

**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 Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord [Christmas]  
SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD  
January 1, 2013

Collect:

O God, who through the fruitful virginity of Blessed Mary  
bestowed on the human race  
the grace of eternal salvation,  
grant, we pray,  
that we may experience the intercession of her,  
through whom we were found worthy  
to receive the author of life,  
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 (Opening Prayer) reflects the Church's rich devotion to the Blessed Mother. We celebrate that devotion with ancient hymn texts that are regularly part of our prayer life: *Ave Maria*, *Salve Regina*, *Alma Redemptoris Mater*. In all of them Mary is our advocate. Hers is the fruitful womb. Through her intercessions we hope for our salvation.

This Collect is taken from the Roman Breviary (now the Liturgy of the Hours). It ended *Alma Redemptoris Mater* sung at the end of Night Prayer from Christmas Eve until the Purification (now the Presentation of the Lord).

Praying this prayer during Christmas Time adds to our understanding of the Incarnation. The Lord took on flesh so that he could experience, as do we, the suffering of death. But, Incarnation leads to Resurrection and thus we have a hope that transcends death. This is the blessing of the fruit of Mary's womb. This is the gift of the author of life.

Prayer:

Lord, through the intercession of Mary we raise our hearts to you. Strengthen us that we may be truly worthy of your gifts of life and salvation.

Submitted by:  
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