

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

February 3, 2013

Collect:

Grant us, Lord our God,
that we may honor you with all our mind,
and love everyone in truth of heart.
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:

“Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you.” These words of the prophet Jeremiah in the first reading are both exciting and frightening. To be known utterly from the beginning is difficult to fathom. Can we trust that the creator has instilled love and truth in our hearts and minds? Is this what we would call our true self, and, if so, how can we access it?

This prayer calls us to enter into the depths of our hearts and minds to find this treasure, this real and true self that is present from our birth. St. John wrote, “There is a truth that lives within us that will be with us forever” (2 John 2). And the love that St. Paul reminds us is the greatest virtue, is the love that emanates from that deep place within. It is a love that is pure, undiluted, ever new and holy, given to us before we were formed in the womb. We may not always act as if we believe this, but let us believe that the seeds of honor and love are within us, placed there by the God who calls them forth to grow and give life to all.

Prayer:

Creator God, when darkness seems to surround me, help me to remember that your love and truth have existed within me before my birth, and guide me to act as if this is so.

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