *Only Christ can make us worthy for Himself*

“Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof.” These words are taken directly from the Gospel of Luke and recount the humility of the centurion who asked Christ to heal his sick servant. At every Mass, we take these words upon our own lips as we prepare for Christ to enter into the home of our hearts in Holy Communion. This is a constant reminder that we have become the Temple of the Holy Spirit and that the Lord has come to dwell within us. There is certainly nothing we can do to make ourselves worthy of this great gift. Yet, there is Someone who has the power to make us worthy.

“Only say the word and my soul shall be healed.” Christ has the power to render us worthy for His divine indwelling. Our souls can only be made worthy by the forgiveness available to us because of Christ. In order that we may gain the greatest benefit from our participation in the Eucharistic offering, we must be sure that we are properly disposed. For this reason, whenever we have fallen from the state of grace through mortal sin, we must present ourselves for sacramental Confession so that Christ can “say the word” to heal and forgive our souls. Nothing we can do can take away the stain of sin: this is the work of Christ that we celebrate in the Sacraments of the Church. Allowing Him to say the healing word of forgiveness opens our hearts to receive the grace that makes us holy and gives us hope that we will become like the “blessed ... called to the supper of the Lamb.”





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 PENITENTIAL ACT:

We are used to hearing:

You were sent to heal the contrite:

We are used to responding:

Lord, have mercy.

We are used to hearing:

You came to call sinners:

We are used to responding:

Christ, have mercy.

We are used to hearing:

You plead for us at the right hand of the Father:

We are used to responding:

Lord, have mercy.

With the new translation, we will soon hear:

You were sent to heal the contrite of heart:

With the new translation, we will respond:

Lord, have mercy. -OR- Kyrie, eleison.

With the new translation, we will soon hear:

You came to call sinners:

With the new translation, we will respond:

Christ, have mercy. -OR- Christe, eleison.

With the new translation, we will soon hear:

You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us:

With the new translation, we will respond:

Lord, have mercy. -OR- Kyrie, eleison.