

## Bishops at a glance

Quick look at U.S. bishops' 2005 fall meeting in Washington

WASHINGTON (CNS) — At the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Nov. 14-17 fall general meeting in Washington, the bishops:

- Reaffirmed in a 237-4 vote their longtime opposition to use of the death penalty.

- Adopted revisions to the book of Scripture readings for children's Masses in the U.S., on a 203-17 vote, and sent them to the Vatican for confirmation.

- Approved new guidelines for the growing phenomenon of lay ecclesial ministry in U.S. parishes by a 190-49 vote.

- Elected Msgr. David J. Malloy, USCCB associate general secretary since 2001, to succeed Msgr. William P. Fay as USCCB general secretary in February.

- Voted to designate May 22 each year as a Day of Remembrance and Prayer for Mariners and People of the Sea.

- Approved, by a vote of 222-2, a proposal to seek Vatican approval to retain current dollar levels at which different controls kick in for the disposal of church property.

- Authorized in a voice vote a rewrite of their 1982 preaching manual in light of "current liturgical understanding and practice."

- Unanimously accepted revised guidelines for retired bishops, who indicated in the debate that they would prefer to be called something other than "retired."

- Approved a \$131.2 million USCCB budget for 2006 that could result in up to \$1.8 million in deficit spending.

- OK'd a series of USCCB priorities and plans that are meant to rein in spending until the bishops complete a plan to streamline conference activities.

- Responded with a standing ovation to a call from Bishop William S. Skylstad of Spokane, Wash., USCCB president, to support and encourage their priests.

- Celebrated Mass together at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and joined with guests of other faiths at a concert marking the 40th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council's declaration on non-Christian religions.

- Held an informational session to prepare for the upcoming English translation of the Roman Missal for use in the United States.

- Heard a report from their hurricane relief task force that was strongly critical of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

- Consented in a voice vote to support the canonization cause of Fray Bartolome de las Casas, a Spanish friar who argued against the enslavement of native peoples by Spanish conquistadors.



# FaithLife

Bi-weekly news bulletin of the Catholic Diocese of Erie December 4, 2005 www.ErieRCD.org

## Bishops hold session on new Mass translation

Bishop Trautman says bishops divided on Roman Missal translation

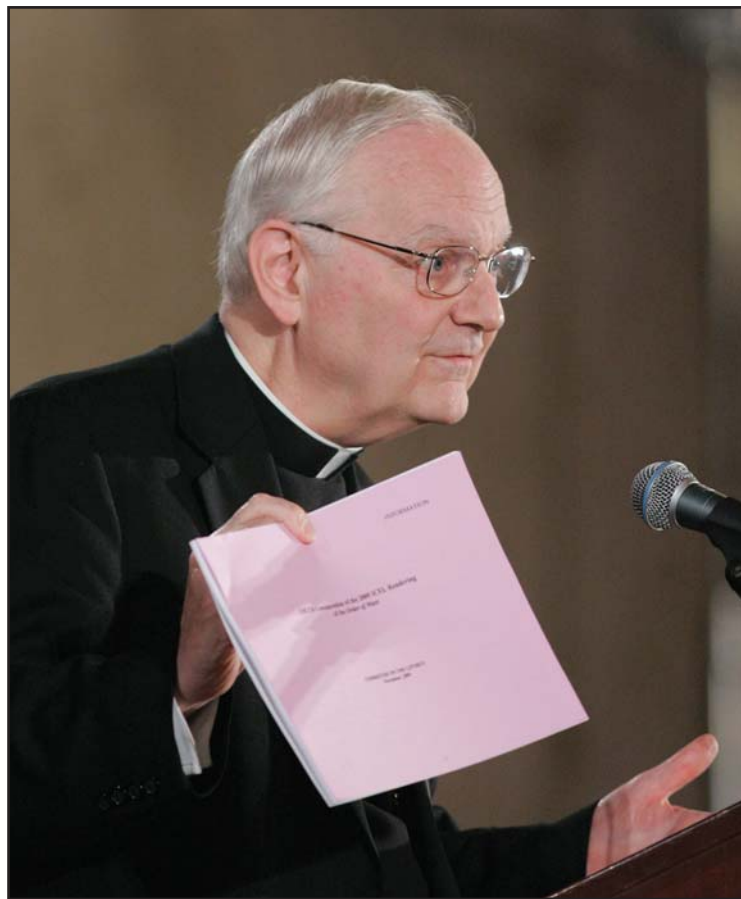
By Jerry Filteau  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops held an hour-long informational session Nov. 14, the first day of the bishops' fall meeting, to prepare for one of the biggest liturgical projects they will face in the next two or three years — an entirely new English translation of the Roman Missal for use in the United States.

Bishop Donald Trautman of Erie, chairman of the Committee on Liturgy, moderated a half-hour panel presentation and led a half-hour question-answer session on the ins and outs of what the bishops can expect to deal with as they move through the translation approval process.

On the main features of the new translation, he said written consultations with the bishops have shown a major division within the hierarchy.

The current U.S. English version of the Roman Missal was adopted shortly after the Second Vatican Council, under Vatican-established translation rules that then favored accommodation to the internal structure and rhythms of the receiving language rather than literal translation when more literal translation



CNS photo by Paul Haring

**Bishop Donald Trautman, chairman of the bishops' liturgy committee, holds up a copy of a document concerning proposed changes to a new English translation of the Roman Missal. Bishop Trautman moderated an informational session on the translation process Nov. 14 at the meeting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington.**

of the Latin text would result in stilted, awkward or difficult phrasing in the receiving language. Linguists call that approach to translation "dynamic equivalence."

The Vatican recently rewrote the liturgical translation rules and now requires, as a general rule, that translations adhere more strictly to the original Latin — an approach called "formal

equivalence" by linguists.

Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago, the U.S. bishops' representative on the International Committee on English in the Liturgy, which drafts common liturgical translations for consideration by bishops' conferences throughout the English-speaking world, said there is an ongoing tension between the two approaches. While the former translation rules favored "accommodation to the receiver language," the newer rules favor "fidelity to the original" over accommodation, he said.

Bishop Trautman said the responses from bishops to two national surveys indicated very different attitudes among the bishops themselves on what the style of liturgical language should be: What one bishop regarded as elevated language that enhanced the liturgy another described as "turgid" and another complained about as "not American English."

The argument on one side is that the Latin reflects biblical passages that are not so recognizably evoked by the current English translation. The main argument on the other side is that since Catholics have prayed the other versions for the past 35 years it will be pastorally unsettling and harmful to make them abandon the form they are used to.

## People's prayers & responses during Mass

At the end of a session on a new English translation of the Roman Missal, U.S. bishops were asked to express their opinions in a written survey on three specific issues dealing with people's prayers or responses during the Mass:

**W**hen the priest says, "**The Lord be with you,**" should the people continue the current response, "**And also with you,**" or be required to give a response more literally translated from the Latin "Et cum spiritu tuo" — "**And with your spirit**"?

**B**efore Communion, should the people's prayer continue to say, "**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you ...**" or should they pray a more literal version of the original Latin, "Domine, non sum dignus ut intres sub tectum meum ..." — "**Lord, I am not worthy that you should**

**enter under my roof ...**"?

**S**hould the Gloria translation remain as it currently is, or should the fuller Latin text be restored in the English translation? A portion in the current version, "**We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory,**" compresses the Latin, which says — in full translation — "**We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory.**"

The results of the survey announced Nov. 15 showed that on all three texts a majority of the bishops preferred the current translation to the proposed new translation.

On the response "And also with you" and on the current version of the Gloria, 58 percent of the

bishops said the current text is better. Regarding "Lord, I am not worthy ..." 55 percent of the bishops wanted to keep the current version.

The bishops were faced with conflicting rules regarding the translation of the prayers and responses of the people

during Mass. On the one hand, the new rules call for greater fidelity to the original in translating everything, including the people's parts; on the other, the rules say that some exceptions can be made, especially in the people's parts, for pastoral reasons.

### Bishops split on translation

At the U.S. Bishops' meeting in Washington Nov. 14-17, Bishop Trautman presented the results of two nationwide consultations on a draft text of the new missal translation.

