

MYSTAGOGY:

Processing with the Light of Christ

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the RCIA

Catechist Preparation:**Read:**

- *The Roman Missal*, First Part of the Easter Vigil: Procession (with the new Paschal candle)
- Matthew 5:13-16
- John 8:12

Music Suggestions:

- "Bring Forth the Kingdom," M. Haugen, GIA Publications
- "Christ, Be Our Light," B. Farrell, OCP Publications

Pray this portion of the Creed:

*I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.*

Prepare: If possible, gather around the Paschal candle. (If not, then prepare the space with chairs, a Bible, a large white candle as well as small white tapers – one for everyone.) If needed, have nametags. Have some refreshments available.

Caution: If the group is larger than five or six, guide people to share in smaller groups

whenever possible.

Gather

1. Greet people as they arrive.
2. Take time for introductions and check in with everyone to find out how they are doing.
3. Facilitate a discussion contrasting light and darkness. Use these or similar questions:
 - *When do you light candles in your home? Why or why not?*
 - *When you arrive home in the evening, what is one of the first things you do when you enter your home? Why?*
 - *If you had to choose between being in the light or being in the dark, what do you choose and why?*
4. Gather some feedback from the discussion.

Deepen

1. Light the Paschal candle or the large candle.
2. Ask:
 - *In what way(s) are you drawn to light?*
 - *Do you ever follow the light? When? Why?*
3. Share these or similar words: *During the liturgy of the Easter Vigil, we followed the light of Christ into the church proclaiming: "Lumen Christi! The Light of Christ!" The light of Christ leads us; we are called to follow Christ who is the Light of the world. Christ is the light that penetrates the darkness; the light that will never be extinguished.*
4. Read and discuss the *Probe the Mystery* section of the participant page.

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Meditate

Refer to the *Savor the Mystery* section of the participant page.

1. Explore with these points:
 - The Paschal candle is carried from outside the church and placed in a prominent location for all to see. We are drawn to the light — the light of Christ.
 - Christ leads us always and in all ways. We are called to follow the light.
 - Reflect on some Scripture stories that recount others who followed the light.
 - ◆ Moses and the Israelites following the pillar of light by night
 - ◆ The shepherds and the Magi following the star to Bethlehem
 - Discuss:
 - ◆ What draws us to the light of Christ?
 - ◆ What keeps us from following Christ, the Light of the world?
 - Summarize the discussion.

Do

1. At the dinner table, light a candle and discuss the ways that each member of the family brings the light of Christ to others.

2. On the anniversary of your Baptism, light your baptismal candle and discuss the opportunities you have to be the light of Christ for others.

Refer to the *Inspire Others* section of the participant handout.

Pray

Give everyone a taper and have them light it from the large candle. Sing or play a recording of “Bring Forth the Kingdom,” (M. Haugen, GIA Publications) or use the prayer from the participant handout.

