Pride.
(by Don Marquis)

boss it is funny to me
the things that people get proud of
i met a flea today
who was all hopped up
with self importance
he said he had been
up to the zoo and had bit
a lion you should have heard
him roar said the flea
when i sank my teeth into him
plenty of fleas have bit dogs
but i guess i am the only
flea who ever licked a lion
little fellow
i said to him
don't get proud

probably he never knew
you existed more than likely
he thought you were only
a measles breaking out on him
boss i have known
some human beings who were
just as foolish as that flea
they thought they were heroes
when they were only cinders
in the eyes of humanity
too many creatures
both insects and humans
estimate their own value
by the amount of minor irritation
they are able to cause
to greater personalities than themselves
--archy

(From Literary Digest)

The White Cloth In Baptism.

It takes a priest about five seconds to pour the water and say the required words in the ceremony of Baptism. Because of the brevity of this essential rite, Mother Church fears that those attending the Baptism may overlook the meaning of the wonders performed in the soul by the Sacrament. So She surrounds the pouring of water with symbolic actions and prayers designed to teach what Christ does for the soul through Baptism.

In the Mass for this Sunday, called the Sunday in White (In Albis), the Church recalls one of the symbolic actions of the baptismal rite. After the pouring of the water, the priest places a white cloth on the head of the newly-baptised. This recalls a practice of the Ancient Church.

In the first centuries of the Church adult converts put on a white outer garment after their baptism; the garment was worn for a full week, from Holy Saturday, the day of baptism, until the following Saturday. This garment was symbolic of the innocence of soul affected by baptism. Every day of the week the new converts, in appreciation for the wonderful gift of Faith and innocence, would visit the church and the font where the Sacrament had been administered.

On the seventh day, Saturday, the converts appeared before the bishop, having removed their white garment. With the bishop as witness, all took a solemn promise to maintain the inward purity of soul represented by the white robe. The following Sunday, the converts appeared in church in their ordinary clothes. The day should be called: The Sunday without the White Garments, and its object is to encourage the new converts to be truly Christian in their everyday life.

Every Catholic should catch this thought at Mass Sunday.

NEXT MONDAY UNIVERSAL NOTRE DAME
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