

# MYSTAGOGY: *Offering a Sign of Peace*

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the RCIA

## Catechist Preparation:

### Read:

- Luke 10:1-9
- James 2 and 3
- 2 Corinthians 13

### Music Suggestions:

- “Make Me a Channel of Your Peace,”  
S. Temple, All Hymnals
- “Peace Is Flowing Like a River,” C. Landry,  
All Hymnals

### Pray

#### Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not  
so much seek  
to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood as to understand;  
to be loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive;  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.  
Amen

### Prepare

Prepare the space with chairs, 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. Invite everyone to begin by offering each other a Sign of Peace.
2. Ask:
  - In your life, when do you shake hands?
  - What is the meaning of the handshake gesture?
  - How do you describe a “real” handshake?
3. Invite them to share with one other person. After some sharing, gather some insights about the gesture of the handshake.

### Deepen

1. Ask:
  - *When did you first experience a sign of peace at Mass?*
  - *What does it mean to you to exchange this sign of peace?*
  - *How do you respond when someone refuses to exchange the Sign of Peace?*

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- *What do you understand to be the reason for the placement of the sign of peace before the reception of Communion?*
2. Invite them to share with one other person. After some sharing, gather some of their insights.
  3. Read and discuss the *Probe the Mystery* section of the participant page.
  4. List some characteristics of a person of peace.

## *Meditate*

1. Explore with these points:
  - Peace is more than the absence of external violence; it is a person who is in harmony with God, others and all creation.
  - People who are in harmony with God, others and all creation have an aura of peace about them.
2. Refer to the *Savor the Sweetness of Salvation* section of the participant page.
3. Discuss:
  - We are called to be peacemakers in our world.
  - Peace begins with the individual and extends out to others directly and indirectly.
  - Peace is the gift that Jesus gave to the disciples when He first appeared to them after the Resurrection.

- The exchange of peace is a gesture to symbolize the unity and harmony that exists between God and all creation.
- It is a gesture of readiness to approach Communion; we are at peace with our brothers and sisters.

Summarize the discussion.

## *Do*

Refer to the *Inspire Others* section of the participant handout. Encourage them to discuss the ways that they can be a peacemaker at home, in the workplace and in the neighborhood.

## *Pray*

Pray again the Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

