

Mystagogy Session

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the RCIA
Second Sunday of Easter (Sunday of Divine Mercy) • Year B • April 7, 2024

Catechist Preparation

Readings

Acts 4:32-35

Psalm 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24

1 John 5:1-6

John 20:19-31

Liturgy of the Hours

Read and reflect on the Second Reading from the Liturgy of the Hours, Office of Readings for Sunday within the Octave of Easter. Read some background about Saint Faustina Kowalska and the Feast of Divine Mercy.

Mystagogy Session Guide

(Approximately 60 minutes)

Have the space set with chairs and create a focal point with a candle, a bowl of water, and a Bible. If needed, have name tags. Have some refreshments available.

Welcome

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

Deepen

1. Invite the neophytes to consider their status as new creations made new in Baptism and culminating in their sharing of the Eucharist. Pause after each question.

In this past week, how have you experienced your "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?

With whom do you share your experience of the Sacraments of Initiation?

2. After some time for quiet reflection, invite participants to share some of their reflections first with one other person and then with the larger group. (Refer to the Deepen section of the participant page.)

Meditate

1. Proclaim the Gospel, John 20:19-31.

Invite the neophytes to consider their new status as believers, disciples of Christ. Pause after asking each question.

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 way are believers called to walk by faith and not by sight?

2. Then gather some of the fruit of their sharing.
3. If possible, play or sing "We Walk by Faith" (M. Haugen/GIA Publications) or another appropriate hymn.

Share

Read and discuss the Share section of the participant page. Explore with the neophytes these points:

1. It is through the Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ that we are empowered to believe without seeing for ourselves.
2. We have our faults and failings. We are limited, but 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.
3. In the Eucharist, we are gathered into one by Christ. The Eucharist is the source and summit of our lives.

Do!

In Baptism, we have put on Christ! Consider the wounds of Christ—they are holy wounds. 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 the world. Invite participants to consider some ways in which they might make sacrifices in order to become the Good News of Christ this week.

Pray

Teach the prayer “Come, Holy Spirit,” and pray it together.