

The Influence of Catholicism in Spanish to English Translation  
Danielle Maxson, CT – ATA65, Portland, OR, November 2024

### **Basic Terminology Tips**

I didn't mention these during the talk, but I see these mistakes often:

Culto: use “religion” or “religious” (for “de culto”), not “cult.” “El culto católico” is “the Catholic religion” and “objetos de culto” are “religious items” or “religious articles.”

Catholic Mass: the term “Mass” is always capitalized.

Templo: in English, a temple is a non-Christian religious building. If your Spanish text uses “templo,” translate it as “church.”

### **Print Resources**

All these books are available on Kindle:

*Catholicism for Dummies*, Rev. Fr. John Trigilio, Jr., PhD, ThD, and Rev. Fr. Kenneth Brighenti, PhD. Like other *Dummies* books, a wide-ranging basic introduction.

*Catholic Mass for Dummies*, Rev. John Trigilio, Jr., Rev. Kenneth Brighenti, and Rev. Monsignor James Cafone. Not just about the words of the Mass. This book covers a lot of background information, the vestments (clothing) priests wear, the liturgical year, church architecture, music, Eastern rite liturgies, Latin Mass, and more. Appendix A contains the text of the Mass in Latin, English, and Spanish.

*Vocabulario básico católico*, Gastón A. Pérez U. Basic definitions of various terms. No *imprimatur*, but the content seems good.

*Catholic Dictionary*, John A. Hardon, SJ. An abridged and updated version of another book, *Modern Catholic Dictionary*. This dictionary defines terms as understood in the context of Catholic theology and practice.

*Lost in Translation: The English Language and the Catholic Mass*, Gerald O'Collins with John Wilkins. This book will likely not be helpful for your work, but it's an interesting read about translation issues with the Catholic Mass. The

author contends that the new Mass translation that went into effect in 2011 is inferior to another translation proposed in 1998. He covers the history of the translation process and outlines struggles between the committee overseeing the translation and officials at the Vatican.

Look for the terms *nihil obstat* and *imprimatur* on the copyright page. They indicate that a book was judged to be free from doctrinal and moral error and was approved by the bishop of the diocese in which it was published.

## **Web Resources**

There aren't really any sources I've found that just talk about language. These are all "content" sources, which will show you how the language is used but won't necessarily define or translate terms for you. All these resources assume the reader is Catholic and believes what the Catholic Church teaches. Some pages and topics may seem superstitious or odd at times, but the websites may have terminology and background that will help you.

The first sources here are websites that give some general information.

Catholic.net: A general-information website in English, Spanish, French, and German - <https://catholic.net/>

Catholic Answers: Another general-information website with a variety of articles, a podcast, an online encyclopedia, and more - <https://www.catholic.com/>

These are some publications for Catholic audiences. If you want lower-register terms or need to know how someone who isn't a priest says something, try finding an article on the topic you need and checking the comments. You'll probably get a variety of language choices.

*America* magazine: A Jesuit publication on faith and culture - <https://www.americamagazine.org/>

*National Catholic Reporter*: Liberal-leaning news source - <https://www.ncronline.org/>

*Global Sisters Report*: A project of *National Catholic Reporter*, reporting on Catholic women religious around the world - <https://www.globalsistersreport.org/>

*GSR en español*: A Spanish-language version of *Global Sisters Report*. I'm not sure if the same articles are published in both languages -

<https://www.globalsistersreport.org/es/en-espanol>

*National Catholic Register*: Conservative-leaning news source, with a combination of news items geared toward Catholics and blog articles -

<https://www.ncregister.com/>

*Aleteia*: A wide variety of content, from global news about Catholic concerns to lifestyle articles. Published in seven languages, including English, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, and French - <https://aleteia.org/>

*Our Sunday Visitor News*: A long-standing Catholic news source. Has a section for articles in Spanish - <https://www.osvnews.com/>

### **Bonus Information**

Our colleague JT Hine was a high school student in Rome while the Second Vatican Council was in session. He shares a fascinating story about his personal experience with the council and how he got to work with some of the delegates:

<https://jthine.com/2023/09/30/4-sea-story-latin-interpreter-1962-1964/>