

Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions [FDLC]
Mystagogical Reflection on the Collects of the *Roman Missal*
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THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH, Feast
The Sunday within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord [Christmas]
December 29, 2012

Collect:

O God, who were pleased to give us
the shining example of the Holy Family,
graciously grant that we may imitate them
in practicing the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity,
and so, in the joy of your house,
delight one day in eternal rewards.
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 Feast was instituted by Pope Leo XIII in 1893 and was made a universal Feast by Pope Benedict XV in 1921. Before the reforms of the Second Vatican Council this Feast was celebrated on the First Sunday after Epiphany.

The Collect emphasizes the example of the Holy Family as worthy of our imitation. It calls for the practicing of the virtues of family life with charity. Likewise by living these days with the joy of the home of the Holy Family, we may delight one day in the joy of heaven.

God is thanked for giving us the example of the Holy Family. We ask him to grant us the grace to imitate the very essence and joy of that family and that holy home which both reflects and is a participation in the very life of heaven. We are challenged to live that example for our own sanctification and for the evangelization of all families.

Prayer:

May our families be true examples of the Holy Family such that our homes, and all who live there, may truly be a domestic church, a small community which reflects the very heavenly abode of all the Angels and Saints.

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