

INFORMATIONAL / CATECHETICAL INSTRUCTION #1

A SERIES ON THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE ROMAN MISSAL (Order of the Mass) (Effective: Advent 2011) (June 28, 2009)

To more accurately reflect an authentic interpretation of the original Latin Rite, one of the most noticeable changes in the Order of the Mass, following the signing of the cross during the Introductory Rite of the Mass, is a proposal for implementation in the U.S. Catholic Church on the first Sunday of Advent 2011:

Original Latin Text
Dominus vobiscum.
Et cum spiritu tuo.

PART OF MASS	PRESENT TEXT FOR PEOPLE	NEW TEXT FOR PEOPLE
Greeting	<i>Priest:</i> The Lord be with you. <i>People:</i> And also with you.	<i>Priest:</i> The Lord be with you. <i>People:</i> And with your spirit.

1. Where does this dialogue come from?

The response *et cum spiritu tuo* is found in the Liturgies of both East and West, from the earliest days of the Church. One of the first instances of its use is found in the *Traditio Apostolica* of Saint Hippolytus, composed in Greek around AD 215.

2. Why does the priest mean when he says “*The Lord be with you*”?

By greeting the people with the words: “The Lord be with you,” the priest expresses his desire that the dynamic activity of God’s spirit be given to the people of God, enabling them to do the work of transforming the world that God has entrusted to them.

3. What do the people mean when they respond “*And with your spirit*”?

The expression *et cum spiritu tuo* is only addressed to an ordained minister. Some scholars have suggested that *spiritu* refers to the gift of the spirit he received at ordination. In their response, the people assure the priest of the same divine assistance of God’s spirit and, more specifically, help for the priest to use the charismatic gifts given to him in ordination and in so doing to fulfill his prophetic function in the Church.