

Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions [FDLC]
Mystagogical Reflection on the Collects of the *Roman Missal*
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TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
September 29, 2013

Collect:

O God, who manifest your almighty power
above all by pardoning and showing mercy,
bestow, we pray, your grace abundantly upon us
and make those hastening to attain your promises
heirs to the treasures of heaven.
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 Collect has a rich and varied use from the *Gelasian Sacramentary* forward (see Paul Turner, *Pastoral Companion to the Roman Missal*, © 2010, World Library Publications, p. 146). It tells of God's grace, manifested in mercy and pardon. It prompts us to ask: let us be children of the promise, heirs of heaven.

The well known song of John Newton played a part in the abolition of slavery throughout the British Empire in 1807. It declares that grace is amazing, is sweet sounding, is saving. Our theology tells us, first, it is a free and undeserved gift. Second, it gives us this list: sanctifying (a share in divine life), actual (a help to conform our lives to God's will), sacramental (proper to each of the Seven Sacraments), and special. These special graces or charisms are given to an individual to be used for the common good of the Church and the world.

Because God gives, and abundantly so, what spiritually given special graces, distinctive gifts (charisms that everyone has as kingdom treasure) must I show, exhibit, manifest, do?

Prayer:

Bountiful God, in you there is no scarcity; only abundance. Let each of us, your daughters and sons, manifest the living presence of your grace in every thought, word, and action.

Submitted by:
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