

Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions [FDLC]
Mystagogical Reflection on the Collects of the *Roman Missal*
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TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
September 22, 2013

Collect:

O God, who founded all the commands of your sacred Law upon love of you and of our neighbor, grant that, by keeping your precepts, we may merit to attain eternal life. 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:

Although this prayer is partly stitched together with bits of other texts from as early as the sixth century, it is a new Collect for the post-Vatican II missal (see Paul Turner, *Pastoral Companion to the Roman Missal*, © 2010, World Library Publications, p. 144).

I remember only one sermon from my grade school years of the 1950's. It was this short: "Look to those on your right and on your left. Go ahead, do it. Now look to those both in front and behind. (Pause.) If they don't get to heaven, you probably will not either." There was quite a silence in the church as the priest sat down.

Since love is the summary of all law, since love must be more than only of self, then I must love God and must love others. The journey to heaven depends on it. Like our ancestors in faith, we are saved as a people. The question should not only be, "Am I saved?" It must be, "Are we being saved?" The suitable answer, "Every day. We are in this together."

Prayer:

Loving God, instill in me a love so deep and so wide that there is always room for one more, for many more. Fill this pathway to you with lovers and with those to be loved so that heaven will be filled with a great throng that is, best of all, loved by you.

Submitted by:
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