

# Mystagogy Session

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

O God, we praise and thank you!  
In Baptism, you have poured into our hearts  
the Spirit of your love, filling us with new life.  
May we live in the peace of your love now and always.

## Sunday Word

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

## The Network of Love

### Share

During your initiation into the Church, you met new people and became more involved in your parish community. That is, you became a member of the Catholic Church, both locally and universally. As a result, your personal relationship to the Body of Christ has expanded due to the new relationships you have gained in the process of Christian initiation.

Those who were once “strangers in the world” have become your “brothers and sisters in Christ.” Some you might even consider “friends.” These friends and, indeed, the entire family of God are a gift to you from God. They are your network of love.

### Meditate

During the Easter Season, we hear, from the Acts of the Apostles in the First Reading, how the community of believers grew because of the Apostles’ preaching and the signs and wonders that they worked within the community. The early Church took on new members who were attracted to a lifestyle of closeness and radiating love because of her sacrificial giving.

You have been a recipient of the Church’s giving. She has loved you as a mother through the entire process, embracing you, holding you close to her heart. During the Catechumenate period, your sponsors and others walked the way with you, guiding you to Easter and making you feel at home.

You in turn engaged occasionally in apostolic works. That is, you provided Christian service to people in need. You participated in the life of the Church—one of giving and receiving. Love was exchanged because the Holy Spirit was present.

### Deepen

Jesus promised his disciples that after he ascends to his Father he would not leave them orphaned. He would send an Advocate, the Holy Spirit, to accompany them on their journey of faith.

In fact, the Holy Spirit dwells in the hearts of every disciple of Jesus. Because the Holy Spirit dwells within us, we are in holy communion with God and with one another.

This sacred network of love forms us and influences us in such a way that we radiate God’s abiding love. It is just as Jesus promised, “On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me and I in you” (John 14:20). Christ is present to the world through us.

### For Reflection . . .

During the past year, which particular Christian service experience stands out for you? How did this powerful experience reveal the presence of God and his abiding love to the world?

### Act

Make the commitment to continually engage in apostolic works through Catholic organizations or parish outreach ministries. If necessary, schedule your continuing involvement with the organization or parish ministry to help you keep love a priority.

### For Reflection . . .

How is your involvement in Christian service the “proof” necessary to show that your faith is “real?”