

# Opening Prayer

We stand before you, Holy Spirit,  
conscious of our sinfulness,  
but aware that we gather in your name.

Come to us, remain with us,  
and enlighten our hearts.

Give us light and strength  
to know your will,  
to make it our own,  
and to live it in our lives.

Guide us by your wisdom,  
support us by your power,  
for you are God, sharing the glory of Father and Son.

You desire justice for all;  
enable us to uphold the rights of others;  
do not allow us to be misled by ignorance  
or corrupted by fear or favor.

Unite us to yourself in the bond of love  
and keep us faithful to all that is true.

As we gather in your name, may we temper justice with love,  
so that all our discussions and reflections  
may be pleasing to you, and earn the reward  
promised to good and faithful servants.

We ask this of You who live and reign with the  
Father and the Son, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

From page 191 of the Book of Blessings.  
This prayer was used before every session  
of the Second Vatican Council.

