

Saint Agnes Parish Community

1920 Newburg Road · Louisville, Kentucky 40205-1424 · 502-451-2220 · www.stagneslouisville.org

April 22, 2010

Most Reverend Joseph E. Kurtz, D.D.
Archbishop of Louisville
The Chancery
212 East College Street,
Louisville, Ky. 40203

Dear Archbishop Kurtz

As you have made us aware, the new translations of the Roman Missal are scheduled to be implemented in parishes beginning in Advent, 2011. After spending a great deal of time discussing these changes, we are very concerned about how the new translations of the Roman Missal will affect our parish and the entire American Church.

Our concerns relate to both process and product. While certainly recognizing that the Church is not a democracy and that the bishops are the final decision-making body, there seems to have been no significant role for the laity in the examination of this issue and the decisions regarding changes in language. This is especially surprising as Vatican II continually emphasized the crucial role of the laity. In addition, some changes in language are such that the meaning is less accessible to the average worshipper; others language changes are less inclusive and will undoubtedly cause division. Such division was the case with an early release of the translations in the English speaking country of South Africa. It is difficult for us to see how these kinds of changes and the potential for such division will make our worship experience richer.

For this reason, the Pastoral Council at St. Agnes unanimously asks your support of a pilot program by which the new translations -- after a careful program of catechesis -- can be introduced into selected parishes and communities throughout the country for a period of one (liturgical) year, after which they would be objectively evaluated. We also urge you to write your fellow bishops and express your support for this pilot study as well.

We are convinced that this approach will address the concerns of the many bishops, theologians, liturgists, and linguists who have reservations about the new translation and that it will also give voice to the People of God. We realize that a pilot project of this kind is unprecedented, but so is the process by which these translations have been approved.

We thank you for your consideration of our concerns and look forward to continued dialogue as we work together to build the Kingdom of God.

Sincerely in Christ,

St. Agnes Catholic Community Parish Council