

THE MASS – Lesson 6

Sign of the Cross and Greeting

THINK ABOUT IT.

1. The Mass is a prayer and like all prayers it begins and ends with the Sign of the Cross. The priest and, with him, the entire congregation once again make the sign of the cross. The sign of the cross reminds us of our Savior, Jesus Christ, and how He died for us on the wood of the cross. It is a sign of God's love of us and a reminder the Jesus by His cross has overcome the powers of sin and death.
2. Next the priest greets us saying, "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all". If a bishop presides, he will use the word of Jesus, "The Lord be with you", to greet us. Both of these were standard greetings in Jesus' day, very much like "Good morning" or "Hello" is for us today.

WHERE IS IT IN SCRIPTURE

THE SIGN OF THE CROSS: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit". - Matthew 28:19

THE GREETINGS: A priest celebrant greets us with: "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all". – 2 Corinthians 13:14

OR

"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ", - 1 Corinthians 1:3

OR

"The Lord be with you". – Ruth 2:4

A bishop celebrant greets us with the words of Jesus: "Peace be with you", - John 20:26

We response to all greeting by saying, "And with your spirit".

REVIEW QUESTION.

1. There are many greetings throughout the Mass. All of them derived from Scriptures. **Are all those listed above from New Testament Scripture alone? Which are not? (TAKE A MINUTE AND USE YOUR BIBLE TO DECIDE.)**

THE NEXT TIME YOU ATTEND MASS. Listen to the opening greeting. Your response to the celebrant's greeting should be, "And with your spirit" . . . **OUT LOUD.**