

Mystagogy Session

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the RCIA
Fifth Sunday of Easter • Year B • April 28, 2024

*Almighty God,
in your Son, Jesus, you give us a new Commandment,
the Commandment of love.*

*You graft us upon the vine,
living branches in Christ.*

*Nourish us to bear great fruit.
Amen.*

Sunday Word

Acts 9:26-31

Psalm 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32

1 John 3:18-24

John 15:1-8

Reflection

Deepen

You are accustomed to reflecting on Sacred Scripture, basing much of your sharing and dialogue on it. Notice that this particular Gospel reading from John contains a number of images and ideas, starting with Jesus' statement that he is "the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower."

Take some time right now to allow this rich Gospel text to resonate within you. What particular word or phrase jumps off the page for you? Why?

Meditate

Jesus bids his disciples to remain in him, for without him, our lives will wither. We will not bear fruit unless we are close to the Lord Jesus, in communion with him, like branches sprouting from the main vine.

Catholics uphold the Eucharist as sacramental nourishment that flows from the mystery of Christ's saving sacrifice. Indeed, the Eucharist itself *is* Christ, his Body and Blood made present really and truly in

this sacramental gift to his Church. We also believe that by partaking in the Eucharist, we are privileged—along with all our brothers and sisters in faith—to participate in the Lord Jesus' own sacrifice. This is a great "work" accomplished in us by the grace of God and by the action of the Holy Spirit. It is this supremely divine work that enables us to go forth to do *our* work in the world.

Share

You have been partaking in the Eucharist for only a handful of times since your full initiation. Nevertheless, the very newness of the experience probably heightens your awareness of the mystery contained within it.

We are joined to Jesus in the Eucharist. Indeed, Jesus promises that those who remain in him may petition him in prayer and they will be given what they need. Their lives will glorify his heavenly Father.

Given what you yourself experienced at Mass on the fifth Sunday of Easter, what insight concerning life have you been given? Where has the Lord Jesus pruned your life, and where has he given the growth? What area of your life might still need pruning, and in what ways do you need to continue to grow?

What does Jesus in the Eucharist reveal to you about improving yourself in order to keep his Commandment of love?

Do!

Choose a beautiful notecard for yourself. Write in it the following words: "Almighty God, I praise and thank you for the gift of the Eucharist because . . ." Complete the statement. Put the notecard in its envelope, seal the envelope, and choose a place to save it. On the one-year anniversary of your initiation, take the note out and reread it.

For Reflection . . .

Jesus is the true vine! Each Sunday after receiving Holy Communion, imagine your soul to be intertwined with and embraced by God's grace in Christ.