

## Guidelines

### for the Presentation of Liturgical Texts to the Dicastery for the Eastern Churches

(Patriarchal, Major Archiepiscopal, and Metropolitan Churches *sui iuris*)

Prot. N. 172/2025, 24 November 2025

1. The relevant norms are found in the CCEO, can. 657, and are further explained in the *Instruction for Applying the Liturgical Prescriptions of the Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches*, nn. 24 and 25. The Patriarchal, Major Archiepiscopal, and Metropolitan Churches *sui iuris* are required to present the liturgical texts to the Apostolic See for a “*recognitio praevia*,” while for the translations of an *editio typica* into other languages it is sufficient to send a “*relatio*” on the matter to the Apostolic See.
2. When submitting a text to the Dicastery to obtain a “*recognitio*,” the instructions set forth herein must be strictly observed. ***Texts submitted in a manner that does not conform to these norms will not be considered and may not be put into use.***
3. The request must be addressed to the Prefect of the Dicastery for the Eastern Churches by the Head of the Church *sui iuris*. Each attached text must be clearly accompanied by a complete and accurate bibliographical reference written in the language of the letter to the Prefect, specifying the sending Church and the date of transmission, the date of composition and the language of the attached text, and include a concise description of its content.
4. An accompanying report is required which includes the following: a description of the current situation, the reasons for the initiative, how it responds to what is indicated in the *Instruction* in n. 12 in the case of changes interpreted as “organic progress” (CCEO, can. 40 par. 1), the opinions on the matter within the Synod of Bishops or the Council of Hierarchs, and the experts consulted and involved in the process.
5. A copy of the text currently in use and/or the “base text” on which the text in question was formulated must be submitted. If the base text has not previously received approval from the Apostolic See, the reasons for its selection must be explained.

6. Every modification to the current text or to the original text must be clearly and comprehensively indicated, including, where appropriate, a synoptic comparison. In addition, for each proposed modification, the following must be explained:
  - i. the reason the modification is proposed;
  - ii. whether it reflects a practice that is already widespread;
  - iii. if so, in which places, for what duration, and with what form of approval it was introduced.
7. The report must include an analysis of the corresponding practice in other *sui iuris* Churches of the same ritual family and in the corresponding Orthodox Churches, reflecting on what the ecumenical consequences of any changes might be.
8. The texts must be accompanied by a translation in Italian, French, or English.
9. Ecclesiastical authorities are asked to remember that the study procedure and evaluation will require a reasonable amount of time.
10. Texts requiring a *recognitio* may be considered approved only upon receipt of the official written response of the Apostolic See. Texts requiring a *relatio* may be considered approved by the Synod of Bishops or the Council of Hierarchs of the Church *sui iuris* only after receipt of the official written response of the Holy See, attesting that there is no objection thereto.
11. Once the texts have been definitively approved by the Synod of Bishops or the Council of Hierarchs, they may be published by the authorities of the Church concerned. Two copies of the published texts are to be sent to the Dicastery for the Eastern Churches.
12. The authorities of the *sui iuris* Churches are not competent to modify or supplement texts approved as *editio typica*. Any modification or addition requires an explicit request to the Dicastery for the Eastern Churches, submitted in accordance with the indications set forth above.

## Guidelines

### for the Presentation of Liturgical Texts to the Dicastery for the Eastern Churches (Other Churches *sui iuris*)

Prot. N. 172/2025, 24 November 2025

1. The relevant norms are found in the CCEO, can. 657, and are further explained in the *Instruction for Applying the Liturgical Prescriptions of the Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches*, nn. 24 and 25. For Churches *sui iuris* that are not Patriarchal, Major Archiepiscopal, or Metropolitan Churches *sui iuris*, it is up to the Apostolic See to approve both liturgical texts and translations.
2. When submitting a text to the Dicastery for approval, the instructions set forth herein must be strictly observed. ***Texts submitted in a manner that does not conform to these norms will not be considered and may not be put into use.***
3. The request must be addressed to the Prefect of the Dicastery for the Eastern Churches by the Head of the Church *sui iuris*. Each attached text must be clearly accompanied by a complete and accurate bibliographical reference written in the language of the letter to the Prefect, specifying the sending Church and the date of transmission, the date of composition and the language of the attached text, and include a concise description of its content.
4. An accompanying report is required which includes the following: a description of the current situation, the reasons for the initiative, how it responds to what is indicated in the *Instruction* in n. 12 in the case of changes interpreted as “organic progress” (CCEO, can. 40 par. 1), the opinions on the matter within the Synod of Bishops or the Council of Hierarchs, and the experts consulted and involved in the process.
5. A copy of the text currently in use and/or the “base text” on which the text in question was formulated must be submitted. If the base text has not previously received approval from the Apostolic See, the reasons for its selection must be explained.

6. Every modification to the current text or to the original text must be clearly and comprehensively indicated, including, where appropriate, a synoptic comparison. In addition, for each proposed modification, the following must be explained:
  - i. the reason the modification is proposed;
  - ii. whether it reflects a practice that is already widespread;
  - iii. if so, in which places, for what duration, and with what form of approval it was introduced.
7. The report must include an analysis of the corresponding practice in other *sui iuris* Churches of the same ritual family and in the corresponding Orthodox Churches, reflecting on what the ecumenical consequences of any changes might be.
8. The texts must be accompanied by a translation in Italian, French, or English.
9. Ecclesiastical authorities are asked to remember that the study procedure and evaluation will require a reasonable amount of time.
10. The texts require the approval of the Dicastery for the Eastern Churches and may be considered approved only upon receipt of the official written response from the Apostolic See.
11. Once the texts have been definitively approved by the Apostolic See, they may be published by the authorities of the Church concerned. Two copies of the published texts are to be sent to the Dicastery for the Eastern Churches.
12. The authorities of the *sui iuris* Churches are not competent to modify or supplement texts approved as *editio typica*. Any modification or addition requires an explicit request to the Dicastery for the Eastern Churches, submitted in accordance with the indications set forth above.