

UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS
DOCUMENTATION

COMMITTEE ON DIVINE WORSHIP

SUBJECT: Excerpts from the *Roman Missal: Book for Use at the Chair*

ACTION ITEM #04: Do the Latin Church members approve the liturgical book *Excerpts from the Roman Missal: Book for Use at the Chair* for use in the dioceses of the United States?

VOTE: Two-thirds of Latin Church members with subsequent *recognitio* by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments

General Assembly
November 16-18, 2015
Baltimore, MD

COMMITTEE ON DIVINE WORSHIP

Members: Bishop Arthur J. Serratelli, Chairman; Cardinal Justin F. Rigali; Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond; Archbishop Leonard P. Blair; Bishop Edward K. Braxton; Bishop Octavio Cisneros; Bishop Paul R. Sanchez; Bishop Mark J. Seitz; Bishop Daniel E. Thomas

Staff: Rev. Michael J. Flynn; Rev. Andrew V. Menke

**EXCERPTS FROM THE *ROMAN MISSAL*:
BOOK FOR USE AT THE CHAIR**

Background

With the publication of the *Roman Missal, Third Edition* many priests have observed that the size of the book renders it too heavy to hold for any length of time, particularly for younger altar servers. As a result, some celebrants remedy the problem by presiding from the altar rather than the chair, or even by employing a book or music stand in front of the chair. In June 2015 the Committee for Divine Worship, after discussing several possibilities, decided that the publication of an extract of the *Missal* containing only the texts needed at the presider's chair would be the best option. After additional discussion, and having noted that the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments has given other Conferences permission to pursue this option, the Committee gave its unanimous approval to proposing the "Book of the Chair" to the Conference.

A similar book published by Dwyer/Costello/Liturgical Press into the 1980s contained just over 300 pages, and enjoyed widespread use in the United States. A book called the *Companion to the Roman Missal* presently in use in the dioceses of New Zealand includes more material, and runs slightly over 500 pages. The Secretariat of Divine Worship estimates that an American version of this sort of book would be somewhere between 500 and 600 pages, depending on the editorial decisions made by the eventual publisher(s), resulting in a book about one third the size of a typical chapel edition of the *Roman Missal, Third Edition*. This proposed book would contain everything a priest would typically need at the chair throughout the liturgical year for both Sundays and daily Masses, as well as some commonly celebrated ritual Masses.

If approved by the Bishops (and subsequently given the *recognitio* of the Holy See) the text would be made available to the publishers who prepared the recent edition of the *Roman Missal*.

Approval Process

According to instructions articulated in *Liturgiam authenticam*, this text would need to receive *recognitio* from the Holy See (emphasis added):

82. Any alteration of a liturgical book that has already been approved by the Conference of Bishops with the subsequent *recognitio* of the Apostolic See, as

regards either the selection of texts from liturgical books already published or the changing of the arrangement of the texts, must be done according to the procedure established above, in n. 79, with due regard also for the prescriptions set forth in n. 22. Any other manner of proceeding in particular circumstances may be employed only if it is authorized by the Statutes of the Conference of Bishops or equivalent legislation approved by the Apostolic See.

The reference to no. 79 concerns the familiar process by which two-thirds of the Bishops “who enjoy the right to a deliberative vote of the Conference of Bishops” must vote in favor of the proposed text before it is submitted to the Congregation, with the appropriate documentation, for approbation. (The reference to *Liturgiam authenticam*, no. 22, concerns proposals made for reasons of cultural adaptation, and would not be applicable to this case.) The book being proposed to the Bishops will not contain any new texts or revised translations, but would simply involve the selection and arrangement of texts that have already been approved, for the sake of ease of use and to encourage priests to preside from the chair when the *Missal* foresees this practice. The book could only be used in conjunction with the complete edition of the *Roman Missal*, and would be purely optional.

Approval of this text requires affirmative vote by two-thirds of the Latin Church members of the USCCB, with subsequent *recognitio* by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments.

ACTION: Do the Latin Church members of the USCCB approve the liturgical book *Excerpts from the Roman Missal: Book for Use at the Chair* for use in the dioceses of the United States?

Bishop Arthur J. Serratelli
Chairman
November 2015

**EXCERPTS FROM THE *ROMAN MISSAL*:
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Each Mass formulary will include all of those texts – and only those texts – that are pertinent when the priest is at the chair. Along with any relevant rubrics, this will typically include:

- Entrance Antiphon
- Collect
- Prayer after Communion

Except for any sections indicated below, the entire Missal will be accounted for, generally without the inclusion of musical settings. When certain texts are excluded, this is done in the interest of keeping the book to a reasonable length, and with the understanding that the full Missal will always be available should those texts be needed for a particular celebration.

Prefatory Material

Table of Liturgical Days
General Roman Calendar with U.S. Proper Calendar

Proper of Time

Advent
Christmas Time
Lent – *formularies include the Prayer over the People*
Holy Week – *including the material for the Palm Sunday procession*
The Sacred Paschal Triduum – *This section will be fairly extensive, excluding only what is strictly done at the altar. For example, the first three parts of the Easter Vigil will be included.*
Easter Time
Ordinary Time
The Solemnities of the Lord during Ordinary Time

Order of Mass

nos. 1-20
(Nos. 21-137, containing the entire Liturgy of the Eucharist, will be omitted up until the priest returns to the chair for the Prayer after Communion. Hence no Eucharistic Prayers will be included.)
nos. 138-146
Blessings at the End of Mass and Prayers over the People

Proper of Saints

Commons

The various categories of Saints will include only Entrance Antiphons and Prayers after Communion, as Collects would be found in the Proper of Saints.

Ritual Masses

Christian Initiation (Election, Scrutinies, Baptism)

Anointing of the Sick

Viaticum

Marriage

Excluded will be: Confirmation, Holy Orders, Blessing of an Abbot or an Abbess, Consecration of Virgins, Religious Profession, Institution of Lectors and Acolytes, and the Dedication of a Church and an Altar. These are usually Pontifical ceremonies, in which the need for a smaller book does not seem so urgent.

Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions**Votive Masses****Masses for the Dead****Appendices**

II. Rite for the Blessing and Sprinkling of Holy Water

V. Examples of Formularies for the Universal Prayer

VI. (USA) Sample Invocations for the Penitential Act