

## *What Will We Be Saying and Why?*

### *Two Hundred or So*

Over the past year and a half I have received a blizzard of advertising and marketing materials from numerous catholic publishers, promoting a vast array of re-educational materials on the revised English translation of the Roman Missal. Among the many items offered are “pew cards” that have the Mass prayers and responses said by the people, some with the changed words highlighted. (We have purchased a supply of such pew cards, and will place them in the pews prior to November 27<sup>th</sup>, when we will begin using the new translation.) Most of the changes in the new translation come in the prayers the priest prays, with a much smaller number of new words and phrases for the people in the pews. How much smaller a number? Just how many changed words are there? To find out, I personally counted all the highlighted words on two different versions of pew cards, and had another parish staff person do the same. We came up with a count of about 200 new words, some counted more than once as they are repeated several times through the Mass. Of course, the significance of these changes in the Missal are far greater than a mere word count. But I offer this light hearted reflection and word count simply to point out that, for all that has been said about the changes that are coming, what will be involved for those in the pews is really quite simple (though perhaps not easy to change what is so very familiar). As noted, by far the greatest share of the changes and additions are in the priest’s prayers, though the new sound or style those prayers will require greater attentiveness on the part of all, and take some time to get used to. As we begin using the new texts, I will use this column to reflect on some of the specifics of those texts and why the changes were made.

*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](mailto:tkautza@saintmaryhc.org).*