For many people, change does not come easy. Change requires us to stop doing things a certain way in order to do something else. Many people find comfort in familiar routines and known ways of acting. Change interrupts those familiar routines. But change is also an opportunity to stop and reflect on what we are doing and to come to a better understanding of God, who does not change.

Why does the Church change the liturgy?

In its Liturgy, the Church always attempts to follow the “norm of the holy Fathers.” This effort “requires not only the preservation of what our immediate forebears have handed on to us, but also an understanding and a more profound pondering of the Church’s entire past . . . this broader view allows us to see how the Holy Spirit endows the People of God with a marvelous fidelity in preserving the unalterable deposit of faith, even though there is a very great variety of prayers and rites” (General Instruction of the Roman Missal, no. 9).

The Liturgy must, therefore, always celebrate and make present the Paschal Sacrifice of Christ—his saving Passion, death, Resurrection, and Ascension. However, over time, it may become necessary to make certain changes, such as adding prayers for recently canonized saints and adding texts that reflect the needs that the People of God wish to bring to God in prayer. The third edition of the Roman Missal makes such additions and provides a fresh translation of the Latin texts of the existing content of the Missal.

What exactly is changing?

The structure of the Mass (the order of the elements, the actions of the priest celebrant, and so forth) remains unchanged in the new edition of the Roman Missal. However, the translation of the prayer texts will change to more closely reflect the original Latin texts. In some cases, new options for prayers may be available, and some old options may no longer be present.

Times of change are always a challenge. But from this challenge can come a deeper appreciation of who we are as the Body of Christ, gathering to celebrate the Paschal Mystery of the Lord.

(Continued next month…)

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Edmundite Campus Ministry Events (Continued)

Our permanent community members offer students the opportunity to enjoy a home environment while they are away from their families. Please pick up an application at the entrances of the Chapel or contact Anna Lester at 654.2897.

The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA): A program for those who would like to become Catholic and learn more about Catholicism and the Sacraments. Sessions begin Tuesday, September 20th; 7:00 to 8:00 p.m., and run thru April at Saint Lawrence Parish Hall, Essex Junction. Contact 654.2333 if you are interested in participating.

Bishop’s Fund—September 18th: A second collection will be taken after communion to support Diocesan programs through the Bishop’s Fund. Envelopes will be available at each entrance of the Chapel.

Blessing of the Animals: On the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, October 4th, we will have a blessing of animals on the front steps of the Chapel, 5:30 p.m.

Liturgical Workshop: New Roman Missal, October 1st, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. — Vermont Room, Alliot Hall. Fr. William Graham, from Duluth’s College of St. Scholastica will lead us in a presentation and discussion on the changes in the New Roman Missal beginning in September 2011. Lunch will be included. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to: Lsa-bens@smcvt.edu or call 654.2333.

Faculty & Staff Programs

Pontigny Society: We will be reading Orthodoxy by G. K. Chesterton for the fall semester. Sessions will be held at 11:45 a.m. on Mondays, Sept. 19th, Oct. 10th, and Nov. 14th in the Upper Room of the Chapel; a luncheon will be served. All faculty and staff are welcome. Please RSVP to Anna Lester at 654.2897.

September 7th: M.O.V.E. and Wilderness Open House, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., Library Lawn.

September 21st and 22nd: Extended Service Informational Meetings (Domestic & International); 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the Upper Room of the Chapel.

October 1st: Fall Serv-a-thon. Volunteer opportunities at various sites. 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. with lunch provided. Sign up on the M.O.V.E. Bulletin Board.

October 6th: Mark J. Fizulich ’97 Annual Red Cross Blood Drive, 12:00 to 5:30 p.m., Tarrant Center. Sign up in M.O.V.E. or call 654.2674 for more information.

September 23rd and 24th: Silent Auction (Homecoming). This is M.O.V.E.’s largest fundraising event. To be held Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. If you have any items that you would like to donate, please call the M.O.V.E. office at 654-2674.

Beginning the first Sunday of Advent November 27, 2011, the New Translation of the Roman Missal will be introduced in our liturgies. The Roman Missal outlines the way we celebrate the Mass and instructs us as to the prayers and responses of the priest and the assembly. On the back page of each bulletin this fall, we will be sharing some information from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops as we prepare to implement the changes associated with the New Roman Missal.

VITA is a group of students who are committed to ministering to other students through practicing our faith and leading many of the liturgical, retreat, and service programs. Student-led programs include:

Link: A large group that meets weekly and combines discussion, meditation, music and more to help bridge the gap between our college and faith lives. Everyone is welcome to join us! Wednesdays, September 7th, 14th, and 21st. 8:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Upper Room of the Chapel.

Connections: Come join us for weekly small faith-based discussion with an emphasis on Scripture and reflections on your faith life in college. See flyers in lobby of Chapel for locations, dates, and times.

Desert & the Divine: Enjoy food and fellowship with other Christians! We will have our first gathering on Wednesday, September 28th, at 8:00 p.m. in the Upper Room of the Chapel. Contact Anna Lester for more information at 654.2897.