

**“ I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse.  
Choose life.” (Deut. 30:19)**

This quotation from Deuteronomy might well serve as a beginning reflection on the new translation of the *Roman Missal* which we will begin to use on the first of Advent (November 27, 2011). For nearly ten years, the universal Church has been reflecting on, and, yes, debating the translation of liturgical texts and the instructions for the Liturgy of the Eucharist (Mass).

We now have the third edition of the *Roman Missal* and a period of time between now and Advent to reflect on and prepare ourselves as a community of faith to receive and implement the new *Roman Missal*.

Change happens. Consider what has taken place in the liturgy in our own lifetime since the Second Vatican Council’s promulgation of the *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* in 1963. Change is inevitable. Sometimes change is a return to where we were; other times it moves us in a new direction. What we do know is that change is messy, fraught with challenges. Dealing with liturgical change is no different.

It would be easy to say the celebration is “my Mass” or “this is the way we do it at Newman” and forget what we are speaking of is the liturgy of the Church—it is the unifying and united prayer of the Church.

Preparing for these changes offers us a unique opportunity become more familiar with the liturgy of the Mass we celebrate together. This will be a time of enrichment and an opportunity to deepen our experience of liturgy. Our Newman Liturgy Committee will soon begin reflecting on elements of the new *Roman Missal* how we can best prepare our faith community in the coming months to receive these changes. If you would like to be a part of that process, please contact me at [cgoecker@davisnewman.org](mailto:cgoecker@davisnewman.org).

Peace,  
Deacon Clark