

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

February 10, 2013

Collect:

Keep you family safe, O Lord, with unfailing care,
that, relying solely on the hope of heavenly grace,
they may be defended always by your protection.
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:

The Collect begins by identifying us as members of the Family of God and asks that the Lord keep us with a parent-like, “unfailing care.” Moreover, the prayer asks that, as members of that family, the Lord might protect us and that through our Christian hope we might be upheld in safety.

The New Testament speaks at length about what it means to be members of God’s “whole family in heaven and on earth” (Ephesians. 3:15), the “household of faith” (Galatians 6:10), and “children of God” (John 1:12). We know that this membership is through no efforts of our own and in fact that it does not even come through natural birth, but only through our re-birth in the waters of Baptism.

We also know that, as in all families, our membership in the Lord’s family, the Church, comes with certain responsibilities and expectations: “Do good to everyone” (Galatians 6:10), be “rooted and grounded in love” (Ephesians 3:17), “live according to the Spirit with things of the Spirit” (Rom. 8:5). Living thus, as a member of the Family of God, we do indeed have access to that “grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God” (Romans 5:2).

Prayer:

Father of all, make me truly hopeful in the promises you make to your children, and help me to live genuinely as a member of your family, gathered from the ends of the earth, to praise and glorify you for ever, through your Beloved Son, Christ our Lord.

Submitted by:

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