

Ed Hartmann's letter to the Long Island Catholic

"Dig More Deeply"

The pastoral letter from the bishop of Rockville Centre concerning the Third Typical Edition of the Roman Missal and titled "Belong More Deeply" should really be titled "Dig More Deeply" since ultimately that is what all of us pew dwellers will have to do. The entire letter is filled with tired old phrases that clerics have used over the years to baffle the laity and it will cost us in the parishes money to move these liturgical changes forward. While the bishop of Rockville Centre may have been involved in the whole process and I am sure he thinks the new translation is beautiful, did he forget that the laity is intelligent enough to decide for themselves the beauty of the new translation?

It is possible that I missed the invitation to offer suggestions as the new translations were being prepared, but as a member of the church and since the prayer of the church is being given a new translation and in the spirit of collegiality, it would have been helpful if the church could have offered suggestions.

Once again we have been assigned tasks from on high. "Greet the new missal with joy and high expectations" and "Let the words of the prayers sink into your hearts" and meditate on them and discover the rich beauty" etc, etc, on and on.

Thankfully I have heard honest and faithful voices raised in questioning the new translations. Apparently these voices are being ignored since the hierarchy has another "done deal" to their credit or shame.

The laity, who the bishop calls his fellow shepherds and who has his deepest gratitude, prayers, affection and love apparently does not have his trust or confidence to help formulate new translations in their own prayers.

So my fellow laity, prepare to "Dig More Deeply" since this will be your assignment and you will be expected to complete your tasks well

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