

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

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THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
March 23, 2014

Prayer after Communion:

As we receive the pledge
of things yet hidden in heaven
and are nourished while still on earth
with the Bread that comes from on high,
we humbly entreat you, O Lord,
that what is being brought about in us in mystery
may come to true completion.
Through Christ our Lord.

Reflection:

The text of this prayer was recovered from the *Verona Sacramentary* and was included in the first edition of the *Roman Missal* after the Second Vatican Council. This text is particularly pertinent for Lent since this penitential journey rooted in Baptism is meant to draw us to the right path, to cleanse us from our past sins, and to help us to align ourselves more closely with Christ.

In this prayer the “already but not yet” understanding of the celebration of the Eucharistic banquet is addressed. This Liturgy that we celebrate here on earth gives us a foretaste of the heavenly one to come. This prayer expresses both the yearning we have for God and the knowledge that we can achieve the fullness of joy only in God’s presence.

We are in awe of the extraordinary gift of membership in the Body of Christ, always a mystery of immense magnitude. As people of hope, cognizant of God’s promise of salvation, we are reminded of the ongoing action of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Prayer:

Gracious God, source of nourishment in the Bread of life and Chalice of salvation, help us to open our minds and hearts to the transformative power of your Spirit as we strive to embrace and reflect your goodness.

Submitted by
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