

Mystagogy Session

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the RCIA
Ascension of the Lord • Year B • May 12, 2024

Catechist Preparation

Readings

Acts 1:1-11

Psalm 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9

Ephesians 1:17-23 or Ephesians 4:1-13 or 4:1-7

Mark 16:15-20

Liturgy of the Hours

Read and reflect on the Second Reading from the Office of Readings for Ascension (from a sermon by Saint Augustine, bishop).

Mystagogy Session Guide

(Approximately 60 minutes)

If possible, gather in the worship space near the Paschal candle. (If not, then prepare the space with chairs in a circle around a prayer table with a large white candle, a Bible, and a picture or icon of the Ascension.)

If needed, provide nametags. Have some refreshments available for the group.

Deepen

- Explore with the neophytes:
 - All the baptized—from the time of Christ till the present day—are called be witnesses to Christ so that others might come to know him and embrace the Christian way of life.
 - How do the saints such as the Apostles, Saint Francis of Assisi, Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, the patron saint of the parish, and others put their faith into practice
- Ask: *In what way are we called to be witnesses today?*
- After some time for quiet reflection, invite the neophytes to share some of their thoughts first with one other person, then gather some of the fruit of their sharing.

Meditate

- Ask:
 - What do you know about the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord?
 - Why is it important?
 - If you had been one of the disciples, how would you have responded to Jesus' departure?
- Proclaim the Gospel, Mark 16:15-20.
- Explore:
 - The meaning of Jesus' description of those who believe and are baptized
 - That the disciples are called to be witnesses to the events in the life of Jesus; they are to go to all nations and baptize and make disciples
- Refer to Meditate section of the participant handout.

Share

- Read and discuss the Share section of the participant page.
- Emphasize these points:
 - At the Dismissal of the Mass, we are sent to be witnesses.
 - The words of Saint Francis: "Go and preach the Gospel. Use words if you must."
 - Actions speak louder than words. It is important that our actions match our words.
 - We are responsible for what we say and do; we are not responsible for how our words and actions will be used—for or against us. We are called to be witnesses for all, not to judge who is worthy to hear the words or to receive the gift of Jesus.

Do!

1. Brainstorm with the neophytes all the ways that they can witness in their homes, their communities, their workplaces, and the world. Encourage them to consider what it will cost them to witness, and then ask whether they are willing to pay the price.
2. Read and discuss the Do! and For Reflection sections of the participant page.

Pray

Conclude by singing “Servant Song” (D. McGargill/OCP Publications), “The Servant Song” (R. Gillard/Universal Music Group-Brentwood Benson Music Publishing), or another song highlighting service, mission, and ministry.