September 2012

Dear Friends in Christ,

Welcome to the 44th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Southwest Florida. This year, our theme is Holy Spirit Come, taken from Hymn 513, *Like the Murmur of the Dove’s Song*. Written in 1969 by Carl Daw, it speaks of how the Holy Spirit should come to unite the “church in faith assembled.”

Writes Daw:

\[
\text{With the healing of division,} \\
\text{with the ceaseless voice of prayer,} \\
\text{with the power to love and witness,} \\
\text{with the peace beyond compare:} \\
\text{come, Holy Spirit, come.}
\]

I commend to you not only that hymn but all the hymns in The Holy Spirit section of the 1982 Hymnal. Classics such as *Come Holy Spirit Heavenly Dove* (Hymn 510) and *Holy Spirit Ever Living* (511) inspire our collective life, as the spirit is, in the words from Timothy Rees in Abbot’s Leigh, “working through the Church’s ministry; quickening, strengthening and absolving.”

Before, during and after the convention, I ask you for your prayers to help us accomplish the tasks before us as one body of Christ.

Come, Holy Spirit Come.

Faithfully yours,

\[Signature\]