

August 17, 1964

Reverend Arthur L. Wood
St. Elizabeth Church
1020 East Burnett Avenue
Louisville, Kentucky 40217

Dear Reverend Father:

In due time I received your request for permission to recite the Divine Office in English instead of Latin.

In reply, permit me to say that I am pleased to know that you desire to play your part as perfectly as possible in this official prayer of the Church. For, as the Council states (par. 84), "when this wonderful song of praise is rightly performed . . . it is the very prayer which Christ himself, together with his body, addresses to the Father."

Accordingly, on the basis of your present estimate that "the use of Latin constitutes a grave obstacle to your praying the Office properly," I hereby grant permission for you to use one of the two English versions of the Breviary, approved by the Bishops of this Country, in reciting the Divine Office, all other details of your obligation remaining unchanged.

This permission shall be valid until the present form of the Office has been supplanted by a new form, in accordance with the mandate of the Council as explained in paragraphs 89 ssq. of the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, a period estimated at perhaps five years.

In granting this favor, may I not urge you to study prayerfully the entire Chapter on the Divine Office in the aforementioned Constitution. In particular, I ask you to consider the points indicated in the enclosed memorandum.

With expressions of good wishes, I remain,

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Archbishop of Louisville