

In addition to the changes in the words of the assembly, the Revised English edition of the Roman Missal contains many changes in the words spoken by the priest. These changes have been made in order to bring the English text in line with the Latin text and to express more fully the rich meaning of the prayers of the Church. Many of the prayers are biblically inspired and the new translations will make this obvious. One example will illustrate this point.

During the past forty years, we have become familiar with these words, spoken by the priest in the Third Eucharistic Prayer: *From age to age you gather a people to yourself, so that from east to west a perfect offering may be made to the glory of your name.* The new text, a more accurate translation of the Latin reads: *and you never cease to gather a people to yourself, so that from the rising of the sun to its setting a pure sacrifice may be offered to your name.* These words echo the words found in the Book of the Prophet Malachi (1.11) Furthermore, they highlight the eternal offering rather than a geographical or spatial offering of the one pure sacrifice offered to God.

In addition to the changes in the words, there are a very few changes in the postures of the assembly which are being introduced at this time. These changes are specified in the new edition of the General Instruction of the Roman Missal (the document which provides the instructions for celebrating Mass).

The first change takes place during the Presentation of the Gifts. The priest invites all to pray, saying: *Pray brothers and sisters that your sacrifice and mine may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.* All stand and then respond with the words: *May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands...* The assembly will no longer wait to stand until after they have made their response.

The second change is more of a clarification. The Canadian edition of the General Instruction states that the approved gesture for the sign of peace is a handshake or a bow. The Instruction makes no mention of any words being exchanged at this moment.

The third change is related to approaching Communion. As each person approaches the minister to receive Communion he or she is asked to make a simple bow of the head. This is a sign of reverence in immediate preparation for the act of receiving Communion, which, in Canada, is to be received standing. This gesture is made only once before receiving Communion. It is not repeated again when receiving Communion from the chalice. Other personal expressions of piety or devotion, such as profound bows or genuflections are not appropriate. A common gesture of reverence is desirable to foster the unity of faith which Communion expresses.

One of the new dismissal texts in the Roman Missal states: *Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.* To these words, we say: *Thanks be to God.* May the new words of the Mass and our attentiveness to the common postures and gestures in the liturgy lead all of us to take up this commission with renewed commitment.