

Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions [FDLC]
Mystagogical Reflection on the Collects of the *Roman Missal*
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FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 23, 2012

Collect:

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord,
your grace into our hearts,
that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son
was made known by the message of an Angel,
may by his Passion and Cross
be brought to the glory of his Resurrection.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Reflection:

As we approach the final days of Advent we are faced with the images of Christ's birth, Passion, Death, and Resurrection. The Church is placing before us the message that Christ's Incarnation was only part of God's design for the redemption of humankind. The Church is placing before us that there was much more to the story of Christ's birth.

This prayer asks that God would pour forth his grace into our hearts. Because of this grace we may know that the message of the Angel announcing the birth of Christ would signify to us that we are brought to the glory of Christ's Resurrection only by living in the shadow of his Passion and Cross. We may want to see the child in the manger. However, this prayer reminds us that the manger always includes the Cross.

Let us use these final days of Advent to reflect on Christ's life beyond his birth to making the connection to the completion of his path to the Cross and the glory of his Resurrection.

Prayer:

God of life, as you pour your grace into my heart, open it to receive the message of the birth of Christ without forgetting his Passion, Death, and Resurrection.

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