

**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>.

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
September 8, 2013

**Collect:**

O God, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption,  
look graciously upon your beloved sons and daughters,  
that those who believe in Christ  
may receive true freedom  
and an everlasting inheritance.  
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:**

In the *Gelasian Sacramentary*, this was one of the evening prayers for the Easter season. In the second edition of the *Roman Missal*, we heard this prayer two other times, also in Easter. With its single appearance now in the liturgical cycle, it coincides with the time of year when many are returning from vacations and going back to school and work. Perhaps the Easter themes of adoption, freedom, and inheritance help to realign our daily concerns in these ordinary times as we return to our ordinary routines.

What gives us true freedom? Too often, our world conditions us to strive above all for the freedom from want, achieved by high grades that lead to the well-paying job, which ultimately results in a secure retirement, all meant to afford us the luxuries of life. Yet this freedom is born out of fear – of not having enough, of not being good enough, of being left behind. This isn't freedom at all but enslavement. True freedom comes only from God who chooses us as his own. No labor of ours can buy that freedom; no personal achievement secures our inheritance. Our response to true freedom is our total submission to Christ.

**Prayer:**

You alone, O God, free us from fear through your Son Jesus. Bind us to his will that we may work only for the treasure that lasts – a place in your kingdom for ever.

Submitted by:  
Diana Macalintal  
Director of Worship  
Diocese of San Jose