

ACP MEMBER
WEBINAR

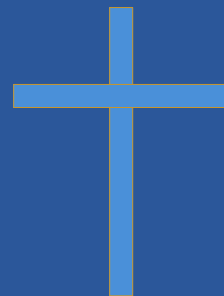
Royalty Processing for Catholic Publishers

Faithful Stewardship of Rights, Royalties, and the Written Word

A 60-Minute Webinar for Members of the Association of Catholic Publishers

Presented by James Whittaker · VP, Sales & Business Development

MetaComet Systems · Royalty Management Solutions for Publishers



In partnership with



What We'll Cover in 60 Minutes

Five modules + a live demo + Q&A

1

The Rights Foundation

Primary, subsidiary & sub-rights for Catholic titles

2

Sacred & Liturgical Permissions

NABRE, ICEL, USCCB and the rules unique to us

3

Royalty Processing Deep Dive

Calculation, statements, sub-rights, reserves

4

Contract Riders That Protect You

Scripture & doctrinal-alignment language

5

LIVE DEMO — MetaComet Platform

See royalty processing built for ACP members

6

Action Plan + Q&A

Walk away with a 10-point next-steps list

Goal: Leave with a concrete action plan to professionalize royalty processing across your Catholic catalog.

Why Royalty Processing Deserves a Webinar of Its Own

A few words from your host before we dive in

YOUR HOST

James Whittaker

VP, Sales & Business Development

MetaComet Systems

Royalty management built for publishers — including the unique workflows Catholic publishers face every reporting period.

Royalties are where rights become revenue.

Every license you grant — every NABRE quotation, every translation deal, every audio download — should be traceable from contract to payment. For Catholic publishers, the stakes are higher because:

- Scripture & liturgical permissions are layered (USCCB, ICEL, Vatican).
- Many titles mix copyrighted and ecclesiastically-approved content.
- Diocesan, parish & academic channels have non-standard royalty terms.
- Manual royalty spreadsheets break the moment a sub-rights deal closes.

MODULE 1 ·

The Rights Foundation

Before we talk royalties, we need to talk rights.

Every royalty calculation traces back to a specific right — granted, retained, or sublicensed. Get the rights map right, and the royalty math takes care of itself.



Primary vs. Subsidiary Rights

Know what you exercise — and what you license to others

PRIMARY RIGHTS — You Retain & Exercise

- Print: hardcover, trade paper, mass market
- eBook & digital download
- Audio (spoken word) editions
- Large-print Catholic devotionals
- Parish & diocesan bulk editions
- Educational & catechetical editions

SUBSIDIARY RIGHTS — License to Others

- Foreign language translation (Spanish, Italian, Polish, Portuguese)
- Film, TV & streaming adaptation
- Serialization & magazine excerpts
- Liturgical & worship-aid licensing
- Curriculum, study guides, RCIA materials
- Apps, podcasts & digital ministry use

VP take: Subsidiary rights are usually the difference between a break-even Catholic title and a profitable one.

The Rights Revenue Matrix for Catholic Publishers

Where each right turns into recurring royalty income

ICEL — International Commission on English in the Liturgy

USCCB — United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

RCIA — Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

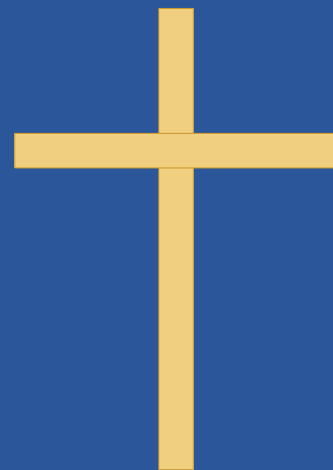
Rights Type	Primary Channels	Deal Structure	Potential	Catholic-Specific Note
Translation	Spanish, Italian, Polish presses	Advance + royalty	★★★★	Strong demand in Latin America & Africa
Audio	Audible, Hallow, Word on Fire	Rev share or flat	★★★★	Daily Mass / breviary apps growing fast
Film / TV	EWTN, Formed, mainstream streamers	Option + step	★★★★★	Saints' bios & memoirs travel well
Curriculum	Dioceses, Catholic schools, RCIA	Advance + royalty	★★★	Recurring diocesan adoption
Liturgical Use	Parishes, missalettes, worship aids	Per-use license	★★★	ICEL & USCCB layered approvals
Merchandise	Holy Heroes, Aquinas & More	Royalty %	★★★	Devotional brand extensions
Accessible	Xavier Society, NLS	Often donated	Mission	A ministry — and a brand-builder

MODULE 2 ·

Sacred & Liturgical Permissions

Rules that apply only to Catholic publishers

NABRE thresholds, ICEL liturgical text, Vatican copyright, Imprimatur workflow — every one of these affects what you owe, who you owe it to, and what shows up on a royalty statement.



Catholic Scripture: Translations & Permission Thresholds

Why quoting the Bible isn't free for Catholic publishers

NABRE — New American Bible, Revised Edition

RSV-2CE — Revised Standard Version, Second Catholic Edition

NRSV-CE / NRSVue-CE — New Revised Standard Version, Catholic Edition / New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition, Catholic Edition / **Jerusalem / NJB** — Jerusalem Bible / New Jerusalem Bible

Douay-Rheims (1899) — Douay-Rheims Bible

THE CORE PROBLEM

- Catholic Bible translations are copyrighted — NOT public domain.
- Each rights body permits a limited gratis quotation.
- Cross the threshold and a paid license is required.
- Triggers differ: verse count, % of book, format, commercial use.

Translation	Typical Gratis Limit	Rights Body
NABRE	Up to 5,000 verses / under 50% of work	USCCB / Confraternity
RSV-2CE	Limited gratis — see Ignatius terms	Ignatius Press
NRSV-CE / NRSVue-CE	500 verses / under 50%	NCC / Westminster John Knox
Jerusalem / NJB	Limited — request in advance	Darton, Longman & Todd
Douay-Rheims (1899)	Public domain	No license needed
Latin Vulgate (Clementine)	Public domain	No license needed
Nova Vulgata	Vatican copyright applies	Libreria Editrice Vaticana

Critical: 'Gratis' usually means non-commercial use. If you're selling the book, get a license — even for short quotations.

Liturgical Text: ICEL, USCCB & The Holy See

The permissions layer that exists ONLY for Catholic publishers

ICEL

English Liturgical Texts

The International Commission on English in the Liturgy holds rights to the English translation of the Roman Missal, the Liturgy of the Hours and most ritual books. License is required for any reproduction in books, apps or worship aids.

Negotiate territory + format up front

USCCB

U.S. Bishops & NABRE

Holds rights to NABRE, the Catechism (USA edition), and many ritual adaptations for the United States. Royalty terms vary by edition and use — academic, devotional, and parish editions all price differently.

Statement-of-faith alignment expected

Libreria Editrice Vaticana

The Holy See's publisher

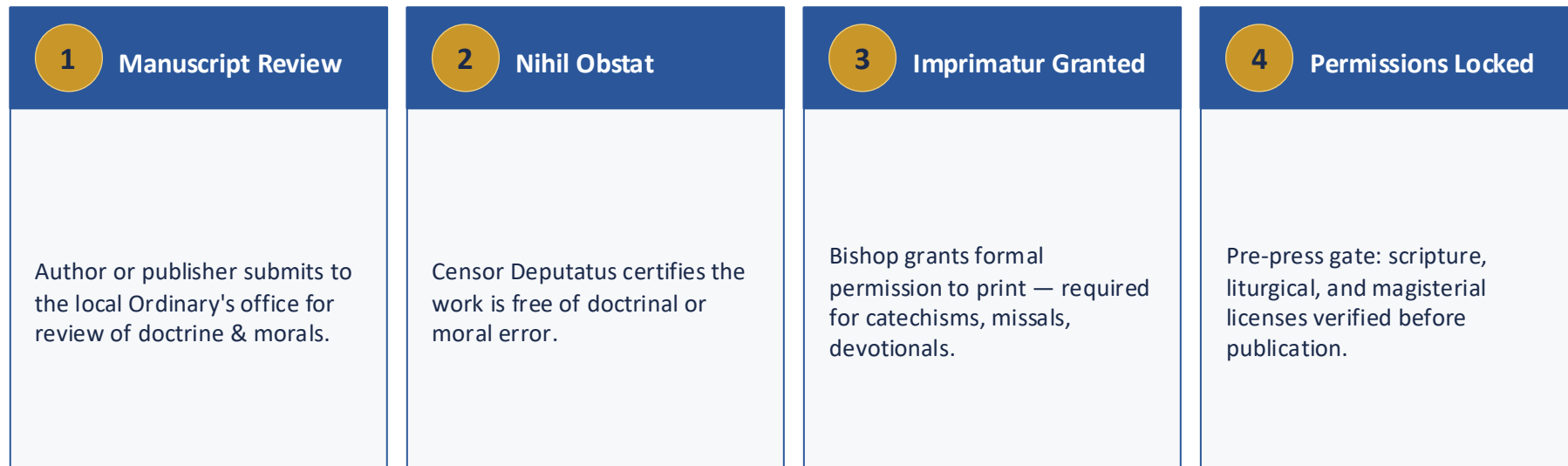
Holds copyright on papal documents, the official Catechism, Code of Canon Law, and many magisterial texts. Use in commercial books — even short quotations of long encyclicals — requires direct LEV permission and a fee.

Allow 8–12 weeks for response

Every reprint, app & parish edition triggers a fresh permissions check — track them in royalty, not just editorial.

Imprimatur & Nihil Obstat: Building It Into Production

Ecclesiastical approval is a contract milestone (free of doctrinal or moral error) — and a royalty trigger



Pro tip: Tie each step to a royalty-system milestone — payments shouldn't release until permissions and Imprimatur status are verified.

MODULE 3 · THE CORE

Royalty Processing

Deep Dive

From contract to payment — including sub-rights splits, reserves, semi-annual reporting, and the things that make Catholic royalty accounting different.



From Rights Grant to Payment: The Royalty Lifecycle

Six checkpoints — Mitigate operational risk, financial risk and reputational risk. Automate away from spreadsheets.



Net Receipts Royalty

% of what the publisher actually receives — not list price. Scripture & liturgical riders may carve out licensed uses from the base.

List Price Royalty

% of cover price. More author-friendly, easier to audit. Less common but still appears in Catholic academic deals.

Sub-Rights Splits

Translation, audio, film: receipts split between publisher and author. Negotiate the split — and the agent commission — explicitly.

Diocesan / Bulk Pricing

Parish bulk orders and Catholic school adoptions often discount steeply. Define a royalty floor so your authors aren't paying for the discount.

Royalty Reporting for Catholic Publishers: What's Different

Six things your royalty system MUST do that a generic publisher doesn't

Track verse counts by format

Print, eBook, audio, app — each has its own NABRE/RSV-CE threshold. The royalty system must track them independently or you'll under-license one channel.

Audit derivative SKUs

Study guides, RCIA kits, video courses based on a title each carry their own permissions and earn their own royalties. They are NOT free riders.

Diocesan / parish reserves

Catholic retail has return exposure (parish overstock especially). Define reserve % and hold period — typical: 25% reserve for 2 periods.

Account for liturgical-use royalties

ICEL and OCP-style remittances flow back to rights holders on a defined cadence. Build them into your statement run, not a side spreadsheet.

Sub-agent transparency

Foreign-rights deals via an agent must show gross receipt, agent commission, and net to author. Require this contractually and report it cleanly.

Semi-annual is the norm

Jan–June paid August, July–Dec paid February. Push for format & territory breakdowns — not just a total — on every statement you produce.

MetaComet was built for these workflows — purpose-built for publishers like ACP members. We'll show you live in a few minutes.

Where Catholic Publishers Find Themselves At Risk

Five royalty hotspots in every audit

1

Untracked sub-rights

Audio or translation deal closes; nothing flows back to author statements for 12+ months.

2

Missed scripture licenses

App or eBook edition exceeds NABRE gratis — no incremental license, big back-pay liability.

3

Wrong base for net receipts

Catholic school discounts applied below royalty floor — author quietly underpaid every cycle.

4

Over-held reserves

25% reserve never released; trust erodes; authors consider leaving for a competing press.

5

Statement opacity

Annual PDF instead of online portal; authors can't reconcile; finance can't defend.

MODULE 4 .

Contract Riders

The language that protects you — or sinks you

Two riders every ACP member should standardize: a Scripture & Liturgical Permissions Rider, and a Doctrinal / Magisterium Alignment Addendum.



Two Riders Every Catholic Publisher Should Standardize

Bake them into your standard contract template — don't negotiate them per deal

RIDER 1 · Scripture & Liturgical Permissions

What it covers: Lists every Bible translation, liturgical source, and magisterial text used in the Work.

Thresholds: Caps usage at gratis limits per source; triggers paid licensing when exceeded — across print, eBook, audio, video, apps.

Who pays: Default: Publisher bears cost. Negotiate whether over-threshold licensing is recouped against royalties.

Watch for: New translations added post-contract; territory carve-outs; ICEL/USCCB pass-through fees on parish editions.

RIDER 2 · Doctrinal & Magisterium Alignment

Purpose: Ensures the Work aligns with the publisher's Statement of Faith and relevant Catechism teaching — scoped to the Work, not the author's personal life.

Review process: Publisher flags passages of concern within 10 business days. Author has revision opportunity. Mediation if unresolved.

Critical carve-out: No action allowed based on lawful religious expression unrelated to the Work. Protects the author's pastoral voice.

Why it matters: Protects brand integrity without overreaching — and keeps morals disputes out of royalty terminations.

Tip: Standardize both riders in your master template, then version-control them. Don't reinvent the language for every author.

L I V E D E M O



MetaComet[®] for Catholic Publishers
ROYALTY SOLUTIONS

- ✓ Rights & sub-rights tracking by title
- ✓ Royalty calculation engine in action
- ✓ Author portal & statement preview

Demo Presenter: Aidan Fleming

How MetaComet Powers Royalty Operations

What you just saw — summarized as six capabilities for ACP members

Rights Tracking

Every right granted, retained, and sublicensed — by title, format, territory, and term.

Scripture Permissions

Built-in verse-count tracking across formats with alert thresholds tied to your license limits.

Royalty Calculation

Net receipts, list price, tiered rates, escalators, and sub-rights splits — automated.

Author Portal

Real-time access to statements, sales data, and sub-rights earnings online.

Sub-Rights Reporting

Track agent commissions, foreign publisher receipts, and license fee splits in one place.

Compliance Workflows

Permissions checklists, Imprimatur gates, and post-publication monitoring — all integrated.

Purpose-built. Publisher-tested. Catholic-ready. Available to ACP members on preferred terms.

Your 10-Point Royalty & Rights Action Plan

Walk out of this webinar and do these things

- | | | | | | |
|---|---------------|---|----|--------------|---|
| 1 | This Week | Audit your top 20 titles for unexploited sub-rights — audio, translation, curriculum. | 2 | This Week | Pull active contracts and confirm WHO owns audio and translation rights on each. |
| 3 | This Month | Run a scripture-permissions check — every translation correctly licensed across formats? | 4 | This Month | Verify ICEL / USCCB / LEV approvals on all liturgical and magisterial content. |
| 5 | This Quarter | Build or refresh your permissions workflow: Acquisition → Editorial → Pre-Press → Post-Pub. | 6 | This Quarter | Standardize your two riders (Scripture / Liturgical and Doctrinal Alignment). |
| 7 | This Quarter | Map a rights revenue plan — which titles have untapped audio, translation, RCIA potential? | 8 | Ongoing | Confirm CCLI / OneLicense compliance for any worship-use streaming or recording. |
| 9 | Next Contract | Require royalty statements that break out: print, eBook, audio, parish bulk, sub-rights. | 10 | Priority | Evaluate purpose-built royalty management software — manual tracking breaks past 50 titles. |



Seven things to remember

- 1 Rights are a bundle of sticks — every stick can be sold separately, and every sale earns royalties.
- 2 Scripture & liturgical permissions are legally required — track verse counts AND format-by-format.
- 3 ICEL, USCCB, and LEV permissions are non-negotiable for Catholic publishers — bake them into pre-press.
- 4 Sub-rights (audio, translation, film, curriculum) are usually where the real margin lives.
- 5 Imprimatur and Nihil Obstat are royalty milestones — not just editorial milestones.
- 6 Doctrinal-alignment riders are fair when scoped to the Work — they protect everyone.
- 7 Your royalty system must track rights grants, license usage, AND payments — manually, this breaks fast.

Questions?

Faithful Stewardship of Rights, Royalties, and the Written Word

Talk with us — and ask about an ACP-member demo

Email jwhittaker@metacomet.com

Web www.metacomet.com

Phone +1 (416) 670-8366

Demo Schedule a 30-60 minute walkthrough — free for ACP members



Royalty Management for Catholic Publishers

