

## ~From the Administrator~

Dear Parish Family,

June 20, 2010

Happy Father's Day to all fathers and grandfathers and great-grandfathers! I received a card from the Knights of the Holy Eucharist (the order of young men who maintain Mother Angelica's eucharistic shrine in Hanceville, AL) wishing me a Happy Father's Day and letting me know that I would be remembered at Masses at their shrine during this Father's Day weekend.

I would like to thank our seminarian, the newly ordained Rev. Mr. Marcel Portelli, for assisting at Masses this weekend as well as preaching the homily. Deacon Marcel is staying with Fr. Tom McNamara at the Cathedral, and working on his Clinical Pastoral Education at Covenant Hospital in Saginaw.

This week is Vacation Bible School. I've been sneaking in and looking at the decorations and props that are being built. It looks like it's going to be a lot of fun for the kids, helpers, and the adults!

Last Sunday afternoon, I sang a Missa Cantata for the living and deceased fathers of our parish. I'd like to thank Charlie and Elton Clark, and Sean Massey for all of their hard work in learning the Latin responses and how to serve. Chris Neyer and her daughter sang the Latin chants. Everyone did an exceptional job, despite not having grown up with this Mass. It was only three years ago that Pope Benedict XVI allowed an increased use of what is now called the Extraordinary Form of the Mass. The Ordinary Form of the Mass is what we are all accustomed to every day.

This past week on Wednesday was a Diocesan Transition Day. During the first part of the meeting, I sat at a table with some of our parish and school staff who were able to attend. In the middle of the meeting our new pastor, Fr. Patrick Jankowiak, sat with our staff, and I had an opportunity to meet with the staff from Alma and St. Louis, my new assignment.

It's getting closer, I'm going to have to start packing up. I've been procrastinating, but next week I'll start taking boxes down to the rectory in Alma.

There are still free tickets to the July 3 Country Music Show in Harrison. It runs from 3 - 7 pm. If you are interested, please stop by the office.

Please keep praying for our new pastor, Fr. Patrick. Also, please continue to pray for me!

God bless you! Let us always remember to pray for each other.

*Fr. David*

## WORD OF THE WEEK: MISSAL

*mis-sal (mi-səl) noun*

The book which contains the prayers said by the priest at the altar as well as all that is officially read or sung in connection with the offering of the holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the ecclesiastical year.

[Origins 14th century. Middle English *messel*, from Anglo-French & Medieval Latin; Anglo-French *missal*, *messel*, from Medieval Latin *missale*, from neuter of *missalis* "of the mass", from Late Latin *missa* "mass".]

# *The History of the Roman Missal*

The Roman Missal is the book containing the prescribed prayers, chants, and instructions for the celebration of Mass in the Roman Catholic Church. Published first in Latin under the title *Missale Romanum*, the text is translated; then approved by the Congregation for Divine Worship; and finally published in modern languages for use in local churches throughout the world.

In 2002, Pope John Paul II introduced a new edition of the *Missale Romanum*, the third typical edition since the Second Vatican Council, for use in the Church. Soon after that, the complex work of translating the text into English began. As the Church in the United States and throughout the English-speaking world prepares to introduce the new edition of the Missal, so does the Church in other countries as the *Missale Romanum* is translated into other languages. The process of implementing a new edition of the prayers of the Mass is not new, but has occurred numerous times throughout the history of the Church.

In the earliest centuries of the Church, collections of prayers developed gradually for use in particular locations and situations (e.g. a particular monastery, for the Pope, or for other local churches.) Such collections were contained in *libelli* (“booklets”) which over centuries were drawn together into larger collections of prayers.

Eventually larger, more organized collections of prayers were assembled into “sacramentaries”, which contained some, but not all, of the prayers of the Mass. The earliest of these sacramentaries were attributed to Pope Leo I, “Leo the Great” (440-461), and Pope Gelasius (492-496), but surviving versions of those sacramentaries date from centuries later. Other early manuscripts contained detailed descriptions of the celebration of the Mass with the Pope in Rome. Those written accounts may have gradually served as instructions or rubrics for the celebration of Mass in other settings. Liturgical books grew as they passed from one community to another, often with prayers added in margins or in blank spaces.

The first true liturgical books which could be called “missals” were found in monasteries beginning around the 12th and 13th Centuries. A *missale* contained not only the prayers but the biblical readings, the chants, and the rubrics for the celebration of Mass. It is difficult to trace exact origins of the first missal. The first book bearing the name *Missale Romanum* appeared in 1474, perhaps not coincidentally in the same century as the invention of the printing press by Johannes Gutenberg (1440). But it was not until after the Council of Trent that Pope Pius V, in 1570, promulgated an edition of the *Missale Romanum* that was to be in obligatory use throughout the Latin Church. This marked the first official attempt at uniformity in the celebration of the Mass in the history of the Church.

Since that time, to accommodate the ongoing development of the Liturgy, new editions of the *Missale Romanum* were promulgated by Popes for use in the Church:

1604 – Pope Clement VIII  
1634 – Pope Urban VIII  
1884 – Pope Leo XIII  
1920 – Pope Benedict XV  
1962 – Pope John XXIII  
1970 – Pope Paul VI  
1975 – Pope Paul VI  
2002 – Pope John Paul II

In addition, there were a number of other minor revisions to the text, published as “reprints” which incorporated minor changes. The most recent of these were in 1957 after Pope Pius XII’s revisions to the rites of Holy Week and the Sacred Triduum in 1955; and in 2008, when Pope Benedict XVI incorporated a number of additional prayers for recently canonized saints as well as for the celebration of an extended Vigil for *Pentecost*.

***Grant us, O Lord,  
fear and love of your holy name  
always and in equal measure,  
for you never cease to guide  
those you fix firm in love of you.***

—New translation of this Sunday’s Opening Prayer