

Coming Very Soon Indeed! November 27, 2011, First Sunday of Advent:

The Third Edition of *The Roman Missal*

NEW WORDS, SAME MASS, DEEPER MEANING

This continues our series on the Mass and how its words are changing. Find these and previous articles on the parish website: <http://maryscathedral.com/>.

The Concluding Rites

Corinna Laughlin and Kristopher W. Seaman

The Concluding Rites are the shortest of the main segments of the Mass. Following the Prayer after Communion, the priest celebrant greets the people with “The Lord be with you.” He prays a blessing over the people, which ranges from simple to solemn. The priest or deacon then dismisses the people. The Latin words for the dismissal are *Ite, missa est* — “Go, you are sent.” (The word *missa* is what gives the Mass its name!) The word *missa* is from the same root as our word “mission.” At the end of Mass, we are not just dismissed, but sent forth with a mission. The liturgy we have celebrated should bear fruit in our lives. We are to carry the love of Christ that has been poured out on us to our families, our workplaces, our neighborhoods. “Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.” The Eucharist we celebrate is not just for Sunday Mass. We are to live the transforming power of Eucharist in everything we do.

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“Go in Peace, Glorifying the Lord by Your Life”

Corinna Laughlin and Maureen A. Kelly

The word *mission* comes from the Latin word *mittere*, which means “to send.” In the most general sense, a mission is an assigned duty or task. When we use the term mission in reference to the Church, we are talking about something more. The Church is missionary by its very nature, because it exists to continue the works of the risen Lord. The Church continues to respond to Jesus’ words: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19, NRSV). Each of the baptized is given a work and a task to accomplish: God’s work, God’s task, for the mission of which we are a part is not our own, but God’s. Through the sacraments, we are empowered for mission. Some of us go to mission lands, and others respond to the call to radical service as priests and religious. But every Christian is called to witness to the person and message of Jesus through the way we carry out our daily responsibilities, glorifying God by our lives.

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