

Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions [FDLC]
Mystagogical Reflection on the Collects of the *Roman Missal*
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THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD, Solemnity
January 6, 2013

At the Mass during the Day
Collect:

O God, who on this day
revealed your Only Begotten Son to the nations
by the guidance of a star,
grant in your mercy
that we, who know you already by faith,
may be brought to behold the beauty of your sublime glory.
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 is a very old prayer included in the *Hadrian Sacramentary*. It has been used on Epiphany since the latter part of the eighth century. This prayer and this feast expand that the revelation of God is not to just the followers with Jewish roots but to all those beyond the borders, that is, to all the nations.

This prayer admits that the Son of God, born human like us [in all things but sin], is given to everyone. The Latin word “gentibus”, translated “to the nations”, is the same word used in the Second Vatican Council Decree on the Missionary Activity of the Church. Its Latin title is “Ad gentes” because it begins with those words that translate “To the nations”.

There is any number of bright stars, new fads, popular figures ready to lead us. But they may guide us to places we should not go. This prayer and this Epiphany show us, manifest to us that there is a luminous One alone, the Only Begotten Son, who is worthy to guide us. We know him by faith. And in that relationship, we follow him to live and work and be among the nations. No one is excluded from our fellowship.

Prayer:

Help us grasp the full meaning, O God, that your Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, is given not just to the baptized, not just to us, but to all. Help us behave like everyone is your son and daughter and thus our sister and brother.

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