



### FDLC Mystagogy on Mass Texts.

The Collect and the Prayer after Communion are rich sources for our Christian life. These reflections may be downloaded and printed for free. A link for the September-October Ordinary Time booklet is:

<http://www.dio.org/worship/mystagogy.html>



 [Download the \*Merciful Like the Father\* graphic to include with the bulletin announcement.](#)

### Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time – 04 September 2016

**Surely he doesn't mean it!** I mean, hating my relatives to be a disciple! Really? In order to be a disciple today, Jesus says, give up what holds you back, carry your own cross, follow me and not someone else. To be a disciple today, Jesus says, will take a consuming dedication plus relentless mercy, love, and compassion. Jesus wants disciples. Jesus wants me.

- To what, to whom am I hanging on too tight?
- What is the cross I must pick up?

### Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 11 September 2016

**Lost sheep. Lost coin. Lost child.** Losing a possession is one thing. Losing one's way is something else. Today's examples: (1) The people of Exodus so lost their way to God, they turned to a molten calf of their own design. Worshiping something that is not God is idolatry, is deep down infidelity, is mistrust of God. Moses pleads for these stiff-necked people. And God relents; God does not punish. (2) The prodigal son thought owning things and going far off was the way to live. He comes to his senses and returns home and finds his father – filled with compassion – running to embrace him. The point: it is God's very nature to relent, to exude compassion, to run to us, to love.

- How can I be like God today?
- For whom will I plead today?
- Whom will I run to embrace?

### Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 18 September 2016

**Not enough.** A personal relationship with God is important. But it is not enough. Not if we listen well to the spoken Word of God. From Amos and the People of the Old Testament, we learn this: do not be greedy, do not cheat, do not beat down the poor. From Luke, we learn this: own your possessions and use them for good. Do not let them own you. Do not – because we are mere stewards of what belongs to another. It really all belongs to God the Creator of all.

- If I look at all I have, what can I give away?
- How will I serve God by serving others?
- This week, I will \_\_\_\_\_.

[More >>>](#)

## Bulletin Shorts for 23-30 Ordinary Time – page 2 of 3

**FDLC Mystagogy on Mass Texts.**

The Collect and the Prayer after Communion are rich sources for our Christian life. These reflections may be downloaded and printed for free. A link for the September-October Ordinary Time booklet is:

<http://www.dio.org/worship/mystagogy.html>



 Download the *Merciful Like the Father* graphic to include with the bulletin announcement.

**Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 25 September 2016**

**An awful thought. A scary reality.** I can be good tomorrow, we say. I can deal with that injustice next week, next month, next year, when the time is right, we say. The poor and hungry can surely wait. Well, Amos and Luke say otherwise. God is filled to the brim with pardon and mercy, with compassion, they say. All people that God loves are bound together, they say. The truth is, it is possible to run out of time to do good, God says. Do not be indifferent! So,

- What good will I do today?
- What injustice can I address this week?

**Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time – 02 October 2016**

**“Increase our faith.”** This request of the apostles is ours as well. We want more faith. I want more faith. One would think Jesus would surely comply – here it is, more faith. But, no, today he talks of mustard seed faith. Less about thoughtful prayer or silent meditation, important as they are. More about action, more about waiting tables, more about attending to other’s needs first.

- How can my prayer and meditation prepare me to serve?
- Whom shall I wait on, whom shall I serve?
- In what little ways can I act?

**Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 09 October 2016**

**Always on the lookout.** Elisha looks out for Naaman (2 Kings 5:14-17). Jesus looks out for the ten lepers (Luke 17:11-19). Both teach us to always attend, always respond to the needs of others. In the Collect today we pray: “make us always determined to carry out good works.” I need to be on the lookout. The need for good works abounds.

- Who is in need?
- Who needs me?
- What will I do?

[More >>>](#)

Bulletin Shorts for 23-30 Ordinary Time – page 3 of 3



**FDLC Mystagogy on Mass Texts.**

The Collect and the Prayer after Communion are rich sources for our Christian life. These reflections may be downloaded and printed for free. A link for the September-October Ordinary Time booklet is:

<http://www.dio.org/worship/mystagogy.html>



 Download the *Merciful Like the Father* graphic to include with the bulletin announcement.

**Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 16 October 2016**

**Persistent prayer.** You know that person, don't you? One so relentless, he does not yield, he does not back down? She makes the case and does not let it drop? Persistence personified. God invites us, invites me to take this attitude to prayer. "Pray always without becoming weary." Pray not just for myself. Pray, too, for the needs of others. Do not give up.

- For what shall I pray today?
- For whom shall I pray this week?
- Can I put it all in God's care – and with my helping hands?

**Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 23 October 2016**

**Who am I kidding?** If I would do all the right things for the wrong reasons, would they still count? Probably not. Would God care? Most likely, yes! The Gospel paints this picture. The boasting person at prayer: I fast, I pray, I tithe, I am faithful – I am not like "him"...(and everyone see this about me). But the humble one prays: I am far from perfect, I sin – be full of mercy. The Old Testament reading sheds more light. Be like God, Sirach says. Attend to the poor, the widow, the orphan (anyone in need), God says. Look to them. Care for them. It is right and just behavior.

- How will I boast, not in myself, but in the Lord?
- How will I behave? Whom will I help?

**The Works of Mercy**

**Corporal Works of Mercy**

These are charitable actions by which we help our neighbors in their bodily needs. The corporal (bodily) works of mercy are:

- Feed the hungry
- Give drink to the thirsty
- Shelter the homeless
- Clothe the naked
- Visit the sick
- Visit the prisoners
- Bury the dead
- Give alms to the poor

**Spiritual Works of Mercy**

These are actions that help our neighbor in their spiritual needs. They include:

- Counseling the doubtful
- Instructing the ignorant
- Admonishing the sinner
- Comforting the sorrowful
- Forgiving injuries
- Bearing wrongs patiently
- Praying for the living and the dead

*United States Catholic Catechism for Adults, pages 508 and 529*