



Newsletter

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CDWDS Confirms *Order of Penance* for the United States

The Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments has confirmed the new English translation of the *Order of Penance* for liturgical use in the United States (Prot. n. 460/21, April 25, 2022). Having received the confirmed text from the Holy See, the Secretariat of Divine Worship is now working with interested publishers to determine a timetable for implementation, currently estimated for early 2023. A future issue of the *Newsletter* will carry the promulgation decree of the USCCB President.

While the essential words of the formula of absolution have not been changed, there are two minor modifications to the preliminary part of the prayer. The new translation, with changes underlined, will be as follows:

God, the Father of mercies,
through the Death and Resurrection of his Son
has reconciled the world to himself
and poured out the Holy Spirit for the forgiveness of sins;
through the ministry of the Church
may God grant you pardon and peace.
AND I ABSOLVE YOU FROM YOUR SINS,
IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, ✠ AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.
R. Amen.

(Note that this text is provided for study purposes only and is not to be used until the new *Order of Penance* is promulgated.)

The members of the Committee on Divine Worship expressed their hope that the publication of a new translation of this ritual could become the occasion for a renewed study of the *prænotanda* by priests and for an increased use of the rich options available in the text for the celebration of the sacrament.

Two minor U.S. adaptations to the *Order of Penance* were confirmed by the Holy See. First, the Latin typical edition provides long texts of entire Psalms among the many Biblical readings that can be used during the celebration of the sacrament. A new rubric has been inserted before this collection of Psalms (nos. 133-147) that reads: "In longer Psalms, a selection of stanzas which form a coherent whole may be chosen instead of the entire Psalm." This language, based on the principle given in no. 143 of the USCCB guidelines on liturgical music, *Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship*, will allow ministers more latitude, especially when choosing Responsorial Psalms to use in communal penance services.

Second, in addition to the ten options already provided for the penitent's Act of Contrition, the Holy See confirmed the addition of a traditional version of the prayer, well-known in the United States:

O my God,
I am heartily sorry for having offended you,
and I detest all my sins because of your just punishments,
but most of all because they offend you, my God,
who are all good and deserving of all my love.
I firmly resolve, with the help of your grace,
to sin no more
and to avoid the near occasions of sin.
Amen.

Of course, penitents are not limited to the options provided in the *Order of Penance*, and are free to express their sorrow with other prayers or even in their own words.

An English translation of the Holy See's confirmation decree is printed for the benefit of our readers:

CONGREGATION FOR DIVINE WORSHIP AND THE DISCIPLINE OF THE SACRAMENTS

Prot. n. 460/21

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

At the request of His Excellency the Most Reverend José Horacio Gomez, Archbishop of Los Angeles in California, President of the Conference of Bishops of the United States of America, in a letter dated September 8, 2021, and by virtue of the faculty granted to this Congregation by the Supreme Pontiff FRANCIS, we gladly confirm the text of the new English translation of the part of the Roman Ritual entitled *Ordo Penitentiae*, approved on June 17, 2021 by the same Conference of Bishops according to the norm of law, as found in the attached copy.

In printed editions, this decree, by which the Apostolic See has granted the requested confirmation, must be inserted in its entirety.

Moreover, two copies of the printed text should be forwarded to this Congregation.

All things to the contrary notwithstanding.

From the offices of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, April 25, 2022, the Feast of Saint Mark, Evangelist.

✠ Arthur Roche
Prefect

✠ Vittorio Francesco Viola, O.F.M.
Archbishop Secretary

Ecclesiastical Province of Newark Permanently Transfers Solemnity of the Ascension

The bishops of the Ecclesiastical Province of Newark (the five dioceses in New Jersey) voted on March 18, 2022 to permanently transfer the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord to the Seventh Sunday of Easter, beginning with this year's celebration. Due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the Ascension was transferred on an *ad hoc* basis in 2020 and 2021. The Ascension is still celebrated on Thursday of the Sixth Week of Easter for dioceses in the Ecclesiastical Provinces of Boston, Hartford, New York, Omaha, and Philadelphia.

Liturgical Books Currently in Use

A list of the current ritual books approved for liturgical use in the United States of America is provided for the benefit of our readers. A similar list appeared in the May 2014 *Newsletter*, after the implementation of the *Roman Missal, Third Edition*, but a number of new editions have appeared in the intervening years.

The dates in italics refer to the current Latin *editiones typicae* or to the years of the most recent emendations of the books, but do not necessarily reflect dates of more recent reprintings. There are a few books that could have been included but are not listed, especially those from the early years of the liturgical reform that have been subsumed into later books. Years in parenthesis refer to earlier U.S. editions, and the years in bold refer to the current U.S. English edition. Information on Spanish-language books appears further below.

For the Eucharist

- Roman Missal (including General Instruction & Calendar) 2008 (1974; 1985) **2011**
- Excerpts from the Roman Missal (“Book of the Chair”) **2018**
- Lectionary for Mass 1981 (1970) **1998/2002**
- Lectionary for Mass Supplement **2017**
- Collection of Masses of the Blessed Virgin Mary 1987 (1992) **2012**
- Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest (1988; 2007) **2012**
- Eucharistic Prayers for Masses with Children 2002 (1985) **2011**
- Lectionary for Masses with Children **1993**

Principal books of music for the Eucharist

- *Graduale Simplex* (simpler Gregorian chants of Mass parts and propers) 1975
- *Ordo cantus Missae* (Gregorian chants of Mass parts and propers, cross-referenced to the pre-Conciliar *Graduale Romanum*) 1988
- Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ 1989 (1971) **1998**
- *Graduale Romanum* (Gregorian chants of Mass parts and propers) 1974
- *Liber Cantualis* (assorted Gregorian chants) 1983
- *Ordo Missae in Cantu* (Gregorian chants for the Order of Mass) 2012

(Note that the final three items were published by Solesmes Abbey. Other publications contain various excerpts of these books in different forms.)

For the other sacraments and sacramentals

As of April 2022, two English ritual books approved by the USCCB are awaiting confirmation from the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments – the *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults* and *Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharistic Mystery Outside Mass*. An updated translation of the *Order of the Anointing of the Sick and of Their Pastoral Care* has been completed by ICEL and should come to the bishops for vote soon. New English translations are also in process for the following rites: the Blessing of Abbots and Abbesses, Religious Profession, Consecration of Virgins, Crowning an Image of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the Roman Martyrology.

- Roman Pontifical (1978) **2012**
 - Ordination of a Bishop, of Priests, and of Deacons 1989 (1978; 2003; 2012) **2021**
 - Order of Confirmation 2003 (1978; 2012) **2015**
 - Order of the Blessing of Oils and the Consecration of Chrism 1971 (1985; 2012) **2019**
 - Order of the Dedication of a Church and an Altar 1977 (1989) **2018**
 - Order of Blessing of Abbots and Abbesses 2010 (1978) **2012**
 - Order of the Consecration of Virgins 1970 (1978) **2012**
 - Institution of Lectors and Acolytes 1972 (1978) **2012**
 - Institution of Catechists 2021

- Roman Ritual
 - Order of Baptism of Children 2003 (1970) **2020**
 - Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults 1972 (1974) **1988**
 - Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist Outside Mass 1974; **1976**
 - Order of Celebrating Matrimony 2008 (1970) **2016**
 - Order of Penance 1974 (1975; 2010) **2023**
 - Pastoral Care of the Sick: Rites of Anointing and Viaticum 1972 (1974) **1983**
 - Book of Blessings 1994; **1989**
 - Order of Christian Funerals 1969 (1971) **1989**
 - Rite of Religious Profession 1970; **1989**
 - Exorcisms and Related Supplications 2005; **2017**

Other liturgical books

- Roman Martyrology 2004
- Ceremonial of Bishops 2008; **1989**
- Order of Crowning an Image of the Blessed Virgin Mary 1981; **1987**
- Liturgy of the Hours 2000; **1975/1976**
- The Abbey Psalms and Canticles **2020**
- *Ordo cantus Officii* (chants for the Office) 2015
- *Liber Hymnarius* (hymns, invitatories, and responsories for the Office) 1983
- *Antiphonale Romanum I* (Lauds of Sundays, Solemnities, and Feasts) 2020
- *Antiphonale Romanum II* (Vespers of Sundays, Solemnities, and Feasts) 2009

(Note that the final three items were published by Solesmes Abbey.)

Conference-approved texts containing excerpts of ritual books

- Order for the Solemn Exposition of the Holy Eucharist **1993**
- Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers (1988; 2007) **2020**
- Blessing on the Fifteenth Birthday (bilingual) **2008**
- Blessing of a Child in the Womb (bilingual) **2012**

(In addition, assorted fascicles with rites for lay ministry to the sick and dying have also been published.)

Ritual books in Spanish

Six Spanish-language liturgical books and two fascicles have been confirmed for liturgical use in the United States. In addition, three books in Spanish are pending: the *Bendicional* and revised *Ritual de la Iniciación cristiana de adultos* are awaiting confirmation by the Holy See, and a new translation of the *Ritual de la Unción de los enfermos y de su atención pastoral* is anticipated for a canonical vote in the near future.

- Misal Romano (includes the Rito para la bendición de los óleos y la consagración del Crisma) 2008; **2018**
- Celebraciones dominicales en ausencia de presbítero (bilingual) **2007**
- Ritual para el Bautismo de los niños 2003; **2009**
- Rito de la Iniciación cristiana de adultos 1972; **1993**
- Ritual del Matrimonio 2008; **2010**
- Ritual de exequias cristianas 1969; **2002**
- Bendición al cumplir quince años (bilingual) **2008**
- Bendición de una criatura en el vientre materno (bilingual) **2012**

For other rites that do not have a confirmed U.S. Spanish edition – for example, the *Leccionario*, rituals for Penance, Ordination, etc. – any Spanish translation lawfully approved by another Conference of Bishops may be used. Ritual books from Mexico tend to be the most popular in this country, and many of them are available through Liturgical Press or from the Mexican publishing house Buena Prensa.