

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>.

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
August 11, 2013

Collect:

Almighty every-living God,
whom, taught by the Holy Spirit,
we dare to call our Father,
bring, we pray, to perfection in our hearts
the spirit of adoption as your sons and daughters,
that we may merit to enter into the inheritance
which you have promised.
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 prayer has a rich liturgical history and is found in a handful of books for Mass from the seventh century to our own day.

These truths stand out: BEING DARING AND BOLD. For a child, a “double-dog-dare-you” was a challenge not to be ignored. The Mass reminds us of such boldness at the beginning of the Communion Rite. We cannot ignore the invitation by the Priest who dares us to say: Our Father.

BEING AN ADOPTED CHILD. Late in Lent, the Church lovingly entrusts to the elect the Lord’s Prayer. We do this, the rite says, to deepen an awareness of being an adopted child, one who calls God “Father”. We do this with them because we ourselves believe it. We are sons and daughters.

BEING IN THE WILL. Although there may be legal rights to an inheritance, it is ultimately a gift, even many gifts. God, by covenant, promises to keep us in the will, promises to share the divine inheritance with us. We in turn must promise to behave as worthy children.

Prayer:

God and Father of the Lord Jesus Christ, keep us coming back to the Sunday table of your Son. By eating his Body and drinking his Blood, we may become ever more perfect daughters and sons.

Submitted by:
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