

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

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PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

April 13, 2013

At the Mass

Prayer after Communion:

Nourished with these sacred gifts,
we humbly beseech you, O Lord,
that, just as through the death of your Son
you have brought us to hope for what we believe,
so by his Resurrection
you may lead us to where you call.
Through Christ our Lord.

Reflection:

This prayer comes at the end of what – if well-celebrated – is a very long and intense Eucharistic Liturgy, full of contrast between high and low, light and dark, triumph and despair. We begin with Jesus' triumphal entrance into Jerusalem and finish the Gospel with Jesus crucified and laid in a tomb. We hear Paul's description of the One in the form of God humbling himself, taking the form of a slave. This Prayer after Communion even uses the very word "humble" to describe how we approach God in prayer.

Yet death is never the end of the Paschal Mystery, and death is never without its partner – resurrection – in every Eucharistic celebration. This is why at the end of this Palm Sunday Liturgy, we can pray that Christ's Death brings us hope and that his Resurrection leads us to heaven.

To be the Bread of life, Holy Communion is first the bread of death. For those who dare to "draw near and take the Body of our Lord", the implication is huge: we must die to ourselves and all that keeps us from God if we are to share in the eternal life of the Risen Christ.

Prayer:

God our Father, may we who have been reborn in Baptism and nourished at the Lord's table find strength in the Eucharist, so that we may truly die with Christ and be led to share in his Resurrection.

Submitted by:

Jeremy Helmes
Pastoral Associate for Liturgy & Music
St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish
Archdiocese of Cincinnati

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