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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Catholic Monk Tells Insider Story on the New Catholic Mass
National Tour Begins October 8th**

Starting November 27, 2011, Catholics across the United States will be facing a new translation of the mass on Sundays as part of a Vatican-mandated change for all English-speaking Catholics globally. The new mass translations come as a result of a decade-long political battle between the Vatican and its own International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL) that oversees the liturgy in English-speaking countries.

A Catholic monk and liturgy professor, Fr. Anthony Ruff, OSB, served at ICEL and obediently followed the Vatican mandates until this year when he published an "Open Letter to the U.S. Catholic Bishops on the Forthcoming Missal" in *America*, a Catholic Magazine. In the letter, he stated he would withdraw himself from the process and declared, "I have concluded that I cannot promote the new missal translation with integrity."

Fr. Anthony is now traveling the country to educate Catholics about the real history behind the new mass translations. Call To Action, the country's largest Catholic church justice organization, is coordinating the tour as part of its work to educate and empower Catholic laity to seek changes in church structures that would promote greater justice for Catholics in the United States and globally.

Fr. Anthony wrote in his letter: "It has been an honor to serve until recently as chairperson of the music committee of the International Commission on English in the Liturgy that prepared all the chants for the new missal.... [However] The forthcoming missal is but a part of a larger pattern of top-down impositions by a central authority that does not consider itself accountable to the larger church."

"When I think of how secretive the translation process was, how little consultation was done with priests or laity," said Ruff, "how the Holy See allowed a small group to hijack the translation at the final stage,...how this text was imposed on national conferences of bishops in violation of their legitimate

episcopal authority, how much deception and mischief have marked this process—and then when I think of Our Lord’s teachings on service and love and unity...I weep.”

“The Vatican is clearly out of touch with the needs of Catholics today,” said Jim FitzGerald, Executive Director of Call To Action. “Catholics in the pews, including myself, are concerned about the increasing priest shortage and the need for more women in leadership. We’re concerned about the continuing clergy sexual abuse cover-up and the safety of our children,” said FitzGerald. “Catholicism is in a time of crisis. Changing the words of mass to better reflect Latin is not the type of leadership we need today.”

A recent study by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University showed that the majority of Catholics are unaware of the coming new mass translations.

<http://www.osv.com/tabid/7621/itemid/8293/Survey-Most-Catholics-unaware-of-Mass-revisions.aspx>

The tour will cross the United States, reaching from California to New York beginning in 2011 and extending into 2012. For more information, visit www.cta-usa.org/keepusinyourprayers.

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For more information, see:

An Open Letter to the U.S. Catholic Bishops on the Forthcoming Missal by Fr. Anthony Ruff, OSB
http://www.americamagazine.org/content/article.cfm?article_id=12688

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Website on the Missal
<http://old.usccb.org/romanmissal/>

Misguided Missal, analysis of the new mass translations
<http://misguidedmissal.com>

Call To Action
<http://www.cta-usa.org>