

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

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SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

March 16, 2014

**Prayer after Communion:**

As we receive these glorious mysteries,  
we make thanksgiving to you, O Lord,  
for allowing us while still on earth  
to be partakers even now of the things of heaven.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**Reflection:**

The origins of this prayer are ancient, yet after centuries of disuse it was reintroduced into the Mass after the Second Vatican Council (Turner, *Pastoral Companion to the Roman Missal*, p. 37). In this prayer we give thanks to God for allowing us to partake in the things of heaven. God accomplishes this through the Eucharistic Liturgy which we have just celebrated. As we receive these glorious mysteries we partake in a foretaste of the heavenly banquet.

What is to be our response to God for all the good bestowed on us? Our only response can be to give God thanks and praise. To make thanksgiving requires effort and energy on our part. In a sense, our thanksgiving becomes a verb that requires us to act, to respond to God's gift.

Our response should enable our hearts to be open to receive and feast at the banquet table. By receiving the gifts that are freely given, God makes us partakers of the things of heaven. In the act of receiving, our humanity is drawn into the divinity, that is, into communion with the Triune God.

**Prayer:**

Help us to hunger for the Bread of life and the Cup of salvation so that we will truly desire you – and in desiring you, seek you – and in seeking you, find you in the great sacrament of your love.

Submitted by:  
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Excerpt from *The Roman Missal, Third Edition* © 2010, ICEL.

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