Overview of the translation process for liturgical texts in the USCCB

1. The Holy See issues a liturgical text in Latin (*editio typica*, or "typical edition")
   - Could be a Liturgical book, or a revised edition of a liturgical book, or an *ad hoc* text (e.g., for a new saint's day)

2. The International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL) prepares a draft translation
   - A base translator produces an initial translation
   - An 'Editorial Committee' of bishops and experts reviews the draft
   - The Commission itself reviews the work of the Editorial Committee, then votes approval of the text to become a Green Book ("first draft")
   - The Green Book is transmitted to Conferences for observations

3. The USCCB Secretariat for Divine Worship transmits the text to all bishops, typically with a six-month deadline to offer comments or suggestions
   - The suggestions are compiled and the USCCB forwards them to ICEL

4. ICEL (the bishops of the Commission) considers the comments, and then approves the Gray Book ("final draft"), which is transmitted to the Conferences

5. The USCCB Committee on Divine Worship reviews the Gray Book and decides whether to propose it to the bishops of the Conference for vote

6. If the Committee approves the text, it is distributed to all the bishops approximately six weeks before a plenary meeting, with a deadline for submission of suggestions approximately two weeks before the meeting

7. Just before the meeting, the Committee on Divine Worship reviews any suggestions it has received
   - Those that are accepted become part of the document proposed for vote
   - Bishops whose proposals were rejected are informed of the reason why

8. On the first day of the plenary meeting, the Chairman of Divine Worship introduces the text to the body of bishops and takes questions for clarification
   - Bishops can propose further amendments by the end of the first day
   - That evening, the Committee meets to consider any such amendments

9. On the second day of the plenary meeting, the text is put forward for vote
   - Amendments approved by the Committee on the previous day are voted for inclusion in the text, and proposed amendments rejected by the Committee are voted for rejection
   - From the floor, Bishops can request separate consideration of any of these amendments, with immediate vote as to whether or not they become part of the final document
   - Once proposals for amendments are settled, the bishops debate and then vote on the final form of the text; a two-thirds majority of Latin bishops is required for approval

10. The approved text is then sent to the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments for its *confirmatio* (and *recognitio* in the case of texts that alter the *typical edition* in any significant way)
    - An explanation of the text and a list of voting bishops are included in the documentation

11. Once approved by the Congregation:
    - The USCCB President sets a date at which use of the text becomes mandatory for use in this country
    - The Secretariat for Divine Worship works with publishers to prepare books for publication

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