

FEDERATION OF DIOCESAN LITURGICAL COMMISSIONS [FDLC]
MYSTAGOGICAL REFLECTIONS ON THE COLLECTS
OF THE *ROMAN MISSAL*



“Collect”ing Our Thoughts – 28th-32nd Sundays in Ordinary Time

Artwork: Giotto di Bondone, *The Stefaneschi Triptych: Christ Enthroned* (c. 1330)

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TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

October 13, 2013

COLLECT

**May your grace, O Lord, we pray,
at all times go before us and follow after
and make us always determined
to carry out good works.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.**



REFLECTION

This prayer is part of the 8th century collection from Pope Hadrian I. It was used for morning and evening (see Paul Turner, *Pastoral Companion to the Roman Missal*, © 2010, World Library Publications, p. 150).

Grace. It is the Virgin whom we acknowledge to be full of grace. Oh, to be bathed in and surrounded by grace. Oh, to be led and followed by grace. Oh, to be full of grace like her.

But that is what we are: full of grace. Bathed in God at Baptism. Then clothed in Christ. And illumined by him. So that we may look like him, act like him, and be like him. We know and we believe that Baptism is less for membership and more for mission.

We are full of grace at God's own choosing. After eating and drinking the Body and Blood of Christ, we are strengthened to put our hands and feet, our heads and hearts to kingdom work. That is why we are charged at Mass end: "Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life."

PRAYER

Gracious God, fill us with your life and grace, that we may always be your good people doing good.

Submitted by:

Eliot Kapitan
Director for Worship and the Catechumenate
Diocese of Springfield in Illinois

Artwork: Pieter de Grebber, *Elisha Refusing Gifts from Naaman* (c. 1630)

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

October 20, 2013

COLLECT

**Almighty ever-living God,
grant that we may always conform our will to yours
and serve your majesty in sincerity of heart.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.**



REFLECTION

In the *Gelasian Sacramentary* from the 7th century, this prayer was used on a Sunday late in Easter Time. It was also a common Collect and a Prayer after Communion (see Paul Turner, *Pastoral Companion to the Roman Missal*, © 2010, World Library Publications, p. 152).

What is the will of God for me? This is a frequent question. In living our lives, we are never far from seeking and conforming our will to his. Wherever we are led to serve, we do so because of the call we have received and answered. This call by God brings us to witness to his life as we live out our own.

Following God's will is the beginning of our service. It can only be fulfilled when we are no longer the center of attention. When we look beyond the person doing the service to the one who generates the impulse for that service, then the result becomes a reflection of God's will. And for the one who is ministering with sincerity of heart, the service takes on a completely new image reflecting God's generous and majestic heart.

PRAYER

O God, you are the energy in our lives of service. As we minister to others and announce through our work your will for us, keep us centered, as you did for your early followers, on the objective of our service – being your hands, feet, and face in our world today.

Submitted by:

Sister Sharon Marie Stola, OSB, D.Min.
Director of the Office of Divine Worship and the Catechumenate
Diocese of Joliet-in-Illinois

Artwork: Boccaccio Boccaccino, *Christ in Majesty with the Patron Saints of Cremona* (1506)

Excerpt from *The Roman Missal, Third Edition* © 2010, ICEL.
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THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

October 27, 2013

COLLECT

**Almighty ever-living God,
increase our faith, hope and charity,
and make us love what you command,
so that we may merit what you promise.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever .**

REFLECTION

This Collect comes from the *Verona Sacramentary* of the 6th century. It asks for an increase of virtue, specifically the three theological virtues that Saint Paul addresses in the letters to the Corinthians and Thessalonians.

By asking for an increase of faith, hope, and charity we acknowledge that we are not perfect, that we still have room to grow. We associate ourselves with the commands to love God and to love neighbor (Mt 22:34-40, Year A Gospel), with the blind man's desire to see (Mk 10:46-52, Year B), and with the humble tax collector acknowledging that he is a sinner, rather than with the Pharisee bragging about how perfect he is (Lk 18:9-14, Year C).

We also ask to make us love God's commands. This request emphasizes again our desire to be humble. We seek not so much to follow our own impulses and desires but to be docile and to follow the will of the Lord so that we may attain the promise of the kingdom.

PRAYER

Almighty God, all goodness comes from you. Strengthen our faith to accept your love so that we may carry out your will and come to share the life you promise.

Submitted by:

Daniel McAfee
Director, Office for Christian Worship
Archdiocese of Detroit



Artwork: James Tissot, *The Pharisee and the Publican* (1886-1894)

ALL SAINTS, SOLEMNITY

November 1, 2013

COLLECT

**Almighty ever-living God,
by whose gift we venerate in one celebration
the merits of all the Saints,
bestow on us, we pray,
through the prayers of so many intercessors,
an abundance of the reconciliation with you
for which we earnestly long.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.**



REFLECTION

The Collect for All Saints has a long-honored place in the Mass and was included in the Missal prior to the Second Vatican Council. Although similar in content to the previous missal, the descriptive phrases have been expanded in this new translation of the *Roman Missal, Third Edition*.

The imagery in this prayer for the celebration of All Saints draws on John's heavenly vision of a great multitude in white robes and holding palm branches found in the seventh chapter of Revelation. It expresses our faith in the interaction between the Church Triumphant, the heavenly kingdom, and the Church Militant, the earthly kingdom. Not only is it reassuring to us that there are a great number of saints in heaven but the fact that they are advocating for our spiritual welfare is extraordinary.

On this day we give thanks for the witness of faith that all the saints throughout the ages have given to us. It gives us great joy to celebrate this feast in the awareness that the multitude of saints are interceding for us as we yearn for union with God.

PRAYER

Lord God, by your grace, the saints have followed in your path of life. Hear our pleas for your mercy, O Lord, and help us to attune our lives to these models of faith lived in your goodness.

Submitted by:

Judy Bullock, Ed.D.
Director of Worship
Archdiocese of Louisville

Artwork: Duccio di Buoninsegna, *Maestà* (detail) (1308-1311)

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

November 3, 2013

COLLECT

**Almighty and merciful God,
by whose gift your faithful offer you
right and praiseworthy service,
grant, we pray,
that we may hasten without stumbling
to receive the things you have promised.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.**



REFLECTION

This prayer is first found in the *Verona Sacramentary* from the 6th century. The gift, *munere*, that is offered here is nothing less than the gift of God first given to us. *Munere* also means duty, function, and service. To offer the Eucharist is all those things. It is a duty: we do this in memory of Christ. It is a function or action: we offer bread and wine. And it is a service: we offer the Eucharist in order that we might be transformed and sent to be Church in the world. Finally, because it is nothing less than the gift of God, our service can be right and praiseworthy. The Latin verb here is *serviatur*, an impersonal passive, which helps remind us that the emphasis is not on what we do but on what God does. It is his saving action.

Then we pray that we may hasten, yes run, without stumbling, to the promises of God. These promises are not so much things, as our translation states, but the very promises of life and grace from Jesus Christ, the gift we offer. Our prayer reminds us of the eschatological tension that we know neither the day nor the hour. Therefore we must pray and offer as a people prepared.

PRAYER

May what we offer become in us the very life of Jesus Christ. Let us not only become him whom we have received but also offer what he has first given to us: the gifts of bread and wine which will become our heavenly food.

Submitted by:

Rev. Leon Strieder, SLD
Diocese of Austin
St. Mary's Seminary, Houston, Texas

Artwork: James Tissot, *Zacchaeus in the Sycamore Awaiting the Passage of Jesus* (1886-1894)

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

November 10, 2013

COLLECT

**Almighty and merciful God,
graciously keep from us all adversity,
so that, unhindered in mind and body alike,
we may pursue in freedom of heart
the things that are yours.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.**

REFLECTION

This Collect begins by recalling two lasting attributes of God. He is almighty. He is merciful. With these attributes he can use divine power to free us from pain, fear, ill, and even lasting death. What a gift this is for us when we often encounter unpleasant situations that diminish our lives. Through the love of the “God of the Living” (Luke 20:38) we can be free from the pains and sufferings that we experience in this life.

While we are coming to the end of Ordinary Time, the truth learned through the Death and Resurrection remains with us throughout all of our days. In his Death, he destroyed adversity. In his Resurrection, he restored life to all. Therefore, we have the freedom to hope, to have faith, and to live knowing the love that God has for us. We do not fear death or destruction. This is the foundation of our relationship with the one true God.

PRAYER

Lord, increase our faith so that we may trust in your mercy and love.

Submitted by:

Karen L. Podd
Buffalo Diocesan Liturgical Commission
Diocese of Buffalo



Artwork: Domenico Ghirlandaio, *Christ in Heaven with Four Saints and a Donor* (c. 1492)