

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

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November 2

THE COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

(All Souls' Day)

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Prayer after Communion:

Grant we pray, O Lord, that your departed servants,
for whom we have celebrated this paschal Sacrament,
may pass over to a dwelling place of light and peace.
Through Christ our Lord.

Reflection:

First of all, the prayer uses the plural, “departed servants”, since All Souls’ Day is for all those who have died.

Without being so named, this day is treated as if it were a Solemnity that is not a Holyday of Obligation. On this day, there cannot be a Ritual Mass or a Mass for Various Needs and Occasions (see GIRM, no. 372). Unless there is a Funeral Mass, which is permitted this day (GIRM, no. 380), all the Masses this day are for all who have died, not for any particular person.

As in all Masses, we celebrate the Paschal Mystery, the Death and Resurrection of Christ, who died for all humanity. The image of passing over connects us to the root of the word “Paschal”, the Passover, which, of course, is the context of Jesus’ saving event. We also pass over to a dwelling place of light and peace, an image from the First Eucharistic Prayer, the Roman Canon, *a place of refreshment, light and peace*, a residue from Roman pagan funeral rites at the grave. We pray that all the faithful departed can now share in that heavenly banquet which is peaceful and restful.

Prayer:

Echoing the Communion Antiphon, Lord, you are the Resurrection and the life and we believe in you. May all who have died, believing in you, live for ever in peace and joy.

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