

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

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EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

March 2, 2014

Prayer after Communion

Nourished by your saving gifts,
we beseech your mercy, Lord,
that by this same Sacrament
with which you feed us in the present age,
you may make us partakers of life eternal.
Through Christ our Lord.

Reflection:

The Liturgy presents our sanctification “by means of signs perceptible to the senses” [*Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*, no. 7]. In this case, the basic human experience of *hunger* is used to signify where the Lord’s saving work is leading us.

Having just been nourished by the Lord’s “saving gifts”, according to the prayer, one would think that we should be satisfied. Instead, we have tasted and seen that the Lord is good, and we beseech the Lord for more. And there is so much more to be had – life eternal!

Much like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, our hearts are left burning within us after Christ breaks open the word and breaks the bread. Our hearts are hungry for more. This hunger is fed in the “present age” by our participation in the Eucharist. While this strengthens us to be able to “go and announce the Gospel of the Lord” in the present, we are also given a glimpse of that which our hearts truly desire, “a foretaste of that heavenly liturgy celebrated in the holy city of Jerusalem, toward which we journey as pilgrims” [CSL, no. 8]. Only there, feasting with Christ at the right hand of God in the company of heaven, will our hungers be fully satisfied.

Prayer:

Merciful God, our hearts will hunger until they are nourished by you. May our participation in your Body and Blood here on earth increase our hunger for heaven and may our lives bring others to hunger for you as well.

Submitted by:
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