



UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS DECREE

In accord with the norms established by the Holy See, the following text is declared to be the definitive approved English translation of the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, no. 54, and is promulgated by authority of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops:

The Collect

54. Next the Priest calls upon the people to pray and everybody, together with the Priest, observes a brief silence so that they may become aware of being in God's presence and may call to mind their intentions. Then the Priest pronounces the prayer usually called the "Collect" and through which the character of the celebration finds expression. By an ancient tradition of the Church, the Collect prayer is usually addressed to God the Father, through Christ, in the Holy Spirit,⁵⁶ and is concluded with a Trinitarian ending, or longer ending, in the following manner:

- If the prayer is directed to the Father: *Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever;*
- If it is directed to the Father, but the Son is mentioned at the end: *Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever;*
- If it is directed to the Son: *Who live and reign with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.*

The people, joining in this petition, make the prayer their own by means of the acclamation *Amen*.

At Mass only a single Collect is ever said.

⁵⁶ Cf. Tertullian, *Adversus Marcionem*, IV, 9: *Corpus Christianorum, Series Latina* 1, p. 560; Origen, *Disputatio cum Heracleida*, no. 4, 24: *Sources chrétiennes* 67, p. 62; *Statuta Concilii Hippoensis Breviata*, no. 21: *Corpus Christianorum, Series latina* 149, p. 39.

The revised text of the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, no. 54, was canonically approved by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops on January 29, 2021, and was subsequently confirmed by the Apostolic See by a letter of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments on February 3, 2021 (Prot. n. 228/20).

The above texts of the concluding formulas enter into use as of Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021. From that date forward, no other English translation of these texts may be used in the dioceses of the United States of America.

Given at the General Secretariat of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC, on February 4, 2021.

✠ José H. Gomez
Archbishop of Los Angeles
President, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Rev. Msgr. Jeffrey D. Burrill
General Secretary



Committee on Divine Worship

3211 FOURTH STREET NE · WASHINGTON DC 20017-1194 · 202-541-3060 · FAX 202-541-3088

Note on a change to the translation of Collect prayers

In May of 2020 the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments wrote to the English-speaking Conferences of Bishops regarding the concluding doxology of the Collects in the *Roman Missal* (which also appear in other liturgical books).

Specifically, the Congregation pointed out that the current translation – which concludes “[...] **in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever**” – is incorrect. There is no mention of “one” in the Latin, and “Deus” in the Latin text refers to Christ. Therefore, the correct translation, which is already reflected in the Missal in other languages (including our own USCCB *Misal Romano*) is simply: “[...] **in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.**” The Cardinal Prefect has pointed out the importance of affirming this Christological truth amid the religious pluralism of today’s world.

English translations of the Missal for use by the faithful prior to the Second Vatican Council reflected the correct translation, as for example the St. Joseph’s Missals of the 1950’s. However, when the post-conciliar texts were published in English, the word “one” was added.

It should be noted that when the translation of the Missal currently in use was in progress, ICEL pointed out the discrepancy to the Congregation in Rome, but was told to retain the use of “one God” in the new translation.

In light of the Congregation’s most recent direction in this matter, the Latin Rite Bishops of the USCCB have voted to amend no. 54 of the U.S. text of the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* to reflect the change, and the Congregation has confirmed this decision, as it already has for the Episcopal Conferences of England and Wales, Ireland, and Canada.

This change to the concluding doxology of orations is to be implemented on Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021. The words “one God, for ever and ever” are simply replaced with “God, for ever and ever.”

- **Is there a need to purchase a new Missal?**

No. It should not be difficult for the celebrant simply to omit the word “one” when offering the prayer. However, publishers are being informed of this change, and any reprints or new editions of the Missal will reflect the new translation. Other publications, such as participation aids for the faithful, will begin to carry the new text as soon as possible. Many of these are printed well in advance, however, so it will take some time for the change to appear.

- **Does this change apply to other liturgical books, besides the *Roman Missal*?**

Yes. Any time the formula appears in a liturgical book the new translation should be used. Besides the Missal, the *Liturgy of the Hours* is the book where it is encountered most often. Note that the orations in the current breviary are an older translation than what is found in the Missal, but the final line is the same and the new conclusion is easy to apply.

February 4, 2021



CONGREGATIO DE CULTU DIVINO
ET DISCIPLINA SACRAMENTORUM

Prot. N. 228/20

Vatican City, 3 February 2021

Your Excellency,

The Congregation received your letter of 2 February in which you inform us of the following decision of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops regarding the Collect prayers:

By a vote of 190-15 with 3 abstentions, via electronic ballot conducted January 25-29, 2021, the Latin Church Bishops of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops decided to address the Congregation's concern by removing the word "one" from the affected formulas, as seen in the attached text.

With this letter the Congregation gladly confirms this decision of the Bishops' Conference as laid out in the emended text of n. 54 of the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* attached to your letter.

With sentiments of fraternal esteem, I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

✠ Arthur Roche
Archbishop Secretary

His Excellency
Most Reverend José H. GOMEZ
Archbishop of Los Angeles
President
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
3211 Fourth Street NE
Washington DC 20017-1194
USA