

Bulletin Article #2 = “The Lord be with you” R: “And with your spirit”

Right after the sign of the Cross at the beginning of Mass, we hear this prayer from the Priest. From the Old Testament, angels have said this phrase, “The Lord be with you” to encourage leaders who are sent on important missions by God such as Moses, Joshua, and Gideon (see Exodus 3, Joshua 1, or Judges 6). This phrase is often encouraging these people when they feel too weak or not worthy for a particular mission that God is giving them. God’s response is that He will be with them to support them in their weakness and to use them powerfully despite their shortcomings. St. Paul continues this teaching and reality in many of his New Testament letters to the early Christian Churches (see Rom. 1:7, 1 Cor 1:3, or Gal 1:3). The response, “And with your spirit” encompasses a prayer for the priest as well as acknowledging Jesus’ special presence in the priest during the entire Mass! We can ask God to encourage us as we begin each Mass to recognize His presence with us, both in the Priest, the prayers, the Eucharist, but also in His mission He is giving each of us to live the faith out to the fullest in our unique situation in our lives.