

A MESSAGE FROM FR. JOHN

On Thursday evening Bishop Rodimer will be with us to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation with thirty-four of our young adults. (Thirty from St. Mary's Parish and four from Saint Bernard's. We congratulate them as they prepare to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit and take their place as adults in the Christian Community. Many thanks also are in order to our catechists, parents and Sister Thomasine who helped bring these young people to this happy day.

I can't believe that in two months we shall begin using the new edition and translations of The Roman Missal at each celebration of the Eucharist. I have seen a number of parishioners with pew cards – obviously stolen from other places – having the new translations. For all of us they will take some getting used to - I have pew cards for our use here which I plan to make available around the first week in November. They are not meant to be taken home – unless of course you say Mass at your home – but for our use here in each of the celebrations. Priests still do not have their own copies of the Roman Missal – publishers may not send them out before October 1st – Hopefully they will be in our hands soon after that, so we may familiarize ourselves with their structure and set up, not to mention getting used to the new texts.

When I was a young priest we received new translations and Missals – then known as The Sacramentary – in 1973 I think it was. I remember never heading out to celebrate a Sunday Liturgy without first carefully reviewing the prayers and practicing the chants. It was most important if you were to be a good presider on the said Sunday. Once again preparation will become a necessary part of every presider's life. I have downloaded the Eucharistic prayers and tried to say them – to be honest they leave me tongue-tied. Oh well, practice makes perfect. There is no question these new translations present the prayers for the Eucharistic Celebration in a formal, elevated language. Some are immediately quiet beautiful, others require much practice to pray them well. I guess I can laugh at myself – 40 years ago a good number of the older priests resisted using that new Sacramentary, refused to turn their altars around, or allow for Saturday evening Masses. Now some of us are the old fools who don't look forward to implementing these new changes. Time does heal all things.

Many parishes have made use of the missalettes for years – we here at Saint Mary's have used the hard-covered comprehensive missal. It has served us very well – It contained music, the Sunday readings, as well as the ordinary parts of the celebration. Everything was in one worship aid. After November 27th – the music portion and the Sunday readings as found in our hard-covered books will continue to serve us – it is the ordinary portion of the Eucharistic celebration that has been newly translated, which will no longer be the correct version in our books - Hence the need for pew cards. Parishes which use missalettes will have the new translation in two places – The pew cards which I imagine most churches will provide as well as the missalettes which will henceforth be printed with the proper new texts. I imagine new hard covered comprehensive missals will eventually be available – we use WORSHIP II – but at the present time we have not come across anything suitable for us. The hard covered books were excellent – they are permanent and long lasting – the missalettes must be changed several times a year and are simply cheap paper.

Over the next number of weeks we shall print in the bulletin various aids available from the National Conference of Catholic Bishops to help us ease in to the coming changes. History and background is always most helpful to help us understand why we are changing or moving in a new direction. We are in this endeavor together, so let us raise our concerns and needs to the Lord as we seek to deepen our love and understanding of the Liturgy and so grow in the God Life!