

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>.

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
August 4, 2013

Collect:

Draw near to your servants, O Lord,
and answer their prayers with unceasing kindness,
that, for those who glory in you as their Creator and guide,
you may restore what you have created
and keep safe what you have restored.
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 earliest version of this prayer is found in the *Verona Sacramentary*. It announced a fast, perhaps during a sixth century siege of Rome. A version also appeared in the 1985 Sacramentary among the Prayers over the People. The 2002 edition removed it. (Paul Turner, *A Pastoral Companion to the Roman Missal*, © 2010, World Library Publications, p.130).

Like most of our liturgical texts, the prayer finds its source in Scriptural roots. It shows similarities to Psalm 104:30 (NAB: “When you send forth your Spirit they are created and you renew the face of the earth”) and Romans 8:21 (“...that creation itself will be set free from slavery to corruption”).

We begin by asking God to “draw near”. This congers such a wonderful image of our Father, leaning in to better hear our prayers and answering them with “unceasing kindness”. And what are we asking God to do? This is, above all, a prayer of hope that God will restore all things to their rightful order and return all creation back to its purpose, that is, to give him glory.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father,
open my eyes that I may see the glory of your creation,
teach me to always be mindful of your will,
and give me strength to witness to your purpose.

Submitted by
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