

Tridentine Community News

March 26, 2006

Holy Week Changes

An earlier edition of the Tridentine News mentioned that the Tridentine Missal has undergone several minor changes throughout its history. In the latter half of the 20th century, those changes included suppression of the server's Confiteor before Holy Communion, and the addition of the name of St. Joseph to the Canon. These are small changes that present no problem to the owner of any early-20th century hand missal.

As Holy Week approaches, however, it is appropriate to mention that 1956 brought major changes to the liturgies of Holy Week. Relevant to our Sunday Mass, the Palm Sunday liturgy has been modified: The Blessing and Procession of Palms has been somewhat shortened, and the portion of St. Matthew's Gospel read at Mass has slightly changed. If you own a missal that was published before 1956, you will find a difference between what is in your book and what we will do here. Our weekly Latin/English Propers handout will contain the ceremonies as prescribed in the 1962 edition of the Tridentine Missal, the official version mandated for present use by the Vatican.

Hand Missals Currently In Print

Countless Latin/English hand missals have been published throughout the years. Today, a select few are in print, and we will compare them:

The St. Andrew Missal, as republished by St. Bonaventure Publications (www.libers.com, (406) 452-5452), \$47.00) is a 1952 edition. It has lengthy commentaries on each week's Mass, and a sizable collection of devotional prayers. The full Latin and English text of every Mass, Sunday and weekday, are provided.

The New Roman Missal, a.k.a. the Fr. Lasance Missal, is a 1945 edition (www.catholictreasures.com, (800) 257-4893, \$53.95). Similar to the St. Andrew Missal, it is a vast volume, with many devotional prayers and full Latin and English propers. However, both of these missals suffer from many errors in their typesetting (accuracy was more difficult in those pre-computer days), and they do not contain the 1956 Holy Week changes.

The ubiquitous Marian Missal by Fr. Sylvester Juergens comes in various editions. Some have large print, others have full Latin and English, others have Sundays only and only in English. Currently, you can purchase a republished

1958 edition (www.leafletonline.com, (800) 355-9650, \$39.95). The advantage of the Marian Missal is relatively accurate typesetting, and incorporation of the Holy Week changes. The disadvantage is incomplete Latin, even in the editions that incorporate (some of the) Latin Propers.

The St. Joseph Missal (www.leafletonline.com, (800) 355-9650, \$38.00) is a 1950 edition, English only. It is the direct predecessor of today's Novus Ordo St. Joseph Missal and has a familiar appearance and sentimental value to many because of its popularity then and now.

The Roman Missal, a.k.a. the Baronius Press Missal (www.baroniuspress.com or www.fssp.com, (570) 842-4000, \$60) is a new missal, published in England in 2004, in cooperation with the Fraternity of St. Peter. It is based on the Marian Missal, but unlike those missals, has full Latin and English propers. It is up to date on 1962 missal changes. It has the distinction of being the only newly published Tridentine hand missal with an imprimatur.

The Roman Catholic Daily Missal (www.angeluspress.org, (800) 966-7337, \$60.00) was also published in 2004 and resembles the Baronius Missal in many ways. It appears also to be based on the Marian Missal. Whatever one thinks of its publisher, the Society of St. Pius X, one cannot deny that they did a fine job assembling this missal. However, both it and the Baronius Missal carry over most of the (relatively few) typographical errors from the Marian Missal.

If you are interested in seeing one of these missals, come to the sacristy after Mass. They all have their advantages and disadvantages. Because none of them, not even the new ones, have corrected all of the typographical errors in the propers, it is not possible to recommend one as clearly superior over the others. If you can tolerate small print, the Baronius Missal seems the most complete. If you prefer larger print, one of the large-print editions of the Marian Missal will be more to your liking. Preferably get one published in 1956 or later.

Note that you can find countless Tridentine Missals on EBay.

We will, of course, continue to supply weekly Latin/English Mass Propers handouts to use with the paperback Red Latin Missals. Whatever you choose you use as your worship aid, reading the propers as the priest chants or reads them will help you appreciate and pray along with the beautiful prayers contained in the Tridentine Mass.

