

May 25, 2010

Most Revered Michael J. Sheridan
Bishop of Colorado Springs
282 North Cascade Avenue
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Your Excellency,

My name is Dan Horning; I am a Roman Catholic resident of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, a Knight of Columbus, and a rising sophomore at the George Washington University in Washington, DC. I am writing to you today to respectfully ask that you consider not supporting the newest translation of the Roman Missal, and to do all in your power to slow down the expedited process that the USCCB and the Vatican has it on to be implemented in US dioceses.

The new translation of the Missal is, to say the least, very confusing for parishioners and the faithful. The desire of the Holy See to have a verbatim translation of the Mass will not enhance the worship experience of the American Church. The new translations are cumbersome and make no sense linguistically. For example, the greeting to the priest stands as "And also with you." The new translation, "And with your spirit," ignores the fact that the priest is also a person (as we all are, and as Jesus so often reminds us in the Gospels.) The fact remains that the Latin version of the Missal was written hundreds of years ago, and as we all know, language evolves. In English, we no longer use "ye" and "thou."

Also, American Catholics stand united against these changes. The changes the Vatican and USCCB are implementing imply that since the Second Vatican Council, our worship has been in vain and not "pure." This is completely not the case. The laity have been given no say in this matter, and given the recent problems caused by complete control by the clergy and Church hierarchy, the laity should be given a voice in this matter. A complete makeover of the Mass in order to return to Latin (which, keep in mind, was NOT the original language of the Church; it was Hebrew and Aramaic) would not promote a stronger worship, it would alienate Catholics at a time when the Church needs to work on unity, and it would drive a wedge between the faithful and their LORD.

I respectfully urge you to work to either stop or delay these changes, and to help keep intact the form of worship for American Catholics that has worked so very well for the past half century. Thank you for reading my letter.

Yours respectfully,

Dan Horning