

**Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions [FDLC]**  
**Mystagogical Reflection on the Collects of the *Roman Missal***  
Link to Mystagogy Project on FDLC home page: <http://www.fdlc.org>.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

February 17, 2013

Collect:

Grant, almighty God,  
through the yearly observances of holy Lent,  
that we may grow in understanding  
of the riches hidden in Christ  
and by worthy conduct pursue their effects.  
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:

This new prayer for the post-Vatican II missal, with roots in the *Gelesian Sacramentary*, speaks volumes in only a few words. The cyclic nature of our liturgical calendar is not merely meant for time-keeping but for continued growth in faith. Understanding comes over time by our attention to that gradual process of continual conversion.

In the mysteries of the Sacraments and with eyes of faith, we see what is hidden – the treasure of grace that transforms and enables us to live after Christ’s example. Our response to that grace already given is our desire for right relationship with God and with one another, a visible testimony that verifies God’s continued action in the world.

This week, thousands will give similar testimony to God’s grace at work in the lives of those to be called Elect. Just as the word “initiation” implies, election is only the beginning of a lifelong pursuit of deepened conversion and an ongoing, gradual “becoming” into the image and name of Christ. As we begin again our annual Lenten springtime, let us renew our pursuit of that becoming that we may be found worthy of our election by God.

Prayer:

Lord God, deepen our faith this Lent to continue the good work you have begun in us that we may always witness to your saving power and grace.

Submitted by:  
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