



Sacred Heart Catholic Church

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Homily

Fr. Paul Ward

Saturday, Nov. 19, and Sunday, Nov. 20, 2011

Feast of Christ the King

Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Imlay City

New Translations, n. 13, and Final Installation Communion Rite and End of Mass

On this glorious celebration of Christ the King, the liturgy reminds us of some of the most important doctrines of our faith: that Christ is the Eternal Shepherd who cares for his sheep; that Christ has risen from the dead; and that Christ will one day dreadfully judge the world, and for that day we must always be ready, with works of charity, a life of grace, and profound contrition for our sins.

The number of things going on in parish life right now are exhausting, so I must address a few, before I get into the spiritual topic for today, and that topic is simply the communion rite's new translation, and the dismissal of Mass as well.

To parish life. First, by now everyone should have received in the mail their parish census form. If you would kindly have that handed in, corrected, filled in, or up to your own approval, we wish Monday to be our deadline. If you did not get one in the mail, there are forms in the back of the Church, on the small table as you exit out the main doors to your left, for registration, or even for just staying on our mailing lists. I thank you all for your help, aware that these little administrative matters can be rather annoying for some of you. Thanks again. Incidentally, tomorrow is also the deadline for the fruit orders, a very helpful fund raiser for our parish.

Next, permit me to call to your attention to the bulletin article, and also to the rack of CDs which we have installed on the wall. The plaque that was there has been put in the hall near the other like it, and not simply removed. These CD's are not a fund raiser, but for your

education in the faith. Nonetheless, we do request you pay for the CD's you take, at very low costs, so the parish can recuperate its investment. May these be useful tools by which we may all grow in the faith.

Next, let us pray for the Pope who is doing a pastoral visit to Africa today, focusing his visit on Benin, off the Gulf of Guinea, between Togo and Nigeria.

A final point about parish life is that the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe is coming. We celebrate the Virgin Mother of God under this title, as she is the patroness of all the Americas. The image she left on the tilma of Juan Diego is of completely miraculous origin and nature. Our Latino parishioners are organizing a rosary with songs, and some of the rosary will be in Spanish, and some in English. It is my desire as pastor that great charity arise among all our parishioners, no matter what their ethnic origin. Participating in the 7pm Rosary from Dec. 2-Dec. 10 would be a great way to cultivate not only this charity, but also devotion for our Lady, and the frequent practice of the Rosary, especially if you can come with your families. Please consider attending all or any number of the days we have the Rosary. Only on Dec. 8, the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, the Rosary will be at 6:30pm to accommodate Mass at 7pm.

Now to the translations, our final chapter in this long preparation which we began in July. For brevity's sake, I will focus only on the two parts with their improvements in translation as indicated on the hand out, namely, the "Behold the Lamb of God" and the dismissal.

To the first of these. [*Recite together.*] The word "behold" translates more precisely the "ecce" in Latin. Then you will notice that the priest says, "Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb." "Blessed" is a more perfect, spiritual and reasonable form of joy than happiness. But more important here are those words about the supper of the Lamb. This is a quote from the book of Revelation, said by the angel between the downfall of Babylon and the slaying of the Beast of the Apocalypse. St. John writes, after he hears a mighty heavenly song of victory, "Then the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!" (Rev. 19:9) Every Mass is this great wedding banquet, and sets the standard and meaning of every marriage: for the groom is the Eucharist, the Lamb of God once slain who lives forever, and the bride, in the immeasurable beauty of holiness and virtue, is the Catholic Church. The Eucharist makes the Church, the Eucharist establishes the union of the bride and the groom. The Mass is this apocalyptic, mighty, victorious feast which is at the same time a wedding feast and whose essence is specified by that divine love which we call supernatural charity. You have no idea what joy I feel that these words are translated correctly, and I hope they provide for all of you, as they do for me, a lifetime worth of material for meditation and love.

Then the text about the "roof" might need some explanation. It is a reference to two parallel passages, in Mt 8:8 and Luke 7:6. There, a Centurion asks the Lord to heal a servant, and when he says he will, the Centurion professes faith to the Lord that his word is enough, that he need not make the walk to his house; he says he is unworthy to have the Lord "under his roof," in his home. This faith left the Lord surprised – very curious, that a creature could surprise the Creator – and it pleased the Lord. So we are quoting the Centurion, as an act of humility and complete faith in him, which are perfect dispositions for Holy Communion. I could say more about the appearance of the word "soul," but I'll leave that for some later homily.

As for the conclusion, *Ite missa est*, I have little to say. There is only one Latin version, but the English missals again and again give various options, and apparently they chose to continue doing this. The Latin expression was used in ancient Rome as a dismissal to any assembly; the "assembly" being in the feminine, so is the word "missa". This was not necessarily a religious assembly. Yet the word captures some dimension of being sent, as the verb from which *missa* comes is *mitto*, to send. Therefore, not only functional for the conclusion of a Mass, it is also meaningful because it engages Catholics to preach what they practice.

Next Sunday Advent begins, and we will put into practice the new translation. It will be a bit bumpy, and both you and I will make mistakes, but we'll eventually get the hang of it. The vastly superior translations are worth the small efforts. The new Missalettes will reflect the new translations, as will cards which you will find in the pew, which will provide quick reference to the many responses at Mass. Today is the last day you will ever hear the translations used in the current Missal, except for those devout souls who attend weekday Mass of course. Next Sunday will be the beginning, therefore, of many great things.

With this, we happily conclude our long series discussing the new translations of the Mass. We receive this gift from God and Rome with great joy. Let us pray, with our Blessed Mother the Virgin Mary, that it bears all the fruit which it intends, for the greater glory of God in this world, and for the salvation of many souls. Amen. ■

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**New Translations of the English Roman Missal (Advent 2011)
– Homily Aid for Congregation #10**

COMMUNION RITE AND END OF MASS

Latin Misal (source)	Current Translation	New Translation
<p>1.)</p> <p>Ecce Agnus Dei, ecce qui tollit peccáta mundi.</p> <p>Beáti qui ad cenam Agni vocáti sunt.</p> <p>Dómine, non sum dignus, ut intres sub téctum meum, sed tantum dic verbo, et sanábitur ánima mea.</p>	<p>This is the Lamb of God Who takes away the sins of the world.</p> <p>Happy are those who are called to his supper</p> <p>Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.</p>	<p><i>Priest:</i></p> <p>Behold the Lamb of God, Behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to <u>the supper of the Lamb.</u></p> <p><i>And together with the people he adds once:</i></p> <p>Lord, I am not worthy <u>that you should enter under my roof,</u> but only say the word and <u>my soul</u> shall be healed.</p>
<p>2.)</p> <p>Ite, missa est.</p> <p><i>(That is the only option available in the Latin edition of the Missal, even if there are multiple options available in English.)</i></p>	<p>Go in the peace of Christ.</p> <p><i>Or:</i></p> <p>The Mass is ended, go in peace.</p> <p><i>Or:</i></p> <p>Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.</p>	<p><i>The priest or deacon dismisses:</i></p> <p>Go forth, the Mass is ended.</p> <p><i>Or:</i></p> <p>Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.</p> <p><i>Or:</i></p> <p>Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.</p> <p><i>Or:</i></p> <p>Go in peace.</p> <p><i>The people reply:</i></p> <p>Thanks be to God.</p>