

Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions [FDLC]
Mystagogical Reflection on the Collects of the *Roman Missal*
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THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD, Feast
January 13, 2013

Collect:

Almighty ever-living God,
who, when Christ had been baptized in the River Jordan
and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him,
solemnly declared him your beloved Son,
grant that your children by adoption,
reborn of water and the Holy Spirit,
may always be well pleasing to you.
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:

There is a lot of imagery captured in this prayer! Your ears will need to be readied to hear and comprehend all that is being said in this prayer.

First, the prayer recalls for us the image of Jesus being baptized in the River Jordan. We also recall that the Holy Spirit descended upon him and God said, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." Finally, we pray that we, God's children by adoption, God's children who have been reborn of the water and the Spirit, be pleasing in God's sight. Really, the prayer is quite simple. We are asking that our lives, baptized into Christ, be pleasing to God.

Not always do the Collects reflect the Gospel of the day, but this one clearly refers us to the Feast we celebrate and the Gospel proclaimed. This prayer can lead us to appreciate the importance of our Baptism. Through Baptism into Christ, God has adopted us as his own. We belong to God!

Prayer:

Lord God, we give you thanks for adopting us as your children through the waters of Baptism and the power of the Holy Spirit. Strengthen us to live our baptismal calling that we may indeed live according to your will.

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