

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

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THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

October 26, 2014

Prayer after Communion

May your Sacraments, O Lord, we pray,
perfect in us what lies within them,
that what we now celebrate in signs
we may one day possess in truth.
Through Christ our Lord.

Reflection:

How beautifully this prayer from the *Gelasian Sacramentary* summarizes our understanding of symbol and Sacrament. Having just shared in the Body and Blood of Christ, we pray that we become perfectly transformed into what we have received. We acknowledge that what we celebrate in the Eucharist is still but a glimmer of what is to come, a reality of living in the “here but not yet”, an advent-time between the Resurrection of Christ and his coming again.

What lies within the Sacraments we share? What is it that we hope to possess fully in truth? Surely these are grace, the presence of God, the fullness of life and joy. Still, words cannot completely express our desire. So for now, we celebrate with a piece of bread, a sip of wine, and a song of praise on our lips. With eyes of faith, we call this the supper of the Lamb and the wedding feast of Christ, in the sure hope of possessing what we already have.

Prayer:

Help us, Lord, to see beyond the tangible things we need to recall your presence
and the limited way we understand the limitless joy you have prepared for us,
that we may always trust in your promise that, even now, is fulfilled for those who believe.

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