

our Collect with the ablative *christiana professione*. Getting this into English requires some fancy footwork. *Censeo* here retains a meaning of “be counted among” (think of English “census”). We can get the right concept in “distinguished” since it can mean both “be counted as” as well as “be celebrated for some quality.”

Christianus, a, um is an adjective with the noun *professio*. When moving from Latin to English sometimes we need to pull adjectives apart and rephrase them. We could say “Christian profession”, but what this adjectival construction means here is “profession of Christ.” We find the same problem in phrases such as *oratio dominica*, which is literally “the Lordly Prayer” in English comes out more smoothly as “the Lord’s Prayer”.

Respuo literally means “to spit out” and thus “reject, repel, refuse”. The fundamental meaning gives a strong enough image for me to say “strongly reject”. The deponent verb *sector* indicates “to follow continually or eagerly” in either a good or bad sense. *Sector* is used, for example, to describe a group of followers who accompanied ancient philosophers, which is where we get the word “sect”. The word *via* needs our attention. It means, “a way, method, mode, manner, fashion, etc., of doing any thing, course”. There is a moral content to *via* as well, “the right way, the true method, mode, or manner”.

LITERAL TRANSLATION:

*O God, who does show the light of Your truth to the erring
so that they might be able to return unto the way,
grant to all who are distinguished by their profession of Christ
that they may both strongly reject those things which are inimical to this name of Christian
and follow eagerly the things which are suited to it.*

OBSOLETE ICEL (1973):

*God our Father,
your light of truth
guides us to the way of Christ.
May all who follow him
reject what is contrary to the gospel.*

CURRENT ICEL (2011):

*O God, who show the light of your truth
to those who go astray,
so that they may return to the right path,
give all who for the faith they profess
are accounted Christians
the grace to reject whatever is contrary to the name of Christ
and to strive after all that does it honor.*

Some initial associations to my mind.