

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

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THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

November 16, 2014

**Prayer after Communion:**

We have partaken of the gifts of this sacred mystery,  
humbly imploring, O Lord,  
that what your Son commanded us to do  
in memory of him  
may bring us growth in charity.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**Reflection:**

This Sunday's unassuming nature, combined with its proximity to a major point of transition (the end of one liturgical year and the beginning of another), gives it a slightly awkward character. We might compare it to the pre-holiday atmosphere of Christmas Eve or New Year's Eve – it carries a sense of imminent bustle and festivity but also a somewhat comforting feeling that we still have a little more time to make all the necessary preparations.

Yet we must guard against slipping into a spiritual complacency, for we know neither the day nor the hour when we shall encounter Christ the King. The only sure approach is to hold fast to what the Son "commanded us to do" while striving to "serve with constancy" as today's Collect exhorts.

It is interesting to note that this same Prayer after Communion is also often used during Easter Time. This helps remind us that Ordinary Time should not be viewed as somehow disjointed from the high points of the liturgical year or as an acceptable time to coast along while waiting for a preparatory or penitential season to kick our spiritual lives into another gear. Every Sunday celebration of the Eucharist shares in the glory of the Resurrection and therefore provides an opportunity and exhortation to pursue the sanctifying "growth in charity" that our Lord desires for us.

**Prayer:**

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the graces you have bestowed upon us during this waning liturgical year. We ask that you will keep our sights ever fixed on your eternal Son, so that we will be found ready to meet him at all times. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Submitted by:  
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