

Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions [FDLC]
Mystagogical Reflection on the Collects of the *Roman Missal*
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THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
PATRONAL FEASTDAY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, Solemnity
Saturday, December 8, 2012

Collect:

O God, who by the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin prepared a worthy dwelling for your Son, grant, we pray, that, as you preserved her from every stain by virtue of the Death of your Son, which you foresaw, so, through her intercession, we, too, may be cleansed and admitted to your presence. 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:

We first see the celebration of the Feast of the Conception of the Most Holy and All Pure Mother of God in the fifth century on December 9 by Eastern Christians in Syria. By the eighth century the Feast was celebrated in the Western Church on December 8. On May 13, 1846 the United States Bishops unanimously chose the Blessed Virgin Mary, conceived without sin, as Patroness of our country.

The celebration of this Solemnity during Advent gives us an amazing insight into Mary's role, from the time of her conception, in the salvation of humankind as made visible in her son. This prayer asks that as we progress in living the Gospel message of her son, we look for help from Mary's intercession to being admitted to the joys of eternal life and living in God's presence and be free from sin.

Advent recalls for us these images of the presence of God in our world, through the 'yes' of Mary, now and in the time to come. As we ask God, through Mary's intercession, to guide us in the way that will lead us to heaven, let us also remember the needs of our country and seek Mary's intercession for them.

Prayer:

God, fill me with a fervent desire to accept your call to holiness as Mary did, so that I may be a reflection of you to all whom I meet this day.

Submitted by:

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

Excerpt from *The Roman Missal, Third Edition* © 2010, ICEL.

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