

**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>.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

[Laetare Sunday]

March 10, 2013

Collect:

O God, who through your Word  
reconcile the human race to yourself in a wonderful way,  
grant, we pray,  
that with prompt devotion and eager faith  
the Christian people may hasten  
toward the solemn celebrations to come.  
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 theme of reconciliation found in the beginning of the Collect has its basis in Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians, Chapter 5. Jesus the Word of God reconciles broken humanity to the Father. The second half of the prayer was composed following the Second Vatican Council.

The prayer calls to mind God's wonderful plan of salvation in Jesus Christ. It is through Jesus the Word made flesh that God continues the act of reconciling humankind to himself. The second phrase of the prayer petitions God to give us the grace to move with determination toward the Easter celebrations that are drawing closer.

As we mark the mid-point in our Lenten journey, we once again hear God desire that we turn from sin and follow Jesus. God's plan is indeed a wonderful way to experience reconciliation brought about when we enter into life with Jesus, when we die with Christ to become a new creation in him. Reconciliation in Christ is indeed cause for great joy.

Prayer:

Merciful God, inspire in me the desire to live my faith with enthusiasm and determination. Awaken in me the fruits of the Holy Spirit so that my joy may be real and lead others to your loving embrace.

Submitted by:

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