

Published on *National Catholic Reporter* (<https://www.ncronline.org>)

November 28, 2011 at 2:55pm

New Jersey parishioners take new missal in stride

by Denise Simeone

NCR Today

"Good morning. Hmm, I'm not sure I'm allowed to say this with the new Roman Missal. I feel edgy, like I've never done this before and it's my first Mass," quipped the priest, who had certainly celebrated at least his silver jubilee, at the beginning greeting of liturgy using the new Roman Missal in a New Jersey suburb in the Diocese of Camden. "I think I already made one mistake, but that's OK, we'll get through this together."

Prior to Mass, the music director had gone over a few responses, though it was obvious the community had been preparing along the way. With humor and encouragement, he said several times: "The Lord be with you," attempting to reprogram the previously normal response into "And with your spirit."

With grace and good humor, community members laughed and practiced. During the liturgy it was apparent longtime practices are hard to break, yet the community created powerful liturgy evidenced in its gestures, prayers, proclamations and music.

"Wait a minute," the presider interrupted the beginning chords of the closing hymn to acknowledge that in his anxiety he forgot the announcements. By an all-too-human response, he admitted to his congregation, "You're learning something about me today, I don't like change." Laughing along with him, heads all around him nodded in agreement.

Watching the interchange between the parish community, pastor and staff, I was struck by the ease with which they encouraged, prepared, laughed and prayed. Thinking about my childhood experience when the church last made a transition needing prayer cards, I never could have imagined those formal, proper and even stiff masses becoming what I saw today -- the life-giving liturgy of a human faith community. In the grand scheme of things, this challenge seems like a minor part of parish work to create and sustain disciples of Jesus Christ. New prayers and responses certainly won't change that labor or spirit.

Stories on the new Roman missal translation

- New missal could drive away Catholics at California parish
- Washington parish meets missal with confusion, resignation
- New Jersey parishioners take new missal in stride
- California cathedral meets new missal with indifference
- Detroit priest offers insight to new missal
- New missal translation subtly moves church away from Vatican II
- Review of new missal mixed in St. Louis parishes
- New missal not the end-all, be-all in Denver
- Is the new missal good prayer?
- New Mass rites greeted with disappointment, shrugs in Virginia
- New missal challenge not wholly unaccepted at St. Louis basilica
- California parish prepares for new missal with weeks of explanation
- New missal inspires cacophony at University of Maryland church
- Los Angeles parish quietly accepts new missal translation
- Maryland churchgoers say they'll 'get used to' new translation
- Maryland priest tells parish new missal is 'only words'
- Despite new missal, we are still people of the cup
- Ohio parishioner on new missal: 'If it ain't broke, don't fix it'
- At Chicago parish, some annoyed, others OK with new missal

Advertisement

Source URL (retrieved on 08/16/2017 - 16:51): <https://www.ncronline.org/blogs/ncr-today/new-jersey-parishioners-take-new-missal-stride>

Links:

[1] <https://www.ncronline.org/donate?clickSource=article-end>