

**Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions [FDLC]**  
**Mystagogical Reflection on the Collects of the *Roman Missal***  
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PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

March 24, 2013

At the Mass

Collect:

Almighty ever-living God,  
who as an example of humility for the human race to follow  
caused our Savior to take flesh and submit to the Cross,  
graciously grant that we may heed his lesson of patient suffering  
and so merit a share in his Resurrection.  
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

Reflection:

The Collect on this solemn day of the liturgical year has been in use for the Sunday before Easter dating back at least to the eighth century and the *Gelasian Sacramentary*. Thus, it has been in use for at least 1200 years in the celebration of the Eucharist.

In the proclamation of the Passion of our Lord, we encounter the suffering that Christ endured for our sake. By this collect, we pray that in our patient suffering we are joined even closer to our Lord in a special way. And more so, through this suffering, we may share in the glory of the Resurrection when all pain will be wiped away.

Whether our pain and suffering is temporary, chronic, or even debilitating, we are graced with the chance to share in a part of the life of Jesus that many take every chance to avoid. However, should we not embrace life in all stages so as to be able to rejoice in the next life where pain and suffering will be wiped away?

Prayer:

Holy Spirit, help me to reach out to those who are no longer able to be present at the Eucharistic table because of illness or old age. Allow me to carry their burden – even if only for a time – when I visit them, pray for them, and care for their needs. And, if I suffer, may I be patient and willing to carry this grace with which I have been gifted, and look forward to sharing resurrected life at the end times.

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