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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