

What Will We Be Praying and Why?

And With Your Spirit

As noted last week, the number of changes in the Congregation's prayers and responses in the revised translation of the Roman Missal will total about 200 words, or really only about 185 with all "repeats" not counted. Perhaps the already-best-known change will be in the Congregation's response to the priest's greeting *The Lord be with you!* (or one of the other two options: *The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all;* or *Grace to you and peace ;from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ*). The wording of the greeting will not change, but the response will, from *And also with you!"* to *And with your Spirit*. The original Latin text of this exchange is *Dominus vobiscum* ('dominus' = 'the Lord'; 'vobis' = you; 'cum' = with), and *Et cum spiritu tuo* ('et' = and; 'cum' = with; 'spiritu' = spirit; 'tuo' = your). In many non-English speaking countries their translation of this already reflects the original Latin text more closely than our current English translation does. The reason we will change the congregation's response is first to reflect the original Latin text more closely, according to the *formal equivalency* principle of translation used throughout the revised translation of the Missal. Another reason for the revised response is that it better reflects the scriptural origins of the people's reply to the priest's greeting. It is based on passages in several of St. Paul's letters (2Timothy 4:22; Galatians 6:18; Philippians 4:23; and Philemon 25). In his letters Paul prays that the Lord will be with the spirit of those who receive his letters, and concludes his letters with a spiritual appeal or prayer for his readers. The explicit reference to the Spirit in the response highlights the spiritual nature of the events of the Mass taking place.

Please let us know what else about our faith tradition you'd like to find out more about. Contact our Council for Catechesis at tkautza@saintmaryhc.org.