

The Eucharistic Prayer's Prayers - The Mystery of Faith

The brief dialogue following the *Anamnesis*, or Institution Narrative, is one of the places where the words we use - both priest's and people's - will see some changes with the new translation of the Mass prayers. The priest's part: *Let us proclaim the mystery of faith*, will be shortened to simply *The mystery of faith*. The three possible responses will be: *We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again. Or: When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again. Or: Save us, Savior of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.* The words "the mystery of faith" began appearing in the Eucharistic Prayer only around the seventh century, and were officially included in the Roman Missal only in the late fifteenth century, though not as the dialogue between priest and people as we have known it for the past 40 years. When the revisions of the Missal following the Second Vatican Council were underway it was first recommended that these words be eliminated from the text. But as it turned out, the words were kept and developed into the Memorial Acclamation we know today. This dialogue-prayer between priest and people serves to enable and enhance the active participation of the people, in keeping with the importance of the full, conscious, and active participation of all present at Mass. The first of the three acclamation responses comes from "*the venerable Antiochene Anaphora of Saint James, the Brother of the Lord*" {I just copied that one directly out of the book, I have no idea what it is - dk}; the second one comes from Saint Paul {I have heard of him - dk}; and the third is inspired by concepts in a couple of other New Testament texts, and is the only one that does not mention the second coming of Christ.

Please let us know what else about our faith tradition you'd like to find out more about.
Contact our Council for Catechesis at tkautza@saintmaryhc.org.