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March 1969 • Newsletter of the *Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy*

“Finally, the Holy See confirmed the U.S. bishops’ approval of the biblical translations of the *Confraternity of Christian Doctrine* version, the *Jerusalem Bible*, and the **Revised Standard Version (Catholic edition)** for use with the projected lectionary of readings at Mass.”

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# Newsletter

BISHOPS' COMMITTEE ON THE LITURGY

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The mandate from the episcopal conferences to ICEL did not require a new English translation of the Bible. It is expected that the two American editions of the *Liturgy of the Hours* will employ the translation of the *New American Bible* for the biblical readings and for the biblical canticles which are used as psalms. This translation is most widely used in the United States for the readings at Mass. **There is nothing to prevent the use of the other versions of the Bible already authorized for liturgical celebration, namely, the *Jerusalem Bible* and the *Revised Standard Version (Catholic Edition)*, in the *Liturgy of the Hours* or in excerpts from it.**

### Translation of the Psalms

**In the United States, four versions of the psalms are now approved for liturgical use: *New American Bible* (formerly CCD), *Jerusalem Bible*, *Revised Standard Version (Catholic Edition)*, and the *Grail*. Ordinarily, therefore, editors and publishers would have been free to include one or other of the four approved versions**

**I**TS EDITORS LEFT NO STONE turned in their quest for the best versions of these ancient Catholic hymns, combing through centuries of English translations from the sixteenth century to the present day. In the process, they have revealed much little-known material, and some that is published in a hymnal for the first time. [They] navigate this difficult terrain with assurance; indeed, the editors’ explanation of the Urbanite reform and its impact on English translators is a model of clarity, and contains information this reviewer has not encountered elsewhere.

—Dr. Aaron James: 2019 review of the *Brébeuf Catholic Hymnal* in the *Journal of the Society for Catholic Liturgy* • <https://ocwatershed.org/hymn/>

### Lectionary

There will be four editions of the lectionary, employing the various approved versions:

New American Version (CCD), Jerusalem Bible, Revised Standard Version (Catholic Edition).

1. Benziger, Inc., New York—\$29.50 (Jerusalem Bible).
2. Catholic Book, New York—\$25.00 (New American Version—CCD).
3. Liturgical Press, Collegeville, Minn.—\$22.50 (Revised Standard Version—Catholic Edition).
4. Liturgical Press—\$1.25 per month (New American Version—CCD).

The above are complete bound volumes; the following is a loose-leaf lectionary, on subscription basis:

1. Liturgical Press—\$1.25 per month (New American Version—CCD).
- All the lectionaries contain the ICEL responses and similar texts; all employ the translation of the psalms from the respective version of the Bible.
- Note.* The liturgical year 1970 (beginning Advent 1969) is counted as *Year B* in the three-year cycle of readings for Sundays and feast days; as *Year II* for the two-year cycle of first readings in the weekday lectionary for the period *per annum*.

### The Lectionary—Complete List of Readings

For study purposes, as well as for those who prefer to read the liturgical lessons from the Bible itself, the USCC Publications Office has issued the ICEL translation of the official *Ordo Lectionum Missae*. This contains the complete listing of readings for the celebration of Mass throughout the year in the new three-year cycle, with chapter and verse indications, together with the short headings which indicate the content of each selection or its special theme. In addition, the book contains the introductory material concerning the plan of the lectionary, all the responses and similar texts (together with indications of appointed psalm verses), and a full index.

With this listing of readings, it is possible for the particular biblical passage to be marked in a complete edition of the Bible and used in the celebration of Mass. It will thus enable lectors and clergy to employ **any one of the approved translations** (New American Version or CCD; Jerusalem Bible; Revised Standard Version, Catholic Edition), without obtaining three full lectionaries.

### Responses from the Holy See

The following is a summary of responses from the Holy See on the liturgical matters which were acted upon at the November 1968 meeting of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

#### I. Confirmation of Decrees

1. *Simple Gradual*. The approbation of the "English translation of the antiphons, responses, and other parts of the *Graduale Simplex*, prepared by the International Committee on English in the Liturgy" was confirmed (Consilium, 2709/68, December 9, 1968).
2. *Supplement to the Simple Gradual*. The approbation of "other collections of psalms and antiphons in English . . . as supplements to the Simple Gradual, for liturgical use in the dioceses of the United States, including psalms arranged in responsorial form, metrical and similar versions of psalms, provided they are used in accordance with the principles of the Simple Gradual and are selected in harmony with the liturgical season, feast, or occasion" was confirmed (*ibid.*).
3. *Eucharistic prayers and prefaces*. The approbation of the "English translations prepared by the International Committee on English in the Liturgy for the new prefaces, the four eucharistic prayers, including the revised translation of the Roman Canon, and the acclamations" was confirmed (Consilium, cablegram, November 13, 1968; A 478/68, December 17, 1968).
4. *Lectionary*. The decree "that the English translations of the Holy Bible known as the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, the Jerusalem Bible, and the Revised Standard Version (Catholic Edition) may be used in liturgical services in the revised Roman *Ordo lectionum*" was confirmed (Consilium, 2709/68, December 9, 1968).

...because those "principles" are so well known right? Surely any Catholic could easily recite those "principles" without difficulty, right? Also, we have a bridge to sell you...

