

WORLD & NATION

Liturgy text concerns Canadian worshipers

By Art Babych
Catholic News Service

OTTAWA — The availability of a study translation and an English summary of the new General Instruction of the Roman Missal from the Web site of the U.S. bishops' conference in the United States is causing some concern to the liturgy commission of the bishops of Canada.

"People are grabbing it and running with it and saying 'we have to implement this right now,'" said Notre Dame Sister Donna Kelly, secretary of the liturgy commission of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. "For a whole month before we even saw an official copy of the Latin text it was already all over the press," she said in an interview Sept. 21.

In the Rochester Diocese, parishioners have expressed concerns about the changes but diocesan officials have stressed that the translation is for study only at this time. With the consent of the Vatican's Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for the Liturgy prepared the study translation and is taking orders for it online. The official Latin edition of the instruction can be downloaded from the site at <http://www.nccbuscc.org>.

The Canadian bishops' liturgy commission published an explanatory note Sept. 18 on the CCCB's Web site, pointing out that the study translation made available on the U.S. bishops' Web site "is currently not official even in the United States, much less in Canada."

Several steps are necessary before the full implementation of the General Instruction of the Roman Missal in Canada, including asking the church's international liturgy commissions for official English and French translations of the text, said the CCCB commission.

"Until we have a definitive English-language translation, it's really hard to try to educate people on the nuances" of the new Missal, said Sister Kelly.

The Congregation for Divine Worship announced Aug. 4 that it was sending the text of the new Missal to episcopal conferences and nuncios so they could become aware of the changes and prepare translations. The instruction, last revised 25 years

ago, includes minor changes in the way that Mass is to be celebrated.

The bishops of Canada are to vote on the translated texts and can also request an "indult," an exemption from the Missal for some pastoral practices, such as the requirement that only priests are to prepare Communion cups or place Communion hosts in containers for distribution. When there are 500-600 people at a Mass "you don't want the preparation for Communion to take an unnecessarily long time," said Sister Kelly.

Once the Canadian bishops have studied the translated texts, they will be sent to Rome for the "recognitio," — the confirmation of their juridical value.

The CCCB received the Latin text of the General Instruction of the Roman Missal at the end of August but has yet to receive the new updated text of the Roman Missal. When Rome publishes the Missal, the worship congregation is expected also to decrease when the Latin text takes effect.



Reuters/CNS

March in Mexico

Pro-life activists march against abortion in Mexico City Sept. 24. Some politicians are seeking to tighten abortion controls while Mexico City Mayor Rosario Robles has proposed reforming anti-abortion law to ease the ban. Abortion is allowed only in the event of rape in most Mexican states.

Catholic Charities USA marks 90 years of service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Ninety years ago, a group gathered at The Catholic University of America to establish what became Catholic Charities USA, and on Sept. 25, the same hall hosted an anniversary celebration.

Jesuit Father Fred Kammer, president of Catholic Charities USA, noted the significance of celebrating the organization's anniversary during the church's jubilee year.

"(It) reminds us that the future before us is rooted not just in 90 years of inspired hard work by our predecessors and contemporaries," he said, "but in hundreds and even thousands of years of work for charity and justice going back to Christ, and before him, to the Hebrew Scriptures."

On hand for the celebration were Msgr. Lawrence Corcoran, a predecessor of Father Kammer who headed the organization from 1965 to 1982; U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala; Auxiliary Bishop Joseph M. Sullivan of Brooklyn, N.Y., episcopal liaison to Catholic Charities; and more than 100 current and former employees and other guests.

In the Rochester Diocese, Catholic Charities of Livingston County is planning a fifth anniversary celebration for Wednesday, Oct. 11. Bishop Matthew H. Clark will preside at an ecumenical service at 7 p.m. at St. Mary's Church in Geneseo, and a reception will follow.

Shalala compared the efforts of Catholic Charities to what it takes for Olympic athletes to succeed. "Hard work does not always end in miracles," she said. "But miracles almost always begin with hard work."

She pointed out that when Catholic Charities was founded in 1910, government did not play a major role in helping the poor become self-sufficient. While that is no longer the case, what has not changed, she said, "is the vital role nonprofit and religious organizations play in feeding the hungry, sheltering the poor, finding families for children who need them and making health care accessible."

Shalala said government not only can't

do that work alone, it shouldn't even try.

"Catholic Charities USA — and other community service organizations — have the skills, experience and deeply felt sense of mission that are always needed to break the grip of poverty," she said. "Its (poverty's) unjust hand cannot match your strong hand of faith and commitment."

Father Kammer noted that Catholic Charities' roots "are in the compassion of Jesus of Nazareth," he said, first epitomized in this country by the opening of an orphanage, a home for women of the streets and a health care center by the Ursuline Sisters in New Orleans in 1727.

Today, the network of Catholic Charities programs spans the country with 52,000 staff members and 280,000 volunteers.

"Be assured, no matter how the economy develops, politics are played out and human service needs evolve, the compassion of Christ will remain the hallmark of Catholic Charities in the millennium to come," Father Kammer said.

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