

Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions [FDLC]
Mystagogical Reflection on the Collects of the *Roman Missal*
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OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE
PATRONAL FEASTDAY OF THE AMERICAS, Feast [USA]
Wednesday, December 12, 2012

Collect:

O God, Father of mercies,
who placed your people under the singular protection
of your Son's most holy Mother,
grant that all who invoke the Blessed Virgin of Guadalupe,
may seek with ever more lively faith
the progress of peoples in the ways of justice and of peace.
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 1969 reform of the general liturgical calendar, December 12 was the Optional Memorial of St. Jane Frances de Chantal. In 1971 the Congregation for Divine Worship confirmed the addition of the Memorial of Our Lady of Guadalupe on the same day for the United States. Our Lady of Guadalupe was raised to a Feast in 1987 for the United States. In 2008, in the supplement for the *Missale Romanum*, editio typica tertia, the orations for this feast were added to the general Roman calendar and thus into our English missal and Jane Frances de Chantal was moved to August 12.

The prayer emphasizes the protection of Mary for the People of God and requests that all who invoke her may seek with greater faith the progress of peoples in the ways of justice and peace. The present Mexican Missal speaks more appropriately of our country, "nuestra patria".

God is asking us to trust that he has put the Americas under the singular protection of his Son's Mother and we are to grow in faith and work for justice and peace. We cannot be Church without a true sense of being a particular people in a particular locale. Likewise God's plan demands that we work for his justice so all people may live in the dignity of the children of God.

Prayer:

May we take Mary's Magnificat more seriously, working for those disenfranchised in our midst. For truly the Lord has cast down the mighty and has lifted up the lowly.

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