

Pax hominibus bonae voluntatis=Peace to people of good will

In last week's column, we examined the changes to the Confiteor, the prayer we say at the beginning of Mass asking God for his forgiveness and mercy. I pointed out that we will be returning to the original Latin formulation of the Confiteor which says, "*Through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault.*" Immediately following the Penitential Act, we sing the Gloria at Sunday Mass except during Advent and Lent. The General Instruction of the Roman Missal describes the Gloria as, "*a very ancient and venerable hymn in which the Church, gathered together in the Holy Spirit, glorifies and entreats God the Father and the Lamb.*" We have begun singing the words to the new Gloria at all three parishes, since we won't have an opportunity to sing it during Advent. In this week's column, I would like to focus on the most substantive change to the Gloria in the Third Edition of the Roman Missal, which we now sing at our weekend Liturgies.

The first sentence of the Gloria in the Roman Missal says, "*Gloria in excelsis Deo et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis.*" The new English translation translates these words exactly: "*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.*" The Second Edition of the Roman Missal in English, which we have been using since it was published in 1985 says: "*Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.*" So what's the difference, you may ask? The 1985 English translation replaced "bonae voluntatis" meaning, "good will," with the more ambiguous term, "his people."

This new translation, which is more faithful to the Latin text, also draws more explicitly from Luke 2:14 which says, "*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased.*" How do we please God? Jesus taught us in the Our Father: "*Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.*" When we live in God's will, as his beloved sons and daughters, then we can be called his children of "good will." It is then, that his favor rests upon us. When we live outside of God's will, and reject his love, then his favor does not rest upon us. These new words of the Gloria are a helpful reminder that we are in relationship with God and that our choices matter. God desires to give us his peace, a peace the world cannot give. Are we willing to live in his will so that we can experience his peace? The choice is ours.

Fr. Jesse