

## *A sort of examination of conscience*

- Is the Liturgy lived as the 'origin and summit' of ecclesial life, in accordance with the teaching of Sacrosanctum Concilium?
- Has the rediscovery of the value of the Word of God brought about by liturgical reform met with a positive confirmation in our celebrations?
- To what extent does the Liturgy affect the practice of the faithful and does it mark the rhythm of the individual communities? Is it seen as a path of holiness, an inner force of apostolic dynamism and of the Church's missionary outreach?

cf. Pope John Paul II, *Spiritus et Sponsa* 6.

## *The General Instruction of the Roman Missal*

### *Silence*

56. The Liturgy of the Word is to be celebrated in such a way as to promote meditation, and so any sort of haste that hinders recollection must clearly be avoided. During the Liturgy of the Word, it is also appropriate to include brief periods of silence, accommodated to the gathered assembly, in which, at the prompting of the Holy Spirit, the word of God may be grasped by the heart and a response through prayer may be prepared. It may be appropriate to observe such periods of silence, for example, before the Liturgy of the Word itself begins, after the First and Second Reading, and lastly at the conclusion of the Homily.

### *Music*

40. Great importance should therefore be attached to the use of singing in the celebration of the Mass, with due consideration for the culture of the people and abilities of each liturgical assembly. Although it is not always necessary (e.g., in weekday Masses) to sing all the texts that are of themselves meant to be sung, every care should be taken that singing by the ministers and the people is not absent in celebrations that occur on Sundays and on holy days of obligation.

In the choosing of the parts actually to be sung, however, preference should be given to those that are of greater importance and especially to those to be sung by the priest or the deacon or the lector, with the people responding, or by the priest and people together.

*What sort of formation issues do these texts raise for you?*

Excerpts from the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* © 2004, ICEL, Inc. One of a series of resources produced by the Liturgy Office of the Bishops' Conference to accompany the publication of the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* and *Celebrating the Mass* © 2005 Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.  
[www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Resources](http://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Resources)

**Liturgy  
Office**  
ENGLAND  
& WALES

R003

