

On the Revised Translation of the Mass  
Bulletin Insert 5  
“And with your Spirit? 2”

One objection to using, “and with your spirit,” is why, if every Christian shares in the gifts of the Holy Spirit through Baptism and Confirmation, does the priest not say, “the Lord be with your spirit.”

When the Archangel Gabriel announces to Mary that she will conceive the Messiah, he says, “the Lord *is* with you.” Our Faith teaches us that Mary was conceived without original sin and was, “full of grace,” so Gabriel is stating a fact.

When the first Christians were formulating the Mass, they recognized that the entire Liturgy is prayer – a participation in the activity of heaven written about in the Book of Revelation. They chose, “the Lord *be* with you” to reflect a petition made by the priest that the Lord be with His disciples as He is with the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Note the priest says, “the Lord be with you,” at specific times: in the beginning of the Mass, at the Preface, and at the conclusion. The priest is praying that the Lord be with the people so that they may enter more deeply into the nature of that part of the Liturgy.

The people reply, “and with your spirit,” to reflect that it is only by virtue of the belief that the priest shares in one aspect of the Holy Spirit which enables him to stand in *persona Christi*. Jesus is with all of us, but He is with the priest in a different way because of his Ordination. This is why it makes no sense for the people to extend their hands back at the priest when they say, “and with your spirit,” since they’re not asking the Lord to be with the priest, but rather ask the Lord to work through the priest’s alternative share in the Holy Spirit from their own.