

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

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THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD, *Solemnity*
June 1, 2014

At the Vigil Mass

Prayer after Communion:

May the gifts we have received from your altar, Lord,
kindle in our hearts a longing for the heavenly home land
and cause us to press forward, following in the Savior's footsteps,
to the place where for our sake he entered before us.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Reflection:

New to the *Roman Missal, Third Edition* are prayers assigned to the Vigil Mass, the evening Mass preceding the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord. We are now invited to vigil, as we do for Easter Sunday and the Nativity of the Lord and these other major solemnities: Epiphany of the Lord, Nativity of Saint John the Baptist, Saints Peter and Paul, and Pentecost

Our hearts burn with longing for the fullness of God, the "heavenly homeland", the "place" to which Jesus Christ ascended for our sake. In offering ourselves along with the bread and wine, we receive the gifts of the Body and Blood of Christ. The Sacrament give us the courage to press onward.

At the site of the Church of the Ascension in Jerusalem, there are two marks in the rock that the devout believe to be the footprints left by Jesus as he ascended. It is possible to physically place one's feet in them. It is much more difficult, however, to truly step in the footsteps of Jesus, for they lead through his Passion to Resurrection.

Prayer:

Lord, you invite us to follow in your footsteps and you give us food for the journey. May we always respond to you with courage and paschal joy.

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