

Mystagogy Session

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the RCIA
Second Sunday of Easter • Year C • April 11, 2010

Catechist Preparation

Readings

Acts 5:12–16

Psalm 118:2–4, 13–15, 22–24

Revelation 1:9–11a, 12–13, 17–19

John 20:19–31

Liturgy of the Hours

Read and pray Reading 5: “A New Creation in Christ” from *The Liturgy of the Hours*, Office of Readings for the Easter Season.

Mystagogy Session Guide

(Approximately 60 minutes)

Set the space with chairs and a focal point with a candle, a bowl of water, and a Bible. Provide name tags, and have some refreshments available.

Welcome

Greet the participants as they arrive, and allow time for informal conversation.

Deepen

1. Summarize or provide the group with time to read Deepen on the participant resource. Then invite the neophytes to consider their status as a new creation. Ask the following questions one at a time and have participants reflect on them:

In this past week, consider how you have experienced “newness of life” as a fully initiated Catholic?

What do you understand when you hear that the “eighth day” is the first day of the rest of your life?

2. After some time for quiet reflection, invite the participants to share their reflections with one other person. Then encourage several volunteers to share their thoughts with the large group.

Meditate

1. Proclaim the Gospel (John 20:19–31), then invite the neophytes to reflect on the following questions:

In what way is the story of Thomas your story?

What causes doubts to rise within you?

Why is it challenging for you to believe without seeing?

In what ways are believers called to walk by faith and not be sight?

2. After some time for quiet reflection, invite volunteers to share their thoughts with the larger group.

Share

Read and discuss Share on the participant resource. Then explore the following points with the neophytes:

- ◆ It is through the Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ that we are empowered to believe without seeing for ourselves.
- ◆ We have our faults and failings; we are limited. However, in the celebration of the Eucharist we are drawn into the great mystery of God’s unconditional and unfailing love for each and every one of us. God so loved the world, that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came to be one of us that we might know how much God loves us and desires us to be one in Christ.
- ◆ In the Eucharist, we are gathered into one by Christ.

Act

1. In Baptism, we have put on Christ. Consider the wounds of Christ. Through Christ’s willingness to suffer and die, and through his Resurrection, we are invited to approach the table of the Eucharist to eat and drink the Body and Blood of Christ. We are sent forth to be Christ in the world for the sake of God’s kingdom.
2. Invite the neophytes to consider some ways in which they might be challenged to be the Good News of Christ this week. Ask them to consider how they can respond.

Pray

Use one of the music suggestions for today’s session as a meditation for the closing prayer.