

The 2003 General Instruction of the Roman Missal quoted from the *Ecumenical Council of Trent* to highlight the importance of teaching at Mass: “Lest Christ’s flock go hungry . . . the Holy Synod commands pastors and all others having the care of souls to give frequent instructions during the celebration of Mass, either personally or through others [commentator], concerning what is read at Mass; among other things, they should include some explanation of the mystery of this most holy Sacrifice, especially on Sundays and Holy Days, #11.” In response to this command a five part series of Teaching Masses were developed from the General Instruction to assist with introducing the New Translation of the Roman Missal. This document is intended to be used for five consecutive weekends.

The Teaching Mass also includes bulletin inserts for each of the five weekends. These could then be taken home and studied further.

A special copy of the Teaching Mass is provided for the commentator to read during each Mass, specifying when each commentary should be read. The General Instruction of the Roman Missal clearly defines the liturgical function of a commentator: “The commentator, who provides the faithful, when appropriate, with brief explanations and commentaries with the purpose of introducing them to the celebration and preparing them to understand it better. The commentator’s remarks must be meticulously prepared and clear, though brief. In performing this function the commentator stands in an appropriate place facing the faithful, but not at the ambo, #105.” The commentator could also be present to help the people with all the new responses.

By spreading the Teaching Masses over five weekends, the teaching is kept brief so as not to distract from the sacred character of the Mass. We hope many will benefit from a greater appreciation and understanding of the Mass which these teachings can provide. To use them at your parish they are available at the Diocesan website [www.dioceseofbaker.org](http://www.dioceseofbaker.org) . If you do not have access to the internet you may call the Chancery at (541) 388-4004 and request a complete set to be mailed to you. We pray that as we introduce The New Translation of the Roman Missal these Teaching Masses will be beneficial to your parish.