



**October 2021**

Dear Friends,

Many of you know that I have a missionary heart. I spent five years of my priesthood living and working in Central America in the country of El Salvador. I loved it.

But you don't have to travel to another country to be a missionary. You can do so here, at home, by looking for opportunities to put your faith into action.

One of those opportunities is World Mission Sunday, which we celebrate this year on October 24. The second collection taken up on that weekend serves as a worldwide effort to provide for the strengthening of more than 1,000 local churches in Asia and Africa, the Pacific Islands, and parts of Latin America and Europe. Through the work of these churches and their witness to Christ, the poor receive practical help and experience God's Love, mercy and peace.

Pope Francis has taken a verse from the Act of the Apostles as the theme for this year's World Mission Sunday: "We cannot but speak about what we have seen and heard." (Acts 4:20) The Holy Father encourages us to reach beyond our usual limits – both physical and spiritual – to spread the love of Christ.

"By its very nature, the life of faith calls for a growing openness to embracing everyone, everywhere," Pope Francis writes in his message for World Mission Sunday.

Let us all become missionaries by strengthening the Church abroad through a donation to the second collection on the weekend of October 23-24.

Paz y bien,

**Most Reverend Ronald A. Hicks**

Bishop of Joliet

## *Adsumus, Sancte Spiritus*

### **Prayer of invocation to the Holy Spirit for an ecclesial assembly of governance or discernment (thus synodal)**

Every session of the Second Vatican Council began with the prayer *Adsumus Sancte Spiritus*, the first word of the Latin original meaning, "We stand before You, Holy Spirit," which has been historically used at Councils, Synods and other Church gatherings for hundreds of years, being attributed to Saint Isidore of Seville (c. 560 - 4 April 636). As we are called to embrace this synodal path of the Synod 2021-2023, this prayer invites the Holy Spirit to operate within us so that we may be a community and a people of grace. For the Synod 2021-2023, we propose to use this simplified version, so that any group or liturgical assembly can pray more easily.

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,  
as we gather together in Your name.  
With You alone to guide us,  
make Yourself at home in our hearts;  
Teach us the way we must go  
and how we are to pursue it.  
We are weak and sinful;  
do not let us promote disorder.  
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path  
nor partiality influence our actions.  
Let us find in You our unity  
so that we may journey together to eternal life  
and not stray from the way of truth  
and what is right.  
All this we ask of You,  
who are at work in every place and time,  
in the communion of the Father and the Son,  
forever and ever. Amen.

Title revised from Latin, to have a proper *incipit*, different from the *Adsumus Dominus Sancte Spiritus*. The *Caeremoniale Episcoporum* 1984ss., n. 1173, only proposes the use of the *Adsumus* but does not give the text. The German version *Das Zeremoniale für die Bischöfe*, n. 1188, gives a German translation based on the Latin text of the *Acta Synodalia* of the Council, vol. I/1, p. 159.