

Mystagogy Session

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the RCIA
Pentecost Sunday • Year B • May 19, 2024

Catechist Preparation

Readings

Acts 2:1-11

Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34

1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13 or Galatians 5:16-25

John 20:19-23 or John 15:26-27; 16:12-15

Liturgy of the Hours

Read and reflect on the Second Reading from the Office of Readings for Pentecost (from the Treatise Against Heresies by Saint Irenaeus, bishop).

Mystagogy Session Guide

(Approximately 60 minutes)

If possible, gather in the worship space near the baptismal font. Include in the setting the Paschal candle and the Oil of Chrism. (If not, then prepare the space with chairs around a prayer table with a large white candle, a Bible, and the Oil of Chrism.)

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

Deepen

1. Lead the neophytes in a guided mediation using these or similar words:

Find a comfortable place to sit.

Quiet yourself. If you wish, close your eyes.

Remember the night of your initiation.

What do you see? What do you hear? What do you smell? How do you feel?

Remember the events of the evening . . . your arrival at the darkened church; the fire; the lighting of the Paschal candle; the procession of light; the singing of the Exsultet; listening to the Scripture readings proclaim the story of our Salvation.

Then came the call to you to express your belief in God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

You entered the waters of Baptism.

You were clothed in white.

You received the light of Christ.

With the Oil of Chrism, you were confirmed with gift of the Holy Spirit.

You received Communion for the first time.

You are a new creation; you received a new name—Christian.

When you are ready, come back to this time and place.

2. After some time for quiet reflection, invite the neophytes to share some of their thoughts with one other person, and then gather some of the fruit of their sharing.
3. Refer to the Deepen section of the participant handout.

Meditate

1. Proclaim the Gospel, John 20:19-23.
2. Explore with the neophytes
 - Jesus' words of greeting to the disciples: "Peace be with you!"
 - The word *shalom*, which conveys that all is in right relationship. Harmony abounds with God; harmony abounds with all peoples and cultures and families; harmony abounds with all of creation. All of creation is as God intended, and we hear "And God saw that it was good" from the Book of Genesis.
 - Just as Christ was sent by the Father to bring peace, so too Jesus sends out the disciples to take this peace—this *shalom*—to the ends of the earth.
 - The Risen Lord breathes on them the gift of the Spirit, who will remain until the end of the world to guide and strengthen them in their mission.
3. Refer to the Meditate section of the participant handout.

Share

1. Proclaim the First Reading, Acts 2:1-11.
2. Read and discuss the Share section of the participant handout.
3. Emphasize these points:
 - Pentecost Sunday closes the Easter Season and the formal time of Mystagogy. We continue to be the witnesses of Christ sent out to the world just as the disciples did on that first Pentecost. Many came to believe in Christ because of their testimony.
 - The Spirit rushed upon the disciples on that first Pentecost and filled them with an urgency to proclaim the Good News of Salvation. We too have been gifted with the Spirit to take the message to all strata of life—to bring shalom to all peoples, but in particular to our families, our neighborhoods, and our communities—to our homes, our places of work, and our world.
 - We are co-workers in the vineyard, gifted with the Spirit to strengthen us in our commitment to carry on the mission of Christ.

Do!

1. Encourage all to celebrate Pentecost!
2. Read and discuss the Do! and For Reflection sections of the participant handout.

Pray

Pray the prayer from the participant handout or sing together a familiar Pentecost hymn.