

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

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NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

August 10, 2014

Prayer after Communion:

May the communion in your Sacrament
that we have consumed, save us, O Lord,
and confirm us in the light of your truth.
Through Christ our Lord.

Reflection:

This prayer, dating back to the eighth century, contains some rich elements. The word “consumed” is very strong. We have not merely “eaten and drunk” the Sacrament; we have consumed it, that is, taken it in wholly and entirely. The power of the word reminds us of the people of Israel who were to consume the daily portion of manna in the desert, the gift of God, in order to be saved. The power of the word reminds us of the prophet Ezekiel who was given the scroll of the word of God to eat.

What is this consumed “Sacrament”? The Latin word here is plural, and so we know that the reference is not to the Body and Blood of Christ only. In the celebration of the Eucharist that is completed with this post-communion prayer, we have consumed both the Word of God and the Sacrament of the altar. Beyond that, we have celebrated the Eucharist as a baptized people, alive and gathered in the Holy Spirit. Hence, the “Sacrament that we have consumed” is the whole Christ, indeed all the mysteries of Christ. As we consume and make Christ part of us, Christ is making us part of himself. Such is our communion in and with him.

Hence, we pray that our communion in Christ may “save us...and confirm us” in divine truth. The praying community, the Church, is asking to be open to receive the salvation offered to us in the sacrament of Christ and to be rooted in his truth completely.

Prayer:

Jesus our Savior, we thank you for giving yourself to us in such varied splendor. May we take you completely into our hearts as you take us completely into yours. Amen.

Submitted by:

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