

**Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions [FDLC]
Mystagogy 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:

Through these sacrificial gifts
which we have received, O Lord,
bestow on your departed servants your great mercy
and, to those you have endowed with the grace of Baptism,
grant also the fullness of eternal joy.
Through Christ our Lord.

Reflection:

We recall that the Eucharist is a sacrifice and, in Communion, we receive the gifts of that great sacrifice. Here stated, the gifts are great mercy and fullness of eternal joy. The Eucharist is the great Sacrament we offer for those who have died; we offer this sacrifice for both the living and the dead.

This concept that the Eucharist can be beneficial for those who have died is still an ecumenical topic worth continued discussion. One major issue in this ecumenical discussion is whether there can be any further grace for those who have died. Our faith proclaims that God can bestow mercy on the departed at the time of their death helped by the prayers of the faithful, as God is not determined by our time.

Finally, our eternal life begins with Baptism, the Sacrament by which we first died to sin and are reborn in Christ. At our death, helped by our prayers and the Eucharist, the departed may be granted the fullness of that grace and eternal joy.

Prayer:

Echoing the Communion Antiphon, may we who are still among those on earth be prepared and await the coming of the Lord, whether in the Second Coming or at the time of our death. May the Lord come and change our mortal bodies to conform to his glorified body in Heaven.

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