



ADSUMUS: THE COUNCIL PRAYER

Every session of the Second Vatican Council began with the prayer *Adsumus*, the first word of the Latin original meaning, 'Here we are', which has been historically used at Councils, Synods and other Church gatherings for hundreds of years, being attributed to St. Isidore of Seville (c. 560 – 4 April 636). As we celebrate the Year of Faith alongside the Year of Grace, this prayer invites the Holy Spirit to operate within us so that we may be a community and a people of grace.

Here we are, O Lord, Holy Spirit,
we stand before you, hampered by our faults,
but for a special purpose gathered together in your name.
Come to us and be with us and enter our hearts.

Teach us what we are to do and where we ought to tend;
show us what we must accomplish, so that, with your help,
we may be able to please you in all things.

May you alone be the beginning and catalyst of our judgments,
who alone with God the Father and his Son possess a glorious
name.

Do not allow us to disturb the order of justice,
you who love equity above all things.
Let not ignorance draw us to what is wrong.
Let not partiality sway our minds or respect of riches or persons
pervert our judgment.

But unite us to you effectually by the gift of your grace alone,
that we may be one in you and never forsake the truth.
Inasmuch as we are gathered together in your name,
so may we in all things hold fast to justice tempered by mercy,
so that in this life our judgment may in no way be at variance
with you, and in the life to come we may receive
an everlasting reward for deeds well done. Amen.