

**Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions [FDLC]**  
**Mystagogical Reflection on the Collects of the *Roman Missal***  
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SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

January 20, 2013

Collect:

Almighty ever-living God,  
who govern all things,  
both in heaven and on earth,  
mercifully hear the pleading of your people  
and bestow your peace on our times.  
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.

Reflection:

Today's Collect first appeared in the *Hadrian Sacramentary* (7-8 century) as a non-seasonal daily prayer. It was included in the Roman Missal of Pius V (1570) as the Collect for the Second Sunday after the Epiphany.

Like today's Entrance Antiphon, the prayer acknowledges that God governs all things. Everything in "heaven and on earth" (Genesis 1:1; Colossians 1:16) are subject to him. Confident of his authority, his power, and his abiding mercy, we plead that God will give us peace in our time.

One wonders how often this same plea has been sent to God. In the course of countless centuries, in countless countries, for countless reasons, people have had to live in fear. Oppression, aggression, war, terrorism, invasions, armed conflicts, and hostilities between governments or among peoples have ravaged the human landscape and have defiled the human spirit. In our own homes, jealousy, anger, addictions, and selfish behavior have destroyed harmony in personal relationships. Yet, what we all long for is peace – a state of tranquility which will allow love to grow and life to progress undisturbed.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, hear the plea of your people and give us peace in our times.  
May we be the instruments of that peace,  
standing against injustice, offering compromises, recognizing the dignity of all,  
and bearing witness to the peace which only faith in you can give. Amen.

Submitted by:

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