

Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions [FDLC]
Mystagogical Reflection on the Collects of the *Roman Missal*
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TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
August 18, 2013

Collect:

O God, who have prepared for those who love you
good things which no eye can see,
fill our hearts, we pray, with the warmth of your love,
so that, loving you in all things and above all things,
we may attain your promises,
which surpass every human desire.
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:

St. Dimitri, Metropolitan of Rostov (1651-1709), taught in *The Inner Closet of the Heart*, “No unity with God is possible except by an exceedingly great love.” It is through the love of God that we exist and are called to dwell in his presence. It is because he loves us that we are offered the gift of eternal redemption, his ultimate covenant promise.

We all know that “Love is a two way street.” For the love that God has for us to be complete, we must love him in return. And how do we love him? By living in the spirit of his law; a law that calls us to love him and our neighbor while we set our own desires aside.

How do we merit the gift of God’s love? We certainly do not merit that gift by human desire. We merit the gift through the spiritual desire that enflames our heart.

Prayer:

Lord God, kindle within us the fire of your love. Let our hope in your promises keep us on the right path so that we may rejoice in your presence all the days of our life.

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