

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>.

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
July 28, 2013

Collect:

O God, protector of those who hope in you,
without whom nothing has firm foundation, nothing is holy,
bestow in abundance your mercy upon us
and grant that, with you as our ruler and guide,
we may use the good things that pass
in such a way as to hold fast even now
to those that ever endure.
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 Collect was composed following the Second Vatican Council using elements of various ancient liturgical texts. The prayer begins by naming God “protector”. Although not commonly found in our liturgical prayers, addressing God as protector has its origin in Scripture. We see this in the Gospel of Luke where Jesus answers the devil by quoting Psalm 91, “He will command his Angels . . . to guard you” [Lk 4:10-11]. For those who hope in God there is the sure promise of protection. The Collect reminds us that without God nothing has a firm foundation and nothing is holy.

The second half of the prayer asks for God’s mercy and affirms God as our ruler and guide. The prayer continues by asking that we may use the good things of this earth in such a way that they will aid us in achieving the “good things that ever endure”. What are these enduring things? They are love and eternal life. As we pray the Collect we are reminded that we are totally dependent on God for our very existence. We are reminded that God establishes and sanctifies creation thereby making all things holy. And we affirm that with God as our foundation we have hope for eternal life in the love of God who is Father, Son, and Spirit.

Prayer:

O God, embrace me in your loving arms and keep me from all harm. Give me the wisdom to recognize the work of your hand in all of creation and to long for the gift of eternal life.

Submitted by:
David J. Reilly
Director of Worship
Diocese of Kalamazoo