

Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions [FDLC]
Mystagogical Reflection on the Collects of the *Roman Missal*
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THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
October 27, 2013

Collect:

Almighty ever-living God,
increase our faith, hope and charity,
and make us love what you command,
so that we may merit what you promise.
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 comes from the *Verona Sacramentary* of the 6th century. It asks for an increase of virtue, specifically the three theological virtues that St. Paul addresses in the letters to the Corinthians and Thessalonians.

By asking for an increase of faith, hope, and charity we acknowledge that we are not perfect, that we still have room to grow. We associate ourselves with the commands to love God and to love neighbor (Mt 22:34-40, Year A Gospel), with the blind man's desire to see (Mk 10:46-52, Year B), and with the humble tax collector acknowledging that he is a sinner, rather than with the Pharisee bragging about how perfect he is (Lk 18:9-14, Year C).

We also ask to make us love God's commands. This request emphasizes again our desire to be humble. We seek not so much to follow our own impulses and desires but to be docile and to follow the will of the Lord so that we may attain the promise of the kingdom.

Prayer:

Almighty God, all goodness comes from you. Strengthen our faith to accept your love so that we may carry out your will and come to share the life you promise.

Submitted by:
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