Parts of the Mass for Priest and People together

During the celebration of Mass, especially on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation, there are three parts that the priest and people pray together. These are the Glory to God, the Profession of Faith, and the Lord’s Prayer. With all three of these parts, the priest and people sing or say as one body these texts at different times of the Mass. In each of these cases, the priest celebrant begins by intoning or saying the first line of the Glory to God and the Profession of Faith or by giving the introduction to the Our Father and then the people join in so that the head and members of the liturgical assembly become the voice of the Church as the voice of Christ. The Lord’s Prayer remains unchanged in the revised English translation of the Roman Missal.

The revised English translation of the Glory to God from the Latin original as a more faithful translation compared to what we presently sing or say brings forward a hymn text that more expressly identifies the three divine persons in the Most Blessed Trinity, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit in one God. The language of praise is richer and more expansive. The translation, with its more than fifty percent difference from our current translation, allows for an easily sung and proclaimed setting. Prayerfully read the new translation below and compare it to the English Glory to God now in use.

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
    have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

In the Profession of Faith, the Creed, the revised English translation, although a distinct grammatical form than the hymn text of the Glory to God, also allows for an easily sung or proclaimed text which is more faithful to the original Latin. One of the first points to notice is the translation of Credo, the first word of the Creed which is in the first person singular, as “I believe” in English. This more literal translation identifies that the profession of faith, in the course of the celebration of the Sacred Liturgy, belongs to the single body of Christ in every place and in every time. This “I believe” is repeated three additional times to allow for an emphasis of this point, as well as to allow for an aid to congregational recitation. Two additional points include the use of the word, “consubstantial” and “incarnate” as English cognates of the Latin original to more accurately translate most significant theological ideas. Prayerfully read the new translation below and compare it to the English Profession of Faith now in use.

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**Reflection Questions:**

1. How does the Glory to God strengthen my faith and understanding of the mystery of the Most Blessed Trinity, three divine persons in one God?

2. How can articles of belief in the Profession of Faith continue to inform my own knowledge of the Faith?

3. How can I become more aware that I am part of whole Church when I sing or say with others the Glory to God and the Profession of Faith?

**Prayer:**

God of mercy,
you wash away our sins in water,
you give us new birth in the Spirit,
and redeem us in the blood of Christ.
As we celebrate Christ’s resurrection
increase our awareness of these blessings,
and renew your gift of life within us.

We ask this through our Lord
Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and
the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.