

## OPENING PRAYER

Come, Holy Spirit!  
You inspire new tongues  
and place words of life on our lips:  
keep us from becoming a “museum Church”,  
beautiful but mute,  
with much past and little future.

Come among us,  
so that in this synodal experience  
we will not lose our enthusiasm,  
dilute the power of prophecy,  
or descend into useless and unproductive discussions.

Come, Spirit of love, open our hearts to hear your voice!  
Come, Holy Spirit of holiness, renew the holy and faithful People of God!  
Come, Creator Spirit, renew the face of the earth!  
**Amen.**

*From Pope Francis' Address Opening the Synod*

## CLOSING PRAYER

May God bless us with discontent  
with easy answers, half-truths, superficial relationships,  
so that we will live from deep within our hearts.

May God bless us with anger  
at injustice, oppression, abuse, and exploitation of people,  
so that we will work for justice, equality, and peace.

May God bless us with tears to shed  
for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation and war,  
so that we will reach out our hands to comfort them  
and to change their pain to joy.

And may God bless us with enough foolishness  
to believe we can make a difference in this world,  
so that we will do the things others tell us cannot be done.

**Amen.**

*From "A Non-Traditional Blessing" by Ruth Fox, OSB*