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Newsletter

Changes in Wording Reflect The Spiritual Tradition of Mass

By Christine Corbett Conklin

The changes in the Roman Missal which go into effect this weekend for English-speaking, Catholic congregations throughout the world do not change the substance of the Mass.

"They make it more beautiful, more respectful to God," explained Father Juan Flores, the worship and liturgy coordinator for the Diocese of Yakima and pastor of St. Aloysius Parish in Toppenish. "This is just a new translation to make the words closer to the Latin, closer to their original meaning. It fulfills the tradition we had in the past."

In fact, much of this "new wording" can be found by looking at a copy of the St. Joseph Missal from the 1950s. Whether it's the phrase, "And with your spirit"; the admission, "through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault"; or even the words, "I believe," at the beginning of the Nicene Creed, it's there in the older format.

In all, more than a dozen responses and prayers have been refined in the current translation, Father Flores observed. This also will be reflected in liturgical music for the "Gloria" in the Liturgy of the Word and the "Holy, Holy, Holy" acclamation in the Liturgy of the Eucharist, for example.

"The goal is to make the wording more spiritual ... to rescue what we had before. I

think it's a very positive change," he said.

In the words of "Understanding the Revised



Cover of new Roman Missal,
from Liturgy Training Publications

Mass Texts," a 2010 guide prepared by the Archdiocese of Chicago's Liturgy Training

Publications, "Many of the Latin prayers are quite lovely. They were crafted with a poetry of vocabulary, rhythm, structure, and sentiment. Just as many Catholic church buildings were adorned with stained glass and other great works of art to please the eye, so the words for worship were shaped to please lips and the ear. The beauty of the language proclaimed the beauty of God."

Spanish-speaking members of our congregations who attend English Masses may have much less of an adjustment to these changes, Bishop Joseph Tyson recently observed.

"The Spanish text is so near the Latin," he said. Yet, despite all of the emphasis on the changes in English wording, it is important to keep in mind that a Spanish translation also is in process, with some initial drafts expected as early as next Spring. In fact, Bishop Emeritus Carlos Sevilla, S.J., serves on the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops Subcommittee on Spanish Translations, he noted.

In yet another project underway, three Eucharistic Prayers for Masses with Children soon may be available.

It's all good, Father Flores maintains.

"That's the unity of the Church. We all do the same thing," he said.

Our Diocese and St. Paul Cathedral Celebrate Milestone

As 2011 draws to a close, the 60th "anniversary" commemorations in the Diocese of Yakima continue!

On June 23, we marked the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the Diocese of Yakima by Pope Pius XII. On July 9, we marked the 60-year milestone since Joseph P. Dougherty was appointed as the first Bishop of Yakima. Then, on November 6, it was time to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the dedication of St. Paul's as the Cathedral – or principal church – of the new Diocese.

As Monsignor John Ecker, pastor of St. Paul Cathedral and vicar-general of the Diocese, recently explained, "Cathedral" comes from the word "Cathedra" which is the seat or throne of the bishop.

Monsignor Ecker quoted His Eminence

Richard Cardinal Cushing who explained, "... Here the bishop fulfills his duties as the direct representative of the Pope, the Vicar of Christ; here he presides as the guardian of the teaching of the Church; here he projects and interprets its doctrines, exercises its jurisdiction and executes its authority ... The cathedral by linking the city which it adorns to the whole Catholic world makes that city one with Rome, one with Calvary, united in action with the Vicar of Christ and Christ Himself..."

The seven bishops who have presided from our Cathedral have included: Joseph P. Dougherty, 1951-69; Cornelius Power, 1969-74; Nicolas Walsh, 1974-76; William Skylstad, 1977-90; Francis E. George, 1990-96; Carlos A. Sevilla, S.J., 1996-2011; and Joseph J. Tyson, who assumed the role in

May of this year, Monsignor Ecker noted.

The 10 priests who have served as pastor of St. Paul Cathedral in its 60-year history include: Fathers Thomas Edwards; Richard Queen; Edmond McGrath; John A. Ecker; Desmond Dillon; Christopher Breen; Paul Stecher; John Tholen; Peter Hagel; John Heneghan; and, once again, Monsignor Ecker, since 1988.

Monsignor Ecker gave additional recognition to the many consecrated religious women and laity who have contributed so much through the years.

Happy Anniversary to our Diocese and to St. Paul Cathedral! And may Bishops Dougherty, Power and Walsh, and the priests, religious and laity who have served our Diocese and passed on from this life rest in peace.

A Message From Bishop Tyson...

Dear Friends,

Christ is the alpha and the omega, the beginning and the end! The readings at the end of the liturgical year on the Feast of Christ the King point us forward to the coming of Christ at Christmas. In a certain sense, the unusual way Christ came into this world prepares us for the way His earthly life ended. The infant Christ who held court with the shepherds of the field is the king whose crown was made of thorns. The infant found lying in the wood of the manger is the same Christ the King whose throne is a wooden cross.

The promise of Advent and the joy of Christmas is quite simple: In the same unusual way Christ came to the world, Christ will come to us. This means that Christ not only comes “tinsel and bows” with brightly-colored wrappings, but Christ comes when daily life seems less than cheery-bright. Our scriptures this time of year remind us that we are given a God who not only shows us the way to the Promised Land of milk and honey, but stays with us in our exiles when we find



Bishop Joseph Tyson

ourselves far from home spiritually and physically. We have a God close to us whose face we see and whose name we speak, the word-made-flesh and that word is Jesus. You will encounter his presence anew

seemingly behind the scenes as you read of our daily efforts at uplifting the liturgy through the new Roman Missal, celebrating his enduring presence during the recent anniversary celebrations at St. Joseph in Kennewick and St. Paul Cathedral in Yakima, and honoring those who have gone before us and now rest at Calvary Cemetery. I hope that reading this issue of the Central Washington Catholic will inspire you to see the face in Jesus in the lives of those you encounter on a daily basis, in your homes and offices, your packing warehouses and orchards, your friends, family members and spouses.

The presence of Jesus I have the privilege of uplifting in Word and Sacrament is the same presence I detect in all of you as I visit your parishes and communities. As we begin our Advent preparation for Christmas, let's stay close to Jesus!

Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph J. Tyson
Bishop of Yakima

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Father Sedlacek (right) presented a “thank you” plaque to Donald Klippstein, chairman of the 100 Year Celebration committee.

Photo courtesy of Rich Breshears, Breshears Professional Photography

As part of that effort, Father Hinojosa has helped to spearhead an active ministry for Hispanic parishioners. Since he arrived at St. Joseph, about a year ago, he says he noticed that many Hispanic adults were not receiving Communion at Mass. After asking around, he discovered a number of couples were legally married but had not been married in the Church, and thus, were hesitant to receive. So, after appropriate preparations, last month, Father presided over a marriage convalidation ceremony for 19 couples, enabling them to fully participate in the Mass.

In recent years, St. Joseph Parish also has been doing more (literal) building for the future, as Dillon Hall was opened in 2006, and a Grotto honoring Our Lady of Grace was completed in 2007. Just this fall, a columbarium – or repository for cremated remains – behind the chapel was blessed and dedicated by Bishop Sevilla.

“The parishioners here are a very good, generous people,” Father Sedlacek observed. The past 100 years is “just a drop in the bucket compared to the next several hundred years!” predicted Ralph LeCompte.

Annual Catholic Appeal Is Off to ‘Robust’ Start

Last month, Bishop Joseph Tyson reminded us that the Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA) is “a request for folks to support the mission of the Church.” From the response thus far, the people of the Diocese of Yakima are ready to do their part!

“The ACA is off to a robust start, with many parishes reporting a strong response through pledges and payments in the early weeks of the Appeal,” said Father Brooks Beaulaurier, who serves as Director of Development and Stewardship for the Diocese.

Echoing Bishop Tyson’s comments, Father Beaulaurier recently told parishioners at Holy Family Church in Yakima, “It’s not about the money, it’s about the mission. It is about ‘Offering Hope by Sharing God’s Gifts’, which is the theme for this year’s Appeal.”

In response to questions which he has received about the Appeal, Father Beaulaurier noted that contributions to the ACA support many important needs, among which are payment of health/medical costs and long-term care for our 18 retired priests. He also commented that 30% of the collected ACA funds support 16 ministries.

There’s still time to turn in your pledge envelope. If you do not have an envelope, you may request one from your parish office. For other questions about the ACA, including making payments by electronic funds transfer, contact Father Beaulaurier at 965-7117.

If you have been abused or victimized by a member of the Catholic clergy, please believe in the possibility for hope and help and healing. We encourage you to come forward and speak out.

The Yakima Diocese has a sexual abuse hotline for those who wish to report some incident concerning that issue as regards a bishop, priest, deacon or diocesan employee or volunteer. (888) 276-4490

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Calvary Cemetery: Honoring the Dead, Looking To Eternal Life

Since 1903, Yakima's Calvary Cemetery has stood ready to be a part of our transition from this life to the next. Many thousands of Catholic parishioners, their relatives, priests, one Bishop and countless unborn and stillborn children have come to this 23-acre site for their final repose.

In November, which is called by some the "month of the dead," special ceremonies in the Yakima Valley have drawn us to prayer for our departed family members, friends and clergy members, many of whom have come to Calvary Cemetery – both in life and then in death.

On November 2, All Souls Day or "The Day of The Dead" in Hispanic culture, a memorial Mass in Calvary's Chapel Mausoleum honored the dead and also drew attention to the promise of eternal life, said Father Darell Mitchell, Cemetery director.

"It's a traditional time when Mexican people come and decorate the graves, and even bring food and have a picnic there," he explained. "After the Mass, we had Mexican sweetbread."

On November 9, a Mass for Deceased Priests was held at St. Paul Cathedral, with Bishop Joseph J. Tyson presiding. The program listed the deceased clergy members who have served our Diocese, including some 20 priests and former Bishop Joseph P. Dougherty who are buried in a special section set aside in Calvary Cemetery. This section was dedicated by Bishop Dougherty in 1962.

However, at Calvary Cemetery, honoring and praying for the dead is a year-round mission, not limited to the month of November. Throughout the year, the gates are open from 8 a.m. to sunset for visitors. Several statues of Our Lady stand silent vigil around the clock. In May, amid the flowers and other graveside decorations, a Memorial Day Mass is said.

Although it's not a topic which most people enjoy discussing, the Cemetery and the work with families conducted by Father Mitchell and Meg McGree, family services coordinator, are "an extension of our parish life as we look forward to the final resurrection," he observed.

"Burying the dead is a corporal work of mercy. Praying for the dead and comforting the afflicted are spiritual works of mercy," he added.

There are several misconceptions about Calvary – and about Church teachings on death – Father Mitchell said.

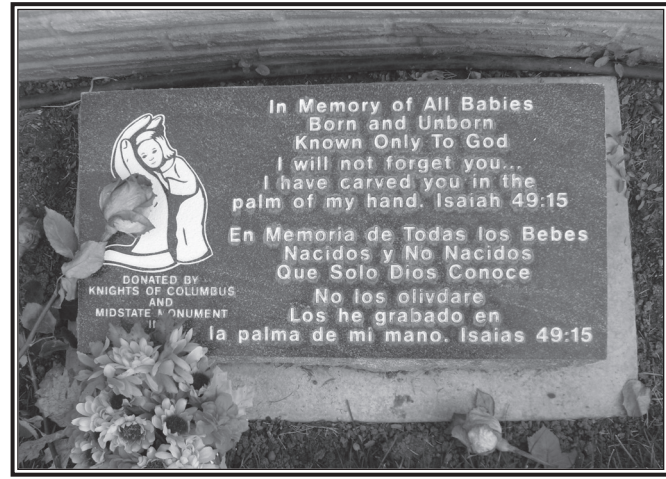
First of all, the Cemetery, on South 24th Avenue, is not part of the adjacent Tahoma Cemetery. They are completely separate, although some graves from the 1800s, on former Tahoma land, were incorporated into Calvary when a section of Tahoma property was annexed many years ago.

Secondly, some are confused about whether cremation is just as acceptable as burial of a body.

"Bodily burial is still the preferred method of the Catholic Church," Father Mitchell explained. "It seems to better express the final hope of the resurrection of the body." That said, the Church does allow for entombment in a blessed, above-ground crypt or mausoleum, or cremation with ashes properly "inurned" in a blessed site, as needed, he said.

Thirdly, you do not need to be a Catholic to be buried at Calvary. Although the majority of those buried here are Catholics, relatives and others who have professed Christianity also may be accepted, with permission of the Bishop.

"We're on a faith pilgrimage throughout life," Father Mitchell suggested. "Death is part of that continuing journey. Because we are made in the image of God, there is a special respect associated with death. This is hallowed ground."



A monument at Calvary Cemetery honors deceased babies.



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We invite you to join us in living our faith by investing in our Catholic community and the institutions that minister to us.

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NEWS

from Around the Diocese

Catholic Family & Child Receives Grants —

Catholic Family & Child Service Yakima has been awarded two \$1,000 grants from the Central Washington Catholic Foundation.

One grant was made to Parents as Teachers home visiting services, for the purchase of books for low-income, high-risk children who are being helped through the program. Parents as Teachers sends out home visitors who provide educational materials and ideas to preschool-age children and their parents, focusing on such skills as early literacy. The program is designed to prepare children for kindergarten.

A second award was made to the Respite Adult Day Center which serves seniors in the beginning stages of dementia. By providing structured activities twice each week at Central Lutheran Church, caregivers of these seniors are given a break from their day-to-day responsibilities.

New Monsignor Named For Diocese —

The Diocese of Yakima's newest monsignor is Father Robert Siler, chief of staff and moderator of the curia for the Diocese since August of 2007 and chancellor as well for the past two years.

Monsignor Siler, 51, was bestowed the honorary title of "Chaplain to His Holiness" on September 23 by the Vatican at the request of Bishop Emeritus Carlos A. Sevilla, S.J., with the support of Bishop Joseph Tyson. Most of the priests who have served as chancellor in the Yakima Diocese have been named monsignors, Siler noted.

Born in Wenatchee, Monsignor Siler is the son of Carol (Siler) Yetter and the late Glenn Siler. He was ordained a priest on May 25, 2001. The other living priests in the Diocese to be honored in this manner are Monsignors Perron Auve, Desmond Dillon, John Ecker, Ron Metha, and Martin Skehan.

St. Mary's Prepares for Christmas —

St. Mary's Parish in White Swan helped to usher in the Christmas season with a party to make Advent wreaths, November 20 in the parish hall. Families and individuals worked with wire mesh circles, evergreen branches, ribbons and candles to create wreaths to use in their homes during the four weeks of Advent.

The event helped to emphasize "the idea of daily devotions to prepare for Christmas by lighting (candles) and praying with anticipation" of the coming of Christmas and its commemoration of Christ's birth, said Father William Shaw, pastor.

St. Joseph, Kennewick: Sharing One Faith

By Christine Corbett Conklin

As some 2,400 parishioners of St. Joseph Parish, Kennewick, gathered November 6 in the Three Rivers Convention Center to celebrate the 100th anniversary of their parish, it was a testimony to the many cultures and traditions here which share one Faith.

"During the bi-lingual Mass, we had prayers of the faithful in four languages : English, Spanish, Tagalog and Vietnamese," said Father Richard Sedlacek who has served as pastor of St. Joseph for 17 years. It was only natural for this parish which includes in its ranks not only those of western European descent, and those who trace their heritage to Mexico and Central America, but those who hail from the Philippines, Burma and the Sudan, among other countries.

The anniversary celebration was a "very, very good occasion" because it brought together the diverse groups of the parish who don't often see and get to know each other, observed associate pastor Father Rafael Hinojosa. "I hope that happens more often," he said.

Over the years, visitors to St. Joseph Church have commented that it's a "spirit-filled parish, open and friendly," Father Sedlacek said.



Bishop Joseph Tyson and Deacon Bill Mich elevate the Sacred Body and Precious Blood of Christ at the anniversary Mass.

Photo courtesy of Rich Breshears, Breshears Professional Photography

It was also a day to reflect upon how this parish of 1,800 families has grown from its inception when Bishop Edward O'Dea of the Diocese of Seattle established a mission church in Kennewick, at Washington Street and Second Avenue.

Geraldine Mahoney, 87, who attended Mass at that original church, has clear memories of how the "little church" was heated with a coal-burning stove and held about 200 people.

"During Mass, if we got cold, somebody got up and threw in a new bucket of coal," she said. "Father (Richard) Keolker's father, Barney Keolker, was one who helped with that."

By 1946, Father Edmond McGrath, the parish pastor, began a fundraising campaign to build a new, larger church. In 1950, the new church, at 520 South Garfield, was dedicated. (This building now serves as the St. Joseph Chapel.)

As the Diocese of Yakima was established in 1951 (see related story), St. Joseph Church became part of this diocese, where formerly, it had been included in the Diocese of Spokane. After Father McGrath, pastors included Fathers Patrick Donnelly and Martin Skehan.

In 1964, St. Joseph School opened, under the direction of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. A convent for the sisters was dedicated in 1968, where they would remain until May of 2011.

Other pastors who served St. Joseph Church through the years included Fathers Desmond Dillon, Frederick Brenner, Richard Wuertz, Ronald Patnode, Joseph Kenna and the current pastor, Father Sedlacek.

In 2002, the "new church" was dedicated.

"It's a more traditional parish," Father Sedlacek noted. "The people wanted to have stained glass, pews and kneelers, and the tabernacle in the center, which we have." In the Chapel, a Traditional Latin Mass is offered two or three times each month.

That atmosphere has been well received, suggested Carol LeCompte.

"I've heard people say that they feel a sense of reverence when they come into the church, a strong sense of continuity that has come down through the years," she said.

The same has been said for St. Joseph School which has grown from its initial 134 students to serve some 375 students in preschool through eighth grade.

"I've been told that people like our traditional, orthodox stance and our attention to the strength of our Catholic identity," Ralph LeCompte said. "We never put religion on the back burner."



Many cultures and traditions come together at St. Joseph.

Photo courtesy of Rick Rutherford

Continued on page 2