

Lectionary needs revisions

As chairman of the U.S. Bishops' Committee on Liturgy, I am pleased to tell you that we are making significant progress on a revision of the Lectionary, the Scriptures that we use at Mass on Sundays and during the week.

The Lectionary is seriously flawed because it is a strictly literal translation and does not resonate well with our people. The Bishops' Committee on Liturgy sent out a form consulting all U.S. bishops, asking for their input on the present Lectionary. The survey results came back with what we expected: they were overwhelmingly negative.

In our process for revision we have two skilled English professors that are reviewing the text for proclaimability and intelligibility. They sit in the pews and hear the text read. Is it comprehensible? Do the words and sentences flow smoothly for the listener to understand the thought? Once these experts give us their feedback, then it goes to the scripture scholars for further study. This first part of the process looks at what the people in the pews have heard regarding the English translation.

The present translation is quite literal and often not proclaimable, lacking correct idiom and English word order. English words do not make an English translation. There must be consideration of context, nuances of words, idioms and word order. For example, in the present translation the expression "kors of wheat" is used. I doubt if anyone in the church understands the meaning of that technical phrase. It stands for a measurement of wheat, but no one would understand that literal translation. Our committee does not want a paraphrase. That would be just as wrong as the strictly literal translation. What we desire is a translation as close as possible to the inspired text, one that is proclaimable, intelligible and able to be comprehended by the average person at Mass. The present text does not fit that criterion according to the overwhelming response of our bishops responding to the survey of the Bishops' Committee on Liturgy.

The long, involved Greek sentences that St. Paul uses must be put into short sentences. One of the major complaints of the present translation is pronouns are used without proper antecedents. The people in the pews cannot connect the pronouns with the antecedent. We have also found that the "incipit," or the beginning phrase of a gospel, is often omitted because it is a literal translation. A classical example of that is in one of the gospels for Sunday readings. It talks about Jesus "coming down and talking with his apostles." Now if you are sitting in the pew and hearing Jesus is coming down, you would naturally ask, "Is he coming down from the mountain? Is he coming down from heaven?" While the present translation is literally what the Scripture says, you have to go back to the previous sentence and see Jesus coming down from the mountain. Without that connection, you are left in the pew saying, "Where did he come down from?"

Once the revision of the Lectionary is finished, it will be shared with the U.S. bishops for approval and then forwarded to the Vatican. I hope that we can complete the revision within a year. We have already completed all of the Advent and Lenten readings. I have personally gone through all of the Lenten readings and the long Passion gospels, making revisions based on the Hebrew and Greek texts, checking several English translations and looking at the comments of our English scholars. Now we have to start work on Ordinary Time. We also have biblical scholars helping us. It is tedious and detailed work to go through the texts, but that is what we have pledged ourselves to do. All of this work is quite time-consuming, but I am hopeful we can make a difference and give our people at Eucharist not only a faithful translation but also a proclaimable and intelligible rendering of the inspired Scriptures.

+ Donald W. Trautman
Bishop of Erie

World View

Percent of adults in these countries who say religion is important in their lives



Survey of 1,000 adults in each country taken May 12-26.
Sampling error is plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Source: AP
Photo by Nancy Wiechec/CNS

FaithLife

Bi-weekly news bulletin of the Catholic Diocese of Erie July 3, 2005 www.ErieRCD.org

Bishops table Mass adaptation proposals

By Jerry Filteau
Catholic News Service

CHICAGO — Despite a lively debate that indicated most bishops favor retaining a series of current U.S. adaptations in Mass prayers, they voted at their June 16-18 meeting in Chicago to delay action on the issue.

They voted 160-70 to table the proposal to seek Vatican approval of those prayers until they receive the planned English translation of the recently published, Latin-language third typical edition of the Roman Missal.

In doing so, it appeared that the bishops may have placed themselves in a classic Catch-22. They said they wanted to wait until they see the new English translation of the entire missal and consider the current prayers only in light of how a decision will relate to that text. But the Vatican has ordered that when vernacular translations of the normative Latin liturgical texts are submitted for Vatican approval, adaptations will be allowed only if they are "foreseen explicitly" in the Latin edition or if "prior written consent has been obtained" from the Vatican to incorporate them.

Under that rule, the bishops could face a dilemma of forgoing the chance to seek continued use of the familiar adaptations to get quick approval for the long-awaited new translation of the entire missal, or else delaying approval of the missal to get prior approval of those adaptations.

The prayers in question have been part of U.S. prayer translations or adaptations in the Mass since 1970. Some are optional alternatives that are not contained in the Latin edition, while others are looser translations of the Latin than would be permitted under stricter translation rules recently issued by the Vatican.

Bishop Donald W. Trautman of Erie, Pa., chairman of the bishops' Committee on Liturgy, said the committee supported seeking Vatican approval for continued use of those texts because they have been part of the "liturgical formation and spirituality of some two generations of U.S. Catholics" and have been pastorally helpful.

One prayer that the committee originally submitted for retention but then withdrew from the package is the popular memorial acclamation following the consecration, "Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again."

Bishop Trautman said the committee unanimously decided to delete that prayer from the package of texts because, unlike the other acclamations, it was not a translation from any Latin text and it "does not use any pronouns (such as 'we' or 'our') incorporating the people into the paschal mystery."

As a result, he said, that acclamation "doesn't fit the standard (for such acclamations) of 'Liturgiam Authenticam,'" the recent Vatican document giving

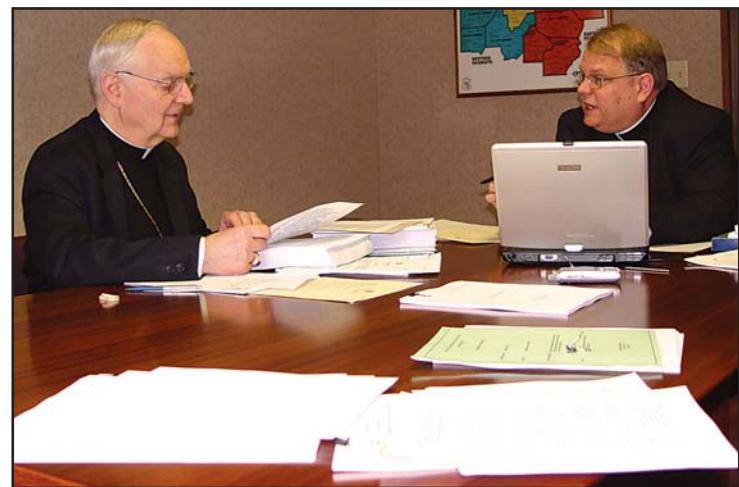


Photo by Jason Koshinski

Bishop Donald Trautman, left, and Msgr. James Moroney, executive director of the USCCB Secretariat for Liturgy, discuss their committee work prior to the Chicago meetings.

norms that now govern all liturgical translations from the original Latin texts.

Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago asked why a prior Latin text was necessary in this case since some other adaptations they were seeking approval for, including four optional penitential formulas, were also original English prayers rather than translations from Latin.

Bishop Trautman said the issue in this case is that the acclamation "does not fit the norm of 'Liturgiam Authenticam.'"

"Those (Vatican norms) are rules of translation," Cardinal George replied. "We are not translating here."

Other bishops argued that even though there is no explicit pronoun in the acclamation, by the very act of proclaiming it the people are incorporating themselves into the paschal mystery.

On a voice vote the bishops overwhelmingly approved rein-

stating the acclamation into the package of adaptations.

When it came time to vote on the entire package, however, Cardinal George asked if the bishops might not be "creating a needless conflict" since they do not yet know what the English translation of the new Roman Missal will look like and how the proposed adaptations will fit in.

Bishop Trautman reminded him that last year, when the liturgy committee decided to make the proposal seeking advance Vatican approval of those adaptations, "you were chair" of the committee.

"Well, I was wrong," Cardinal George replied.

That provoked a new discussion, resolved when Bishop Nicholas A. DiMarzio of Brooklyn, N.Y., moved, and the bishops agreed, to table the proposal until the whole English translation of the latest edition of the Roman Missal is available to them.

Highlights of bishops' meeting in Chicago

CHICAGO (CNS) — During their June 16-18 spring meeting in Chicago, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops:

- Approved a revised "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People."
- Adopted, subject to Vatican approval, a revised version of "Essential Norms" implementing the charter in church law.
- Urged continuing support for the nation's Catholic elementary and secondary schools.
- Called on all Catholics to participate in the church's mission to proclaim the Gospel to the world.
- Adopted the first revised U.S. Program of Priestly Formation in 13 years, subject to Vatican approval.
- Rejected a proposed 4 percent increase in the diocesan assessment for conference activities in 2006.
- Agreed to commit up to \$1 million for a study on the causes and context of clergy sexual abuse of minors.
- Tabled action on a series of U.S. adaptations in the liturgy until a later date.
- Elected a conference treasurer and doctrinal committee chairman.
- Revamped their committees on sexual abuse and on priorities and plans to give them a stronger role in the conference.
- Renewed their commitment to support and correct one another on full implementation of their child protection charter.
- Discussed a developing document on lay ecclesial ministry in preparation for a debate and vote in November.
- Agreed to prepare a statement opposing use of the death penalty, to be voted on in November.
- Agreed that every diocese should sponsor an annual day of prayer for priestly vocations.
- Marked the centenary of the Catholic Church Extension Society with a Mass and a banquet.
- Heard a progress report on a \$25 million capital campaign for the North American College in Rome.



Clergy Appointments

The Most Rev. Donald W. Trautman, S.T.D., S.S.L., Bishop of Erie, announces the following clergy appointments:

Fr. Thomas Aleksi, St. John Parish, Tidioute, appointed to the office of Dean of the Warren Deanery for a term of five years. Effective June 20, 2005.

Fr. John Detisch, Sacred Heart Parish, Erie, appointed to the office of Dean of the Erie West Deanery for a term of five years. Effective June 20, 2005.

Fr. David Findlay, St. Brigid Parish, Meadville, appointed to the office of Dean of the Meadville Deanery for a term of five years. Effective June 20, 2005.

Fr. Joseph Gregorek, Gannon University, appointed to the office of Dean of the

Fr. Jeffery Noble, Notre Dame Parish, Hermitage, appointed to the office of Dean of the Sharon Deanery for a term of five years. Effective June 20, 2005.

Fr. Gregory Kirsch, St. Callistus Parish, Kane, appointed to the office of Dean of the Bradford Deanery for a term of five years. Effective June 20, 2005.

Msgr. Joseph Riccardo, Immaculate Conception Parish, Clarion, appointed to the office of Dean of the Oil City Deanery for a term of five years. Effective June 20, 2005.

Fr. Theodore Marconi, St. Immaculate Conception Parish, Brookville, appointed to the office of Dean of the DuBois Deanery for a term of five years. Effective June 20, 2005.

Fr. Richard Tomasoni, St. John the Baptist Parish, Erie, appointed to the office of Dean of the Erie East Deanery for a term of five years. Effective June 20, 2005.

Fr. Joseph Staszewski, Immaculate Conception Parish, Madera, and of Holy Trinity Parish, Ramey, while continuing as pastor of St. Francis Parish, Clearfield. Effective July 1, 2005.

Msgr. Desmond McGee, appointed temporary parochial administrator of Christ the King Parish, Houtzdale, and its mission of Immaculate Conception, Madera, and of Holy Trinity Parish, Ramey, while continuing as pastor of St. Francis Parish, Clearfield. Effective July 1, 2005.

Fr. Jason Koshinskie

By the Way...

Fr. Dominic Monti, O.F.M., was elected provincial vicar of Franciscan Holy Name Province for a six-year term on June 2 by his fellow friars. A native of Bradford, Fr. Monti has served as a professor of church history in the theology department of St. Bonaventure University since 2002. He also served as interim president of the university from March 2003 to May 2004. Fr. Monti is a 1961 graduate of St. Bernard High School in Bradford.

Our service men and women will be getting some correspondence thanks to **Chris Jovinetti** and her husband **Jim of Holy Rosary Parish, Johnsonburg**. Chris director of the Letters From Home Program, is in the midst of organizing a summer postcard campaign running through Aug. 28. Themed *A Salute to You from the Red, White and Blue*, the campaign is aiming for sending 10,000 postcards from all over the United States.

If you'd like to help, write a note of support to our troops on a postcard and mail them to Letters From Home Program, 6631 Ridgway-Jbg Road, Johnsonburg, Pa., 15845.

Congratulations to seminarians **Bill Barron, Max Pawlowski and Justin Pino** who celebrated the rite of candidacy at the Emmaus Convocation at St. Vincent College in Latrobe June 20-23. The rite is a public declaration by the seminarians that they are seeking to become candidates for Holy Orders.

CBS plans to air a four-hour miniseries on the life of **Pope John Paul II** during the 2005-06 television season. The movie, which has not yet been cast, could land on the CBS schedule as early as November. Historians at the Vatican are consulting on the script.

The made-for-TV movie "will begin with Karol Wojtyla's journey from his youth in Poland through his late days on the chair of St. Peter," according to the CBS announcement.

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Briefly

Fr. Levis to hold Catholic Q&A

Fr. Robert Levis, co-host of the popular EWTN cable show *Web of Faith*, will host a program titled "Catholic Q&A: You've Got Questions, We've Got Answers" on July 13 at 7:30 p.m. in the St. Joseph Community Center, 147 W. 24th St., Erie.

Join Fr. Levis for an engaging and informative discussion about "everything you ever wanted to know about the Catholic faith."

Ask questions about moral teachings, common practices and other related topics.

Fr. Levis has also written a book and produced multi-media companion resources regarding the Catholic faith for children entitled *Jesus, the Catechism and Me*. He is co-founder and vice president of the Confraternity of Catholic Clergy.

Fiddler offered as all-school show

Tradition takes center stage as the Erie Diocesan Office of Education presents *Fiddler on the Roof*, an all-school musical production at Mercyhurst Prep High School the weekends of July 15 and 22.

Directed by Len Barry, the beloved musical tells the tale of Tevye the milkman who wrestles with the past and the future as his five daughters come of age. Popular tunes from the show include *Sunrise, Sunset* and *Matchmaker*. Pat Guire, a 2005 graduate of Mercyhurst Prep and most recently seen in that school's production of *Jekyll and Hyde*, handles the role of Tevye.

Fiddler on the Roof will be performed July 15, 16, 22 and 23 at 7:30 p.m. and on Sundays July 17 and 24 at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$6 for adults, \$4 for students and senior citizens. All shows are scheduled for the MPS auditorium, 538 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie.

Group conducts liturgical music survey

SILVER SPRING, Md. (CNS) — The National Association of Pastoral Musicians wants to know what songs have impacted the faith lives of Catholics.

To find out, the association has launched a short survey on its Web site at www.npm.org. The survey asks people to identify a song which has made a difference in their own faith journey and to give the reasons that song has had an impact.

"The words and melodies of songs used in the liturgy often create a profound sense of God's presence and action in our midst," the association said in a press release announcing the survey.

The survey—open to all American Catholics, not just musicians—will be available until Sept. 30 and the results will be published later in the fall on the Web site and in the association's journal, *Pastoral Music*.

Healing theme for July/Aug. issue of *Faith* magazine



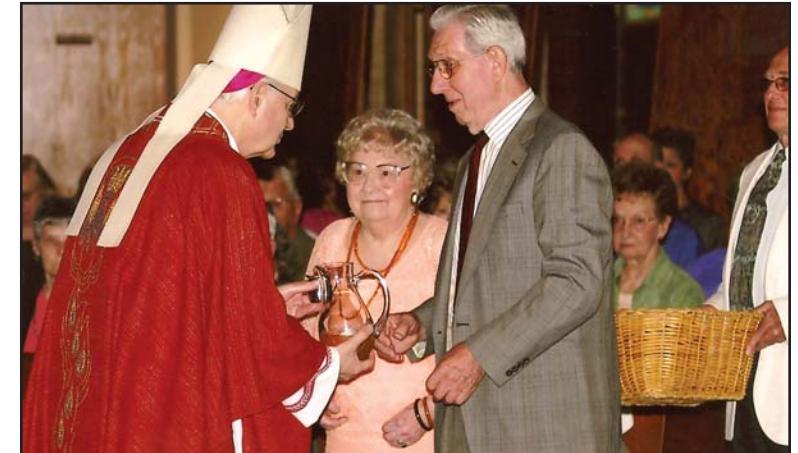
As we prepare to celebrate all things American, watch for the July/August 2005 issue of *Faith* magazine, scheduled to be delivered to your home next week. Sergeant Brian McGuiness, just back from his tour of duty in Iraq, shares a first-person account of his experience serving overseas.

The theme of healing is woven throughout the publication's fourth issue.

"It's true," writes *Faith* magazine Executive Editor Msgr. Tom McSweeney in his introductory column. "Every day, God comforts and heals the bodies and souls of his wounded people. The miracle is that he chooses us as his instruments of peace and hope."

The Diocese of Erie sends *Faith* magazine, free of charge, to the 70,000 Catholic households registered in the diocese on a bi-monthly basis. If you do not receive a copy, please check with your parish to see that your address is current or call the magazine's circulation manager at 814.824.1160.

Good Shepherd marks 50 years



Parishioners at the Church of the Good Shepherd, West Middlesex, celebrated a noon Mass on May 15 in honor of the church's 50th anniversary. Bishop Donald Trautman celebrated the Mass along with pastor Fr. Howard King and former pastors Msgr. Richard Mayer and Msgr. Joseph Riccardo and founding pastor Msgr. Salvatore Mitchell. The parish is planning a pictorial directory that will be available in December.

Above, Bishop Trautman accepts the Mass gifts from Anne Fister and Chester Jazwinski, both founding members of the church.

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5 and under \$2

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Clergy Appointments

Gannon Deanery for a term of five years. Effective June 20, 2005.

Fr. Philip Pinczewski, St. Agnes Parish, Morrisdale, appointed to the office of Dean of the Clearfield Deanery for a term of five years. Effective June 20, 2005.

Fr. Theodore Marconi, St. Immaculate Conception Parish, Clarion, appointed to the office of Dean of the Oil City Deanery for a term of five years. Effective June 20, 2005.

Fr. Joseph Staszewski, St. Immaculate Conception Parish, Madera, and of Holy Trinity Parish, Ramey, while continuing as pastor of St. Francis Parish, Clearfield. Effective July 1, 2005.

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Fr. Joseph Staszewski, St. Immaculate Conception Parish, Madera, and of Holy Trinity Parish, Ramey, while continuing as pastor of St. Francis Parish, Clearfield. Effective July 1, 2005.

Fr. Jason Koshinskie

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Parish festivals



From left, the Lublin Dancers of Erie, face painting and pierogies at Holy Trinity Parish's Zabawa Festival in 2004.

Please note that all parish festivals listed take place on the church grounds unless otherwise noted.

Holy Rosary Parish, Johnsonburg

35th annual Holy Rosary Festival
July 8, 9 & 10
Food, music, games, raffles,
Chinese auction

St. Mary Parish, Frenchville

135th annual
Frenchville Picnic
July 16-17
Food, games, hayrides,
fireworks

St. Stephen Parish, Oil City

Parish Carnival
July 22-23
Food, games, raffles, bake sale

St. Leo Parish, Ridgway

Summer Festival
July 23-24
Food, games,
entertainment, raffles

St. Teresa of Avila Parish, Union City

Lawn Festival
July 28
Food, games, music, raffles,
pony rides
Grand prize drawing \$500

Holy Rosary Parish, Erie

Parish Festival
July 30-31
Food, games

St. Hippolyte Parish, Frenchtown

109th annual Frenchtown Dinner
July 31
Dinner, games, Chinese auction

St. Bernard Parish, Falls Creek

Summer Festival
Aug. 5, 6 & 7
Food, games, music, raffles

St. James Parish, Erie

Parish Festival
Aug. 5, 6 & 7
Food, games, Chinese auction,
pony rides, 2005 Ford Focus
giveaway

St. Joseph Parish, Oil City

Parish Festival

Aug. 5-6
Food, games, raffles
Grand prize raffle \$2,000

St. Paul Parish, Erie

Italian Festival
Aug. 12, 13 & 14
Italian food, games,
entertainment, Chinese auction

Holy Trinity Parish, Erie

Zabawa Polish Festival
Aug. 26, 27 & 28
Polish food, music,
crafts, raffles

St. Titus Parish, Titusville

Family Fall Festival
Sept. 25
Christian Activities Center

Food, crafts, Chinese auction,
games, raffles

St. Stanislaus Parish, Erie

Annual Parish Day
Oct. 2
Polish platter dinner
Food, games, raffles,
Chinese auction

Our Lady Help of Christians Parish, Oil City

8th annual Italian Fest
Oct. 9
Venango Catholic High School
Italian food, 50/50,
Chinese auction

St. Joseph Parish, Sharon

Picnic & 5th annual St. Joseph
School car drawing

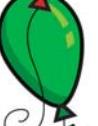
Oct. 23
Shriner's picnic grounds,
Lamor Road, Hermitage
Food, games, 50/50

Drawing for 2005 Corvette
convertible Indy 500 pace car
or \$40,000 cash

Immaculate Conception Parish, Clarion

Harvest Festival

Nov. 13
Food, music, rides,
games, raffles



Bi-weekly news bulletin of the Catholic Diocese of Erie

Faith-life

July 3, 2005

