

Tridentine Community News

January 13, 2008

A Comparison of the Texts of the Ordinary and Extraordinary Forms of Mass – Part 1

One of the most instructive ways to learn the Tridentine Mass is to perform a line-by-line comparison with the more familiar Novus Ordo Mass. Today we begin a multi-week series presenting the texts of both forms of the Mass in English. Breaking news in the Tridentine world may necessitate a pause in this series, as always.

The below text is excerpted from a comparison published by the Latin Mass Society of England and Wales. Not all of the options in either form of the Mass are shown, as that would be impractical. The old-English, Douay-Rheims Bible-style wording of the Tridentine Mass portion is typical of the translations found in most hand missals. The modern English of the Novus Ordo is the official translation published by the International Commission on English in the Liturgy.

This comparison only presents the unchanging “Ordinary” part of the Mass. The changing “Propers”, including the readings, also differ between the two forms, as does the calendar of feasts. This brings to mind a note for our readers at St. Joseph Church: The blue Gregorian Missals in the vestibule at St. Joseph Church are for use at the Novus Ordo Latin Mass only. The Propers of the Mass for the Novus Ordo contained in these books are different from the Propers for the Tridentine Mass. The Tridentine Propers are provided in the Latin/English handouts that accompany the red Tridentine missals.

We understand that opinions on liturgical reform differ. Seen side by side, these texts do provoke some thought, regardless of one’s liturgical preference. Keep this series of articles together, so that you can have a comparison of the entire Mass at your fingertips.

Extraordinary Form/Tridentine Mass

PRAYERS AT THE FOOT OF THE ALTAR

(continues till the "Take away from us our iniquities" prayer)

[Bowing before the altar, the priest makes the sign of the cross, saying:

P: In the name of the Father, (+) and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

P: I will go in to the altar of God.

R: To God, Who giveth joy to my youth.

PSALM 42

P: Judge me, O God, and distinguish my cause from the nation that is not holy; deliver me from the unjust and deceitful man.

R: For Thou art, God, my strength; why hast Thou cast me off? and why do I go all sorrowful whilst the enemy afflicteth me?

P: Send forth Thy light and Thy truth: they conducted me and brought me unto Thy holy hill, and into Thy tabernacles.

R: And I will go in to the altar of God: to God Who giveth joy to my youth.

P: To Thee, O God, my God, I will give praise upon the harp: why art thou sad, O my soul, and why dost thou disquiet me?

R: Hope in God, for I will still give praise to Him, the salvation of my countenance and my God.

P: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

R: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

P: I will go in to the altar of God.

R: To God, Who giveth joy to my youth.

P: Our help (+) is in the name of the Lord.

R: Who made heaven and earth.

Ordinary Form/Novus Ordo Mass

INTRODUCTORY RITE

[The priest kisses the altar, goes to his chair and stands facing the people.]

P: In the name of the Father, (+) and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R: Amen.

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

R: And also with you.

[After the Greeting the Entrance Antiphon may be read by the priest if it has not already been said or sung.]

[The priest may now comment briefly on the Mass of the day.]