

Mystagogy Session

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the RCIA
Sixth Sunday of Easter • Year A • May 29, 2011

Catechist Preparation

Readings

Acts 8:5–8, 14–17
Psalm 66:1–3, 4–5, 6–7, 16, 20
1 Peter 3:15–18
John 14:15–21

Liturgy of the Hours

Pray the Office of Readings on Monday, Sixth Week of Easter, Second Reading (from Didymus of Alexandria): *The Holy Spirit renews us in baptism.*

Mystagogy Session Guide

(Approximately 60 minutes)

Have the space set with chairs, a candle and a Bible as your focal point. If needed, have nametags and some refreshments available.

Welcome

Greet people as they arrive. Take time to check-in with everyone to find out how they are doing.

Share

1. Invite the neophytes to consider how far they have come on their faith journey. Ask them to think about questions they had during each period of the RCIA process (especially the Inquiry and the Catechumenate). If anyone kept a faith journal, invite him or her to share some of their entries.
2. Inquire about anything that may have surprised, affirmed, consoled or challenged participants. Challenge them to reflect back on how their understanding has grown and deepened. Refer to the Deepen section of the Participant Handout.
3. After some time for quiet reflection, invite them to share some of their thoughts with one other person. Then gather a sampling of their responses to share with the larger group.

Meditate

Discuss the Meditate section of the Participant Handout, referring to these points:

- ◆ The Mass is divided into two main parts: The Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist.
- ◆ Readings from Sacred Scripture are proclaimed every week. This book is called the Lectionary. These readings and the homily provide guidance for all present at Mass. During the Easter season, the Lectionary readings are particularly significant for the newly baptized.
- ◆ The Church warmly welcomes new members and continues to offer support and example of what it means to be a fully initiated Catholic. As known, this formal process is called the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.

Deepen

1. Proclaim the First Reading: Acts 8:5–8, 14–17. Then invite the neophytes to share their experiences of the following:
 - ◆ Being confirmed through the laying on of hands and the anointing with the Sacred Chrism
 - ◆ Hearing the priest pray the Eucharistic Prayer during the consecration of the bread and wine
 - ◆ Praying the Lord's Prayer and exchanging the Sign of Peace with the community
 - ◆ Receiving Holy Communion as the final act of full initiation into the Catholic Church
 - ◆ Receiving the final blessing during the Concluding Rites
2. Read and discuss the Deepen section of the Participant Handout.

Act

Discuss the Act and For Reflection sections. Encourage all to reflect on the many ways they do the Works of Mercy in the home, the workplace, the parish, and within the community-at-large.

Pray

Pray the prayer at the top of the Participant Handout.