



Bishop Murray Chatlain
R.C. Diocese of Mackenzie-Fort Smith
5117 - 52nd Street
Yellowknife, NT X1A 1T7

Nov. 01, 2011

Dear Faithful,

As Catholics we are part of the Living Body of Christ and of a large, large family. The basics of our faith and the doctrines explained in the Catechism of the Catholic Church are constant, but many of the little ways we practice the faith often change. Beginning on Nov. 27, the First Sunday of Advent 2011, we will begin to see some changes in how we celebrate the Eucharist not only in our Diocese, but in every Catholic Church in the world where Mass is celebrated in English.

Why are there changes? The book that shows all priests how to celebrate the Mass is called the Roman Missal. The Roman Missal is in Latin and must be translated to English and other languages. In 2006 the third revision of this Missal in Latin was approved. The original translation of the one we were using was done quickly in 1974 and was mostly translated by the United States with their style of English. Today a more accurate translation from the Latin to English will be used. Today's Roman Missal now includes the new revisions of 2006.

What is changing? The biggest changes that you will notice will be in the wording of some of the prayers of the priest and the responses of the people. In the Liturgy of the Word, conducted in the absence of a priest, we will see changes only in our responses. Some changes are significant and others are simply a change of a word or two. As well as the changes in wording, two other changes that are important to note are:

- We are now asked to bow our heads at the names of Jesus and Mary in the Creed and as well, to bow our heads after the priest raises the host and cup during the Consecration.
- We are asked to kneel during the consecration. We will kneel after the Holy Holy and stand for the Memorial Acclamation. This will be the practice throughout our Diocese and all the Dioceses of Alberta. **IF FOR A HEALTH REASON, YOU CANNOT KNEEL, PLEASE BE SEATED.**

If you have questions about the changes, please contact your local priest and consult with him about what changes are being made and why.

Whenever there are changes we find it difficult. There is story of a rabbi whose congregation was fighting over whether they should kneel or stand when they recited the Shemah Israel prayer. The congregation was so divided over this that they decided to go to the oldest member of their community. They met with him and the Rabbi asked, "Elder, is it our tradition to stand during the Shemah Israel prayer?" The elder

replied, 'No, that is not our tradition.' The rabbi asked, "Elder is it our tradition to sit during the Shemah Israel prayer?" The elder replied, "No, that is not our tradition either." Frustrated the rabbi said, "But the standers are yelling at the sitters and the sitters are yelling at the standers." The elder smiled and said, "That is our tradition." While we are not going to all agree on the changes, our main concern is that we celebrate Eucharist and our Lay Presided Services well. I pray that this will be a time when we will be renewed in our awareness of the gift of Jesus' words and His real presence in the Body and Blood.

Thank you for your openness.

Yours in the Peace of Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read '+M. Chatlain', is centered on a light yellow rectangular background.

Bishop Murray Chatlain