



Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs

3211 FOURTH STREET NE • WASHINGTON DC 20017-1194 • 202-541-3020 • FAX 202-541-3183

EMAIL: SEIAMAIL@USCCB.ORG • WWW.USCCB.ORG

To: Publishers of Worship Aids, including hymnals and Missals

From: Most Reverend Steven J. Lopes, Chairman, Committee on Divine Worship
Most Reverend David P. Talley, Chairman, Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs

Date: February 1, 2023

Re: Required Notice in Worship Participation Aids

The Committee on Divine Worship and the Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs have instituted a new requirement that all participation aids for worship publish the following notice (in English, Spanish, or both, depending on the nature of your publication) prior to the printing of the text of the passion narrative on Good Friday:

The passion narratives are proclaimed in full so that all see vividly the love of Christ for each person. In light of this, the crimes during the Passion of Christ cannot be attributed, in either preaching or catechesis, indiscriminately to all Jews of that time, nor to Jews today. The Jewish people should not be referred to as though rejected or cursed, as if this view followed from Scripture. The Church ever keeps in mind that Jesus, his mother Mary, and the apostles all were Jewish. As the Church has always held, Christ freely suffered his passion and death because of the sins of all, that all might be saved.

Las narraciones de la pasión se proclaman en su totalidad para que todos vean vívidamente el amor de Cristo por cada persona. A la luz de esto, los crímenes durante la Pasión de Cristo no pueden atribuirse, ni en la predicación ni en la catequesis, indiscriminadamente a todos los judíos de ese tiempo, ni a los judíos de hoy. El pueblo judío no debe ser referido como si fuera reprobado de Dios o maldito, como si este punto de vista se dedujera de las Sagradas Escrituras. La Iglesia siempre tiene en mente que Jesús, su madre María y los apóstoles eran todos judíos. Como la Iglesia siempre ha sostenido, Cristo sufrió libremente su pasión y muerte a causa de los pecados de todos, para que todos pudieran ser salvados.

For annual, seasonal, or monthly publications, this requirement will go into effect in 2024. For more permanent publications, such as hymnals and hand missals, the notice must be included from the next reprint.

Should you have any questions, please contact Ms. Mary Elizabeth Sperry, Associate Director of the Office for the Biblical Apostolate, at msperry@uscce.org or 202-541-3098. On behalf of the committees, thank you for your cooperation and for your good work in aiding the prayer of the faithful.