

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

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FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

February 9, 2014

Prayer after Communion

O God, who have willed that we be partakers
in the one Bread and the one Chalice,
grant us, we pray, so to live
that, made one in Christ,
we may joyfully bear fruit
for the salvation of the world.
Through Christ our Lord.

Reflection:

This prayer concluding the Communion Rite today is a new composition. It borrows phrases from well-known biblical texts. The mystagogues among us will draw our attention to other texts and other days.

We hear 1 Corinthians 10:16-17 read on the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, Year A (*Lectionary for Mass*, no. 167A). It is Christ who speaks to us that day of one loaf and one cup of blessing. He speaks of many being one because of his Blood and Body.

We hear John 15:1-8 read on the Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year B (*Lectionary for Mass*, no. 53B). The same Christ speaks of the true vine (Christ himself), the vine grower (Father), branches of the one vine (us), pruning and remaining, and fruit bearing.

What does it mean to be one? Without giving up my self, I am part of something that is more than me. What does it mean to be made one in Christ? Without giving up my self – but giving myself over – I am in this saved world together with others. We are shaped and saved as a people, God's Pilgrim People. We sing, in response to the mystery of faith declaration: "When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, / we proclaim your Death, O Lord, / until you come again."

Prayer:

Help us be one in Christ, your Son, O God, that we may remain on the vine, bear fruit, and be one in your saving action for the sake of the world.

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