

## MYSTAGOGY:

*Anointing With Sacred Chrism*

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the RCIA

**Catechist Preparation:****Read:**

- Introduction to the Rite of Confirmation
- RCIA Ritual Text #215-216
- Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 2

**Music Suggestions:**

- “Come, Holy Ghost,” R. Maurus, All Hymnals
- “Veni Sancte Spiritus,” Taizé, GIA Publications

**Pray**

V. Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.

R. And kindle in them the fire of your love.

V. Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created.

R. And You shall renew the face of the earth.

Let us pray.

O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Prepare**

Prepare the space with chairs, a vessel with the Sacred Chrism, a Bible and a large white candle. 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. Take time for introductions and check in with everyone to find out how they are doing.
2. Open the vessel of Sacred Chrism and pass it among the group so they can smell the fragrance. After a few moments, ask:
  - *What does the fragrance remind you of?*
  - *What were you thinking or feeling when you were anointed with the fragrant oil?*
3. Summarize their memories.

**Deepen**

1. Brainstorm all the ways that oil is used, such as:
  - Cooking
  - Lubricant for engines
  - Renewal of woods
  - Skin care
2. Ask:
  - In what way is the Sacred Chrism the oil for our faith life?
  - Consider what it is we are “sealing in” and what are we “sealing out”.
3. Read and discuss the *Probe the Mystery* section of the participant page

**Meditate**

Refer to the *Savor the Sweetness of Salvation* section of the participant page.

1. Discuss these points:
  - Confirmation, like Baptism, is a Sacrament received only once in the life of a Catholic.

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- In Confirmation, the Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit are lavishly poured over us. As with any gift, the receiver must be willing to open the gift and use it; not keep it wrapped and put away on a shelf where it might soon be forgotten.

**Gifts of the Holy Spirit**

- o Wisdom
- o Understanding
- o Counsel
- o Fortitude
- o Knowledge
- o Piety
- o Fear of the Lord

**Fruits of the Holy Spirit**

- o Charity
- o Joy
- o Peace
- o Patience
- o Kindness
- o Goodness
- o Longsuffering
- o Gentleness
- o Faith
- o Modesty
- o Self-control
- o Chastity
- The good that we do is our gift to God; we offer it, along with the gifts of bread and wine at Mass.
- On special occasions, the priest uses

incense to symbolize our offerings as a gift to God.

- o Mass
- o Funeral liturgy
- o Prayer services

## 2. Summarize the discussion.

**Do**

1. Refer to the *Inspire Others* section of the participant handout.
2. As a family or a group of parishioners, choose one of the Corporal Works of Mercy as a way to put faith into action.

**Pray**

Use the Prayer to the Holy Spirit found in the Catechist Preparation section.

