

Mystagogy Session

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the RCIA
Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord • Year B • March 31, 2024

Catechist Preparation

Readings

Acts 10:34a, 37-43

Psalm 118:1-2, 16ab-17, 22-23

Colossians 3:1-4 or 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8

John 20:1-9 or Mark 16:1-7

Liturgy of the Hours

Read and reflect on Reading 3 from the Liturgy of the Hours, Office of Readings for Easter Sunday (Romans 6: 3-11).

Mystagogy Session Guide

(Approximately 60 minutes)

Have the space set with chairs and a focal point with a candle and a Bible.

Welcome

Greet people as they arrive. Take time for introductions and check in with everyone to find out how they are doing. If needed, have nametags. Have some refreshments available for the group.

Deepen

1. Invite the neophytes to reflect back on their experiences of the whole initiation process using these or similar questions (pause after each question):

What prompted you to begin this journey? How was God working in your life to bring you to this time and place?

Who are some of the people who have supported you on your journey of faith? In what ways did you experience their support?

2. After some time for quiet reflection, invite participants to share some of their reflections first with one other person, then with the larger group.

Meditate

1. Continue with a discussion using these or similar questions:

The Vigil began in darkness; what were you thinking or feeling in the darkness?

- The new fire was lit; the new candle (Paschal candle) was marked.
- The Alpha and the Omega
- The five wounds of Christ
- The year
- Then the Paschal candle was lit from the fire.
- “The Light of Christ” was proclaimed three times as we processed into the worship space.

What were you thinking or feeling?

2. Summarize the discussion.
3. Proclaim the Gospel, John 20:1-9.
4. Read the Meditate section from the participant handout.
5. Explore these ideas:
 - Mary of Magdala arrived at the tomb and found the stone removed, so she ran to tell the disciples and they arrived at the tomb in the dark.
Consider what keeps us in the dark—what keeps us from believing the Good News of the Resurrection?
 - The disciples have hope that Jesus is risen as he had promised; imagine their surprise to find the tomb not only empty but also the face cloth carefully folded in a spot distinct from the place where the body of Jesus had been placed.
Consider what gives you hope—how do you respond to the Good News of Jesus' Resurrection?
6. After some time for quiet reflection, invite the neophytes to share with one other person.

Share

Explore with the neophytes these points:

- God raised Jesus from the dead; death has no power over God. God is all-powerful. This is Good News!
- In Baptism, we are united to Christ in his Resurrection. We die to our old selves in order to rise to new life in Christ.
- We are given the light of the Paschal candle, that we might be the light of Christ for others.

Do!

In Baptism, you became followers of Jesus Christ. You are sent to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ. Think about the coming days and how you will be a light to others.

Pray

Pray the closing prayer from the participant handout.