



NewsLetter

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**USCCB Secretariat of
Divine Worship**
3211 Fourth Street, NE
Washington, DC 20017
Tel: (202) 541-3060
Fax: (202) 541-3088
www.USCCB.org

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Volume LVII

November 2021

CDWDS Issues Norms to Implement *Magnum Principium*

On October 22, 2021, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments issued the decree *Postquam Summus Pontifex* (Prot. n. 394/21), making those changes to liturgical books and legislation necessitated by Pope Francis's 2017 Apostolic Letter, *Magnum Principium*. That letter's impact on the process of liturgical translation for the USCCB was explored in the September, November, and December 2017 issues of the *Newsletter*. The recent decree as well as the commentary of the Congregation's Prefect, Archbishop Arthur Roche, each in multiple languages, is available at [CultoDivino.va/content/cultodivino/it/documenti/decreti-general/decreti-general/2021/ad-dispositiones-can--838-codicis-iuris-canonici-efficiendas.html](https://cultodivino.va/content/cultodivino/it/documenti/decreti-general/decreti-general/2021/ad-dispositiones-can--838-codicis-iuris-canonici-efficiendas.html).

For the benefit of our readers, we reprint the English translation of Archbishop Roche's commentary below:

Liturgical Books: Publication, Translation and Adaptation

With the *Motu Proprio Magnum Principium* of 3 September 2017, Pope Francis changed §§ 2 and 3 of canon 838 of the Code of Canon Law, ordering that consequently “this is how art. 64 § 3 of the Apostolic Constitution *Pastor Bonus* as well as other laws are to be interpreted, particularly those contained in the liturgical books concerning their revision”. At the same time, he asked the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments to provide for the adaptation of whatever was necessary to implement the new discipline.

With the decree *Postquam Summus Pontifex*, the Congregation has implemented these dispositions in order to clarify and determine the norms concerning the publication, *recognitio* and *confirmatio* of liturgical books, a task which involves both the Episcopal Conferences and the Apostolic See, which remain in dialogue with each other according to their own competencies. The objective of this dialogue is ecclesial communion, which finds expression in the *lex orandi*. In this light, as far as the Roman Rite is concerned, the document of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments indicates and describes the criteria that regulate and safeguard this communion, recalling the principles and outlining the processes involved.

This document, which takes the form of a general executive decree, consists of two parts, preceded by an Introduction. The first part, entitled *Norms and Procedures*, is of a descriptive nature, and is intended to recall, interpret and amend norms and procedures regarding the publication of liturgical books in the various languages. This implies both the translation of the typical Latin texts and their adaptation, which is of a

twofold nature, that is, either adaptations foreseen in the books themselves or a “more radical” adaptation (cf. *Sacrosanctum Concilium* 40), since it goes beyond what is contained in the typical Latin editions.

First of all, the responsibilities and competences of the Bishops’ Conferences are considered. The Conferences are charged with evaluating and approving liturgical adaptations for the territory of their competence, as well as for preparing and approving the translations of liturgical texts. Thus, various questions are recalled concerning the language to be adopted in the liturgy, the complex process of translating the texts, the drafting of the liturgical book and its approval, the request for *confirmatio* and *recognitio* to the Apostolic See and, finally, the book’s publication.

The responsibilities and competences of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments with regard to the publication of liturgical books in vernacular languages are then described. It is the responsibility of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments to review (*recognoscere*) the adaptations approved by the Bishops’ Conferences and to confirm (*confirmare*) the translations of the texts duly approved by the same Conferences. For this specific area, therefore, there is a description of the “recognitio” (n. 43) and “confirmatio” (n. 45), with what they entail and require; for example, it is recalled that the *confirmatio* of the translation of the sacramental formulas is only granted after the approval of the Holy Father.

As is well known, there are also particular liturgical texts concerning individual dioceses and religious institutes. By analogy with the provisions of canon 838, since this is a matter connected with liturgical books, nos. 50-55 also set out the regulatory framework for Propers.

The second part of the decree is of a dispositive nature. It indicates the “variationes” to be introduced into the various editions of the liturgical books. Just as, following the publication of the Code of Canon Law in 1983, the Congregation for Divine Worship published a number of variations affecting the discipline contained in liturgical books, so now, in the light of Pope Francis’ amendment of canon 838, adjustments to the *recognitio* and *confirmatio* of liturgical books are made known. These changes concern some numbers of the *Institutio generalis Missalis Romani* as well as the *Praenotanda* of the *Ordo lectionum Missae* and other Ordines of the *Pontificale* and the *Rituale Romano*.

As recalled in the introduction to the decree, the intention of the document is to respond to the wish of the Pope who, in *Magnum Principium*, expressed the desire that the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments would “help the Episcopal Conferences to fulfil their task as well as working to promote ever more the liturgical life of the Latin Church”.

Bishop Steven J. Lopes Elected Next Committee Chairman

At the November 2021 USCCB plenary meeting, Bishop Steven J. Lopes of the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of Saint Peter was elected the next Chairman of the Committee on Divine Worship, for a term running from November 17, 2022 to November 13, 2025. He was elected over the other candidate, St. Louis Archbishop Mitchell T. Rozanski. Bishop Lopes becomes a member of the Committee for one year as Chairman-Elect, and once his term begins, he will appoint members and consultants to join him in the work.

Ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of San Francisco, Bishop Lopes served as an official in the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith for over ten years. Both as a priest and as bishop of the Ordinariate, he has been involved in the development of the liturgical books that are used in the Personal Ordinariates. Commentary on two of these books – *Divine Worship: The Missal* and *Divine Worship: Pastoral Care of the Sick and Dying* – appeared in the October 2015 and July-August 2021 issues of the *Newsletter*, respectively. While the liturgical books approved for the Ordinariate draw extensively from the Anglican patrimony, they also have much in common with the post-Conciliar books of the Roman Rite. The Secretariat congratulates Bishop Lopes and looks forward to assisting him as he serves the Church in the United States in this capacity.

USCCB Approves Four Liturgical Action Items at November 2021 Plenary Meeting; Revised *National Statutes for the Catechumenate* Also Approved

At the first in-person USCCB plenary meeting in two years, the Latin Church bishops approved four action items presented by the Committee on Divine Worship. First, the bishops approved the inscription of an Optional Memorial of Saint Teresa of Calcutta in the Proper Calendar for the Dioceses of the United States of America by a vote of 213-0 with one abstention. If confirmed by the Holy See, her feast will be celebrated on September 5, the day currently observed by the Missionaries of Charity, and will use those Mass texts approved for them by the Holy See, with only a very minor modification to the Spanish text. Proper texts for the Divine Office will be promulgated together with the *Liturgy of the Hours, Second Edition*.

The second action item approved was a new translation of *Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharistic Mystery outside Mass*, prepared by the International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL) in April 2020. Passed by a vote of 200-14 with four abstentions, this book includes rites for Holy Communion outside Mass, the administration of Communion and Viaticum to the sick by an extraordinary minister, and various forms of worship of the Most Holy Eucharist. For the most part, the text is a straightforward translation of the Latin typical edition. One section, however, includes adaptations newly approved by the body of bishops. In the Order of Eucharistic Exposition and Benediction, the rubrics of the Latin typical edition are sparse, providing space for adaptation to the traditions and needs of individual regions as well as helpful flexibility when planning special events. The Committee on Divine Worship proposed, and the bishops approved, a sort of “standard model” for Exposition and Benediction in the dioceses of the United States. This form includes new English translations of *O salutaris Hostia* and *Tantum ergo*, confirmed by the Holy See as a part of the hymnody of the *Liturgy of the Hours, Second Edition*. It also includes a standard text of both the versicle following the *Tantum ergo* and the Divine Praises. Certain rubrics were expanded to include customary practices or provide necessary clarification.

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults and National Statutes for the Catechumenate

The third action item approved by the bishops, the fruit of several years of work, was the revised English edition of the *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults* (OCIA), by a vote of 215-6 with two abstentions. This vote was the second of a two-step process, which began with the approval of the ICEL Gray Book translation at the November 2019 plenary meeting. Following that approval, the Committee on Divine Worship began the process of adapting and rearranging the text after the model of the current English edition. The paragraph numbers of this new edition follow the paragraph numbers of the current edition exactly.

There are a few new elements in the text being sent to the Holy See. Most notably, the terms referring to individuals have been adjusted for the sake of clarity. In ritual books, the word “candidate” often refers generically to any person preparing to receive a sacrament, ministry, or blessing. In the context of the Initiation process, however, a custom has developed over the last four decades in the United States of using the word “candidate” to refer to an already-baptized person who is preparing to receive the other Sacraments of Initiation. Thus, to help clarify the steps of the process, the new book will reflect that practice and reserve the use of “candidate” to only those who are already baptized, and will use other terms such as “inquirer,” “entrant,” “catechumen,” and “elect” as replacements for “candidate” when referring to individuals in other stages of the Initiation process.

Two other notable changes in the new edition are found in the combined Easter Vigil celebration of Initiation and the Rite of Reception. Suggested introductory language is now provided, motivated by an ecumenical sensitivity, highlighting the difference between catechumens and those who are already baptized. Also added to the rite are rubrics and prayers for the baptism of an infant at the Easter Vigil, a possibility noted by both the *Order of Baptism of Children* and the *Roman Missal*. This Combined Rite already attended to the Initiation of the elect, reception into full communion of candidates, and the confirmation of uncatechized Catholics, and thus now provides texts for a fourth category of person who might be initiated at the Easter Vigil.

Finally, the fourth item approved by the bishops was a revised Spanish edition of the OCIA, entitled the *Ritual para la Iniciación cristiana de adultos*, by a vote of 218-3 with one abstention. This edition is not a new Spanish

translation but has rather been updated to match the changes in the new English edition, to correct various errors in the current edition, and to incorporate texts from the *Misal Romano* approved for use in this country.

Related to the OCIA, revised English and Spanish editions of the *National Statutes for the Catechumenate* were approved by votes of 222-1 and 224-0 with one abstention, respectively. This item, presented by the Committee on Canonical Affairs and Church Governance in consultation with the Committees on Divine Worship and on Evangelization and Catechesis, updates the statutes in light of nearly four decades of experience with catechesis and the Christian Initiation process. Fewer statutes are now proposed, namely only those that are truly legislative, complementary to the universal law, and unique to the United States. If granted *recognitio* by the Congregation for Bishops, these revised statutes will abrogate those currently in force, and its text will be published in the new editions of the OCIA, as is the case with the current ritual text.

November 2021 Meeting of the Committee on Divine Worship

The Committee on Divine Worship held its first in-person meeting in two years on November 14, 2021 in Baltimore. After reports from the Committee Chairman, Secretariat of Divine Worship, Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions, and *Instituto Nacional Hispano de Liturgia*, members reviewed proposed modifications to the Committee's three amendable action items at the November 2021 plenary meeting.

Members also discussed the arrangement and adaptation of the *Order of the Anointing of the Sick and of their Pastoral Care*, whose "Gray Book" was prepared by the International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL) and transmitted to its member Conferences of Bishops in April 2020. This ritual is one of three that were previously rearranged and significantly adapted – the others being the *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults* and the *Order of Christian Funerals*. After review of the Latin typical edition, the current English edition, and the new ICEL Gray Book, the members determined that the Committee need not employ the two-step process used for the OCIA (i.e., a first vote on ICEL's base translation and then a second vote on the finalized text after rearrangement and adaptation) but rather a single vote on a new edition once it has been prepared.

In broad terms, the Committee expressed a desire that the new edition follow the arrangement of the typical edition more closely, an arrangement that they believed would be simpler and easier for priests to use. After discussion of general principles, the bishops instructed the Secretariat to begin drafting a text that could be studied more closely at the next Committee meeting. They also expressed their hope that the rites in this book which laypersons frequently use could be published in a suitable fascicle of excerpts. The book that is foreseen would also include texts for the administration of Communion and Viaticum to the sick by an extraordinary minister, drawn from *Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharistic Mystery outside Mass*.

The Committee also endorsed the strengthening of the *ars celebrandi* in the upcoming Eucharistic Revival promoted by the USCCB. Due to the time required for discussion of the modifications to the plenary meeting action items and the discussion of *Pastoral Care of the Sick*, however, additional items from the agenda were postponed to the next meeting of the Committee, scheduled for June 12, 2022 in San Diego.

Subscription Renewals for 2022 Newsletter

Renewal forms for the 2022 *Newsletter* will be mailed to current subscribers in December. Subscribers are asked to return the completed renewal form with their payment by February 28, 2022 to ensure continuing service. Anyone who has not received a renewal notice by January 21 should contact David Ringwald at (202) 541-3060 or by e-mail at dringwald@usccb.org.

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