

## Learn about the ROMAN MISSAL, Third Ed.

### Article 12

This is the last article reviewing the changes in our Mass texts.

The prayer that the priest says before the **Sign of Peace** will be slightly different. However, the priest will still greet you with the same words, “The peace of the Lord be with you always.” Our response is no longer, “and also with you,” but, as in other similar places in the Mass, we respond, “AND WITH YOUR SPIRIT.” The invitation to the Sign of Peace by the priest or deacon will remain the same, namely, “Let us offer each other the sign of peace.”

During the breaking of the bread, the **Lamb of God** is still sung and these words will not change.

Just before the distribution of Holy Communion, the priest’s announcement and our response will change. (Refer to page 6 on the pew card.) Instead of saying, “This is the Lamb of God” the priest will now echo the words of John the Baptist who pointed out Jesus to his followers by saying, “Behold the Lamb of God, behold Him who takes away the sins of the world.” The next phrase, “Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb” is an allusion to the passage in the book of Revelation in which an angel instructs the Evangelist, John, to write down the words that proclaim blessed all those called to the wedding banquet of the Lamb.

Our reply also has some changes. Instead of saying, “I am not worthy to receive you,” we will now say, “I AM NOT WORTHY THAT YOU SHOULD ENTER UNDER MY ROOF.” This is a direct reference to the Gentile centurion in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, who asked Jesus to heal his servant, but believed himself unworthy to have Jesus come to his home. Jesus admires the man’s faith and heals his servant from afar.

The other change you will notice is in the last line. The words “I shall be healed,” are changed to “MY SOUL SHALL BE HEALED.” The word, “soul” is being restored, not only because it appears in the Latin, but also because we are asking for more than a physical healing. We are asking for a spiritual healing, that is, a healing of the soul.

When we receive Holy Communion, there will be no change to the words. We will still hear, “The Body of Christ” and “The Blood of Christ” and we will still answer, “AMEN.”

The Communion Rite concludes with the *Prayer after Communion*. These prayers have been re-translated so that we must listen carefully to catch their meaning. We still respond with our “AMEN.”

After any announcements, the priest will offer the usual greeting of “The Lord be with you.” We will respond with the new customary phrase, “AND WITH YOUR SPIRIT.”

After the final blessing comes the dismissal. The priest or deacon has several options for dismissal in the new translation. He may say, “Go forth, the Mass is ended,” or “Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.” He may say, “Go in peace, glorifying God with your life,” or simply, “Go in Peace.” In the dismissal, we are not merely asked to leave the building, but rather to go out into the world with a mission to transform it. In response to that mission, we gladly say, “THANKS BE TO GOD.”