

Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions [FDLC]
Mystagogical Reflection on the Collects of the *Roman Missal*
Link to Mystagogy Project on FDLC home page: <http://www.fdlc.org>.

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD [CHRISTMAS], Solemnity
December 25, 2012

At the Mass during the Day
Collect:

O God, who wonderfully created the dignity of human nature
and still more wonderfully restored it,
grant, we pray,
that we may share in the divinity of Christ,
who humbled himself to share in our humanity.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Reflection:

On this Christmas Day, we celebrate the Incarnation of Jesus, the Word made flesh. We remember that God so loved the world that he sent his only Son to walk among us, to dispel the darkness of the world, and restore it to its proper order.

The Collect prepares us to hear the Gospel of the day. The Collect reminds us that God created us wonderfully in his own image, and even though humanity has fallen, we have been wonderfully restored to God's own likeness by Christ's Incarnation, his becoming one of us. In a similar way, John's Gospel speaks to us about the Word made flesh, the Word that restores a world darkened by sin to a world bathed in the light of Christ.

We give thanks this day for the Incarnation, for Jesus' willingness to humble himself to become one of us. We rejoice in great hope of the transformation of our world, praying that all humanity recognize the light that Christ brings to us.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, you are the Word that walks among us. Be light for our world, be light for our minds and hearts that we may be restored to our true nature and share in the divine life of God.

Submitted by:
Karen Kane
Director of Worship
Archdiocese of Cincinnati

Excerpt from *The Roman Missal, Third Edition* © 2010, ICEL.
Reprinted with approval of the Committee on Divine Worship, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.