

Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions [FDLC]
Mystagogical Reflection on the Collects of the *Roman Missal*
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TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
October 6, 2013

Collect:

Almighty ever-living God,
who in the abundance of your kindness
surpass the merits and the desires of those who entreat you,
pour out your mercy upon us
to pardon what conscience dreads
and to give what prayer does not dare to ask.
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 is from the ancient seventh century *Gelasian Sacramentary*. It begins with an eloquent reminder that God's kindness is far beyond our merits and prayers. There is no room for any Pelagian or semi-Pelagian theology (which lead the Church to clarify original sin and divine grace).

What little fruit our efforts have been able to bring about is eclipsed by the mercy of God which is poured upon us. This mercy will also forgive what our conscience fears. We often question our worthiness before God. It is he who assures us of his goodness. And what is more, he will give us what we do not presume to ask. What good news! God, in his mercy, not only forgives our sins, but returns to us the comfort of knowing we are worthy of fellowship with him and all the good things which we may need.

The Entrance Antiphon reminds us that "there is none that can resist your will." And the Communion Antiphon prays that "the Lord is good to those who hope in him, to the soul that seeks him."

Prayer:

God, we trust that your love and mercy is efficacious and never fatiguing. Let us but hope in your goodness to supply all we need.

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