

Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions [FDLC]
Mystagogical Reflection on the Collects of the *Roman Missal*
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SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (or of Divine Mercy)
April 7, 2013

Collect:

God of everlasting mercy,
who in the very recurrence of the paschal feast
kindle the faith of the people you have made your own,
increase, we pray, the grace you have bestowed,
that all may grasp and rightly understand
in what font they have been washed,
by whose Spirit they have been reborn,
by whose Blood they have been redeemed.
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:

No other Sunday has so many different names associated with it. This Sunday is called “Low Sunday” in contrast with Easter Sunday’s exuberance. It is called “Quasimodo Sunday” recalling Victor Hugo’s hunchback named for the first two words of today’s introit. It is called “*Dominica in albis depositis*” for it is the last day the newly baptized traditionally wore their white garment. Finally, it has been designated as “Sunday of Divine Mercy.”

Two of the appellations for this Sunday connect us to today’s Collect which has its origins in the Gothic Missal. The opening words of the Entrance Antiphon (introit), *quasi modo geniti infants*, “like newborn infants”, relates directly to the Collect’s focus on the newly baptized. *Dominica in albis depositis* is also a reference to the neophytes wearing their baptismal garments for the last time.

While the Collect text emphasizes the powerful presence of the neophytes as living icons in our midst, it also recalls for us our own participation in the sacred mysteries of Baptism and encourages God to “fire us up” so that all who have been washed and reborn in the Spirit may continue to grow in faith and in grace. We are reminded that we must return again and again to share this feast in order to grasp this profound mystery.

Prayer:

Merciful God, each year we celebrate the Baptism of new faithful. May the gift of their presence help us to continue growing in faith. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Submitted by:
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