

Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions [FDLC]
Mystagogical Reflection on the Collects of the *Roman Missal*
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First Sunday after Pentecost
THE MOST HOLY TRINITY, Solemnity
May 26, 2013

Collect:

God our Father, who by sending into the world
the Word of truth and the Spirit of sanctification
made known to the human race your wondrous mystery,
grant us, we pray, that in professing the true faith,
we may acknowledge the Trinity of eternal glory
and adore your Unity, powerful in majesty.
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:

Although the *Gelasian Sacramentary* had a preface in honor of the Trinity, this feast was not added to the universal calendar until 1334 by Pope John XXII while in Avignon. The present prayer is an amplification of the prayer found in the 1962 Missal.

It begins by addressing God as Father, the only Sunday Collect which addresses God as Father, a unique understanding of the Trinity as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Son is addressed as the Word of truth and the Spirit as the Spirit of sanctification, both sent into the world by the Father to make known to the human race the wondrous mystery of the essence of God as Trinity.

There is no mention of the Son being involved in the sending of the Spirit, no *filioque* controversy, which up until our time was a source of irritation to the Orthodox. The prayer continues by declaring that in professing the true faith, that of God as a marvelous trinity of persons, we might acknowledge both the eternal glory of the Trinity and adore its powerful unity.

Prayer:

May our prayer echo the Communion Antiphon: that we may be children of God who have in our hearts the Spirit of the Son who cries out Abba, Father. May we be a community of persons, united in the grace of the loving Trinity, a community of love and unity, who know that God is our Father and the Father of all.

Submitted by:
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