

## **UNDERSTANDING THE REVISED MASS TEXTS (7 of 11)**

*New Words: A Deeper Meaning, but the Same Mass*

### **“LORD, I AM NOT WORTHY...”**

Today, we continue with the seventh of 11 weekly articles regarding the implementation of the updated version of *The Roman Missal* on the First Sunday of Advent, November 27, 2011.

After the Lord’s Prayer and the Sign of Peace, we sing (or recite) the Lamb of God as the Priest breaks the sacred Host. The “Lamb of God” text remains unchanged, though it is good to recall its origin. It comes from the words of John the Baptist, as he heralds Christ’s arrival at the River Jordan: “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world” (Jn 1:29). That passage from the Gospel of John is also embedded in the subsequent line spoken by the Priest, while he holds the Host over the chalice:

*Priest:* **Behold** the Lamb of God, **behold him** who takes away the sins of the world. **Blessed** are those **called to the supper of the Lamb**.

*All:* Lord, I am not worthy **that you should enter under my roof**, but only say the word and **my soul** shall be healed.

The replacement of our current, “not worthy to receive you” with “I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof” is a significant change. The new line comes directly from the Gospels (Mt 8:8), in which the faith-filled centurion begs Jesus to heal his paralyzed servant: “Lord, I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof; only say the word and my servant will be healed.” It is a Biblical text that conveys our unworthiness on account of sin, and our need for sincere humility before receiving the Holy Eucharist.

We are therefore to make our bodies into fitting homes for God’s grace to dwell within our souls. The Eucharist is true food that provides spiritual nourishment, which is why we will refer more specifically to “my soul” in the last line.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (the USCCB) hosts a website dedicated to the implementation of the *Roman Missal* (<http://www.usccb.org/romanmissal>). We encourage you to review this for more information.

*Based upon Roman Missal Formational Materials provided by the Secretariat for the Liturgy of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2010 and “Understanding the Revised Mass Texts,” LTP*