

# Looking Ahead to the New *Roman Missal*: The Mystery of Faith

*The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has been working with the Holy See to revise and approve a new English translation of the Roman Missal (previously known as the Sacramentary). The implementation date has not yet been determined. The bishops are calling on all clergy and lay ecclesial ministers to help parish assemblies learn the new ritual texts and to support the catechesis that will be needed before, during, and after the transition. All of us at OCP and Today's Liturgy are pleased to provide the following information as part of that catechetical effort.*

## New name, same prayer

Currently in the eucharistic prayer, after the invocation of the Holy Spirit and the words of institution, the priest invites the assembly to speak the memorial acclamation with the words “Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.” When the new *Roman Missal* is promulgated, the memorial acclamation will be known as the “Mystery of Faith.” The priest’s invitation will become simply “The mystery of faith.”

## How many options will there be?

There are four forms of the memorial acclamation in the present English translation of the *Roman Missal* (see chart below). The first two English acclamations are departures from the Latin typical edition of the *Roman Missal*. The first (“Christ has died...”) was a preexisting composition adopted in lieu of a translation of the first Latin acclamation, and the second was a new composition, derived from wording found in the first Easter Preface.

When the bishops of the United States approved the translation of the Order of Mass in June, 2006, they also approved eight (8) adaptations of the Order of the Mass for use in the

dioceses of the United States. These included additional texts for use in the Act of Penitence, the Mystery of Faith (Memorial Acclamation; specifically, “Christ has died...”), the introduction to the Lord’s Prayer, and the Dismissal, as well as the placement of the Blessing and Sprinkling of Holy Water as part of the Introductory Rites of the Mass (rather than in an Appendix), and the insertion of a Prayer Over Water Already Blessed among the prayers of the Rite of Blessing and Sprinkling. The Congregation for Divine Worship has not yet responded to these adaptations, but at this point has granted the *recognitio* (approval) only for the texts to be used universally in English-speaking countries.

## Musical setting

For the new *Roman Missal*, the International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL) will offer to the Conferences of Bishops of the English-speaking world chants for everything that is set to music in the *Missale Romanum, editio typica tertia* (2002). Below is the chant setting for the Mystery of Faith included in ICEL’s 2009 document *Music for the English Language Roman Missal: An Introduction*.

The Memorial Acclamation settings apply the basic modal melodic elements of the Latin *Mortem tuam* (GR 810, GS 10) to the new English translations:

We pro-claim your Death, O Lord, and pro-fess your Res-ur-rec-tion  
un-til you come a-gain.

Or:  
Save us, Sav-ior of the world, for by your Cross and Res-ur-rec-tion  
you have set us free.

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These text changes are founded on the 2001 Vatican Instruction *Liturgiam Authenticam*, which requires a more faithful translation of the original Latin texts of the Roman rites. It stipulates: “While it is permissible to arrange the wording, the syntax and the style in such a way as to prepare a flowing vernacular text suitable to the rhythm

of popular prayer, the original text, insofar as possible, must be translated integrally and in the most exact manner, without omissions or additions in terms of their content, and without paraphrases or glosses. Any adaptation to the characteristics or the nature of the various vernacular languages is to be sober and discreet” (20).

### Changes in the Parts of the People in the Revised Order of Mass in the *Roman Missal, Third Edition*

Approved by the USCCB, June 2006; Confirmed by the Holy See, June 2008

Part of Mass	Present Text	New Text
Mystery of Faith (formerly the Memorial Acclamation)	<p><b>Priest: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:</b></p> <p><b>People:</b></p> <p>A — Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.</p> <p>or</p> <p>B — <b>Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life. Lord Jesus, come in glory.</b></p> <p>or</p> <p>C — When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death, <b>Lord Jesus</b>, until you come <b>in glory</b>.</p> <p>or</p> <p>D — <b>Lord</b>, by your cross and resurrection, you have set us free. <b>You are the Savior of the World.</b></p>	<p><b>Priest: The mystery of faith.</b></p> <p><b>People:</b></p> <p>[Christ has died ... a U.S. adaptation yet to be decided by the Holy See]</p> <p>A — <b>We proclaim your death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.</b></p> <p>or</p> <p>B — When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your death, <b>O Lord</b>, until you come <b>again</b>.</p> <p>or</p> <p>C — <b>Save us, Savior of the world, for</b> by your Cross and Resurrection, you have set us free.</p>

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To review the complete chart showing the entire Order of Mass and to access many other resources related to the new Roman Missal, including downloadable study editions and catechetical aides, please visit [usccb.org/romanmissal](http://usccb.org/romanmissal).

OCP is grateful to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and the International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL, [icelweb.org](http://icelweb.org)) for granting permission to reprint these texts for catechetical and formational purposes.