



Bishop of Harrisburg

Fourth Sunday of Lent

My Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

On the First Sunday of Advent in this year, the English-speaking members of the Latin Rite Catholic Church will begin the use of a revised translation of the Roman Missal. The revised translation brings about certain word changes to many of the common prayers used at Mass. Such change will be noticeable to both those who speak the prayers and to those who hear them. This revision is the fruit of many years of reflection and work done on behalf of English speaking Catholics throughout the world. Such review and revision was envisioned by those who developed the current translation now in use for some forty years. Therefore, at the start of our new liturgical calendar year, November 27, 2011, we will begin to speak with a new voice the prayers of the Church at the celebration of Holy Mass.

I invite you to embrace this moment in our history as a time of renewal and reinvigoration. With hearts and minds opened to the movement of the Holy Spirit, the First Sunday of Advent can usher in more than just the change of words but the more profound change of how we approach the Sacrament of Sacraments. You and I are invited to reflect more fully on the central Mystery of our Faith: the dying and rising of Jesus celebrated in the Most Holy Eucharist. I pray that this time will deepen our sense of wonder and awe at so great a Mystery!

During the next several months throughout the Diocese of Harrisburg, our parishes will be working together to help every Catholic prepare themselves for the new translation. In your bulletins, in the *Catholic Witness*, and on the Diocesan website resources will be placed for your personal preparation. Regional presentations will occur during the summer months in parishes throughout the Diocese. I encourage you to take full advantage of this time to reflect and study the revised text of the Church's greatest prayer.

I entrust this endeavor of our Diocese to Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, from whose lips was spoken in faith the word that consented to the Incarnation of the Son of God. As we continue to celebrate the mystery of the Word Incarnate, may the words of our lips be spoken with the same faith that filled the heart of the Blessed Mother.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend Joseph P. McFadden, D.D.
Bishop of Harrisburg

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