

*Announcement for the 8:00 a.m. Mass community:
February 21-22, 2004 – Singing the Gospel Acclamation*

The *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* calls for several changes in the way we look at the Mass and the ways we ‘do’ parts of the Mass. **You will notice soon** that we will be singing the *Gospel Acclamation* before the Gospel. Here’s why:

The *General Instruction* reminds us that, “...After the reading that immediately precedes the Gospel, the *Alleluia* or another chant indicated by the rubrics is sung, as required by the liturgical season... By it the assembly of the faithful welcomes and greets the Lord who is about to speak to them in the Gospel, and professes its faith by singing. All stand and sing the [*Gospel Acclamation*], led by the choir or a cantor...”

The *General Instruction* goes on to say that, “During Lent, in place of the *Alleluia*, the verse before the Gospel is sung, as indicated in the Lectionary...”

It is important to note that the *General Instruction* places a very high value on congregational and ministerial singing, especially at Sunday Mass. By way of example, it recommends that *Alleluia*, Gospel Acclamation, or verse before the Gospel **may be omitted if it is not sung**. Thus, the *Alleluia* and verse should never be read.

Now, please recall an earlier announcement made from the *General Instruction*, that there should be a period of silence observed after the second reading. The goal there is to promote the meditative reading and receiving of the Word of God. This practice dovetails with the introduction of the custom of singing the Gospel Acclamation. As a result...

The 8:00 a.m. Mass community will begin the practice of singing the Gospel Acclamation on the First Sunday of Lent. The Cantor, after a significant silence following the second reading, will approach the ambo and proclaim the Gospel Acclamation – an indication to the entire congregation to stand.

We hope this reflection will help all of us enter more deeply into the prayer of the Church at liturgy. Thank you.