

## **Special Prayers for the 50 Year Anniversary of SCCs in Eastern Africa and the 2021 – 2024 Synod on “Synodality”**

### **GOLDEN JUBILEE PRAYER**

#### **FOR THE COMMEMORATION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY (1973 – 2023) OF BUILDING THE CHURCH THROUGH SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES (SCCs) IN THE AMECEA REGION**

Gracious and loving God, we give you thanks for the gift of our faith. As we joyfully commemorate 50 years (1973 – 2023) of fulfilling the experience of “Small Christian Communities” as “a new way of being Church,” we recall and give thanks to the founding bishops, who out of their love for Jesus, your Son and the Catholic Church, generously introduced this new pastoral model of the church.

God our Father, as AMECEA celebrates and looks to its future, we pray that the fruits of the Synod on Synodality (2021--2024) find fulfilment through the reinvigorated SCCs. Enkindle in us the spirit of listening, discernment and communion for active participation as we journey together in the mission of evangelization. Gracious God, strengthen us in our faith, hope and charity so that the seeds of Christian discipleship experienced through functional SCCs may ever remain a gift to the Church and the world. We make this our prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. AMEN.

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#### **Prayer of Invocation To the Holy Spirit for a Synodal Ecclesial Assembly of Governance or Discernment):**

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 Catholic 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 Synod 2021-2024, this prayer invites the Holy Spirit to work within us so that we may be a community and a people of grace. For the Synod Process in 2021-2024 and especially the two sessions in October, 2023 and October 2024 in Rome, Italy we use this simplified version.

## Adsumus Sancte Spiritus

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.