

“And with Your Spirit”

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In the new translation of *The Roman Missal*, one of the most noticeable changes comes in the short dialogue repeated four times during Mass: “The Lord be with you. / And with your spirit.” The people’s response is a more accurate translation of the Latin *Et cum spiritu tuo*. This translation also help us to see the dialogue’s roots in scripture. For example, in the letter to the Galatians, Saint Paul writes, “The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters” (6:18, NRSV; see also Philippians 4:23 and Philemon 25). Saint Paul is speaking of the special gifts of the Holy Spirit poured out upon them. In the liturgy, this dialogue is only used when an ordained minister presides. Some of the early Church Fathers interpreted this as an allusion to the gift of the Spirit given by Christ in the Sacrament of Holy Orders. At the beginning of Mass, at the reading of the Gospel, at the beginning of the Eucharistic Prayer, and just before the blessing and dismissal, priest and people exchange this dialogue of prayer, seeking the Lord’s presence in our midst.

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