

**Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions [FDLC]
Mystagogical Reflection on Texts of the *Roman Missal***

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 22, 2013

Prayer after Communion:

Having received this pledge of eternal redemption,
we pray, almighty God,
that, as the feast day of our salvation draws ever nearer,
so we may press forward all the more eagerly
to the worthy celebration of the mystery of your Son's Nativity.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Reflection:

Three weeks ago, in the Opening Collect, we began the Advent Season asking that God might grant us the resolve to "run forth with righteous deeds to meet [his] Christ." Today, on this last Sunday of the season, we actually find ourselves repeating that request in the Prayer after Communion. At this point in the liturgy, having just received the Eucharist, we ask that it might strengthen us to "press forward" as we near the great feast of Christmas.

Notice, however, that there is a bit more urgency in the request we make today. We know that the approaching day is "ever nearer", and we ask that we might move toward it "all the more eagerly". There is a deliberate focus here, a steadfastness, to which we are invited. This is a focus and steadfastness that may very well be needed in these final days before Christmas, when we might be susceptible to the more commercial dynamics of the season or to the demands of a busy parish schedule.

As many of us may stress and struggle in these final days to "get it all done", it is good to be reminded that what we are preparing to celebrate isn't just a "holiday"; it isn't just an "observance". It is the *feast day of our salvation!* This a rather profound lens through which to view and understand just what it is we are getting ready to celebrate! To prepare "more eagerly", with focus and steadfastness, would indeed make for a more "worthy celebration of the mystery of [the] Son's Nativity!"

Prayer:

Creator of the Stars of Night, increase in me the desire for your Son's coming. In these final days before the celebration of his Nativity, may I long all the more for his return and may I eagerly press forward to meet him in every circumstance of my life and in every person that I meet.

Submitted by:
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