

On the Revised Translation of the Mass  
Bulletin Insert 5  
“And with your Spirit? 1”

When the priest says, “the Lord be with you,” we currently reply, “and also with you,” but the new translation will be more precise in having us say, “and with your spirit.”

In the Book of Genesis it says God made mankind by breathing His spirit into us. God gave us a share in His being by breathing His spirit into us.

After His Resurrection, Jesus breathed onto His apostles and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” It was here that He gave them the ability to forgive sins and preach in His Name. Through the Sacrament of Ordination, we believe that each priest stands in the person of Jesus when he celebrates any Sacrament because he, like the Apostles, has a changed spirit by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit within them. This is why the priest says, “This is my body,” and not, “This is Jesus’ Body.” Ordination joins the priest to Jesus in unique way and given him unique abilities.

Just as Jesus breathed a new capacity into His followers after the Resurrection by giving them the Holy Spirit – and as He does this for all who are Baptized, Confirmed, or Reconciled in His Name by means of the Holy Spirit – so also the faithful at Mass pray that this same Spirit will be with the priest when, at specific times, he carries out a sacred function during the Liturgy.

“And with your spirit” is a prayer asking that the Spirit of the Lord given him in Ordination may be present in the priest to carry out the sacred function he is about to carry out.