

Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions [FDLC]
Mystagogical Reflection on the Collects of the *Roman Missal*
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THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
November 17, 2013

Collect:

Grant us, we pray, O Lord our God,
the constant gladness of being devoted to you,
for it is full and lasting happiness
to serve with constancy
the author of all that is good.
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:

The Collect for this penultimate (second-last) Sunday in Ordinary Time may well have roots in the *Verona Sacramentary* of the 6th century. It speaks of the unique joy that we believe comes from nothing more than faithful discipleship.

In a world in which the promise of every happiness can be found around the next corner, and joy to the Nth degree can be had through a variety of superficial means, this Collect is a reminder that for those of us who follow Christ, true happiness – *full* and *lasting* happiness (that is, “joy”) – comes from only one source: the Lord our God.

This opening prayer draws us to and keeps us tethered to the stance of, the virtue of, constancy – a rarity in our society and our culture. *Canstare*, from the Latin, *to stand firm*. We are called to be like Christ: unwavering before the Lord, knowing that such resolve, such deliberateness, such single-heartedness first and foremost comes from him. And so we ask for just that – and nothing more. And we believe – we know – that such unwavering service can result in only one thing: unceasing gladness, “full and lasting happiness,” joy beyond our imaginations. It is the reward promised to good and faithful servants.

Prayer:

O Author of all that is good, strengthen my resolve and make firm my intent to serve you and you alone in this life. Like your Son, may I be single-hearted in my devotion to you, and so be brought to see that in this and this alone will I find my joy.

Submitted by:
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