

The USCCB has enforced these policies over the last five decades in a (let's just say) not exactly "even-handed" way. Indeed, their conduct has been shameful, arbitrary, unjust, and damaging.

SINCE the 1970s, many Catholic publishers have not been in compliance with clear directives from legitimate Church authorities, refusing to print the "Gradual prayer" in any of their publications. In the Reformed Rite of the Mass, the *Gradual* is a valid option to be sung after the First Reading. At this time, we urge all publishers to please consider following the directives of the Church. The *Gradual* (and all Mass Propers) must be printed in any books that will be used by the faithful.

On 23 April 2009, the Bishop's *Committee on Divine Worship* once again affirmed that all Mass propers (including the *Offertory* and *Gradual*) must be included in each participation aid and hymnal:

4. In particular, from the approved liturgical books to the simplest participation aids, publications should provide the greatest possible diversity and options, as expected by the liturgical reform. No publication should limit, directly or indirectly, the breadth of choice open to the priest and other ministers, the leaders of song, parish and community worship committees, or others who participate in planning liturgical celebration.

37. The arrangement or selection of liturgical texts must not result in the suppression of alternatives and options for the congregation (or for the celebrant and other ministers, as applicable).

37b. The publisher does not have the authority to make unilateral selection of liturgical texts among the options available.

The Saint John Brébeuf Hymnal **"has no parallel and not even any close competitor."**

— Author for the *Church Music Association of America* weblog • 10 June 2022