

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-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
October 20, 2013

Collect:

Almighty ever-living God,
grant that we may always conform our will to yours
and serve your majesty in sincerity of heart.
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* from the 7th century, this prayer was used on a Sunday late in Easter Time. It was also a common Collect and a Prayer after Communion (see Paul Turner, *Pastoral Companion to the Roman Missal*, © 2010, World Library Publications, p. 152).

What is the will of God for me? This is a frequent question. In living our lives, we are never far from seeking and conforming our will to his. Wherever we are led to serve, we do so because of the call we have received and answered. This call by God brings us to witness to his life as we live out our own.

Following God's will is the beginning of our service. It can only be fulfilled when we are no longer the center of attention. When we look beyond the person doing the service to the one who generates the impulse for that service, then the result becomes a reflection of God's will. And for the one who is ministering with sincerity of heart, the service takes on a completely new image reflecting God's generous and majestic heart.

Prayer:

O God, you are the energy in our lives of service. As we minister to others and announce through our work your will for us, keep us centered, as you did for your early followers, on the objective of our service – being your hands, feet, and face in our world today.

Submitted by:
Sister Sharon Marie Stola, OSB, D.Min.
Director of the Office of Divine Worship and the Catechumenate
Diocese of Joliet-in-Illinois

Excerpt from *The Roman Missal, Third Edition* © 2010, ICEL.
Reprinted with approval of the Committee on Divine Worship, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.