



## **THIRD EDITION OF THE ROMAN MISSAL**

### **BULLETIN INSERT#2: THE GATHERING AND SONG**

*As we prepare for the changes in the Third Edition of the Roman Missal we invite you to ponder some of the gestures and words that shape our liturgical prayer.*

Each Sunday the community gathers to offer praise and thanks to God for the great act of reconciling love made available to us through Christ Jesus. We gather because God continues to call us into relationship, has given us new life in the waters of baptism, anointed us in the Spirit and drawn us to feast at the Eucharistic banquet. God makes us into one body, the body of Christ. In return we enter into the celebration of Mass, joining ourselves to the offering of Christ in his sacrifice unto death. The liturgy enables us to call ourselves Christ's disciples, transforms us into faithful stewards, and challenges us to be Christ's living Word made visible in our daily life.

We participate in the liturgy with our whole being, both inwardly and outwardly. Our interior participation opens us to receive within, what we hear, touch and taste, and see exteriorly. Our outward participation expresses the depth of this inward awareness of union with God. Inward participation requires silence, reflective thought, and adoration. Outward participation shows through participation in song, word, gesture and movement.

The liturgy is rich with many gestures, symbols, and signs that lead us to deeper unity with one another, and to deeper faith and knowledge of the Trinity. Among the many signs and symbols the Church uses to celebrate our faith, music is of pre-eminent importance.

Music serves to impart a sense of community among the assembly, set a particular tone and atmosphere for the celebration, and reflect a specific liturgical season. Music is the way we express our relationship with God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Singing helps us express our faith. It also nourishes and strengthens our faith because the words give tangible expression to what we believe. By breathing together and lifting our voices in song we share that gift of faith with others. Singing heightens a text so that it speaks more fully. Singing can also unveil a dimension of meaning and feeling, ideas, and images that go beyond the spoken word. Singing is prayer.

Many actions make up the liturgical gathering, starting from our decision to leave home and make our way to the parish church. Greeting others in the parking lot and as we enter the church, preparing our hearts to participate in the liturgy, finding the opening hymn in the hymnal – these all ready us for the great act of Sunday praise.

#### THINGS TO DO OR PONDER

In a quiet moment return in memory to last Sunday's celebration of the Eucharist.

How did you participate internally?

How did you participate externally?

What do you recall about meeting God in those moments?

Which pieces of music drew you into prayer?

Which pieces of music helped you feel united in the community's praise or intercession toward God?