

MYSTAGOGY:

Dismissal into the World

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the RCIA

*God of every time
and place,
by Baptism and through
the Holy Spirit
we have become
your ambassadors
to spread the
Good News
of your Son,
Jesus Christ,
to all those we meet.
May our lives be a
holy book of praise,
pointing toward you.*

Recall the Easter Vigil

At the conclusion of the Vigil, the assembly is formally dismissed. All leave, singing a final hymn of praise.

Probe the Mystery

Whenever we have a particularly moving experience, something that uplifts us and changes us for the good, we usually seek out someone who was not there in order to recount that experience. And in that recounting, we ourselves live it again.

Initiation at the Easter Vigil holds out to us a significantly life-changing experience, perhaps the single greatest life-changing experience in a lifetime of wondrous events. If our friends or family members were not able to be present for the Easter Vigil, we will tell them about it. Perhaps not every detail, but we will share something of the Vigil with them, because that is what people do when something momentous occurs in their lives.

Whom did you tell? Who was not present at the Vigil that you needed to call, write, text or meet with soon after to share with them what happened? What did you tell them?

Savor the Sweetness of Salvation

The Dismissal at the Easter Vigil Mass can be a simple set of words recited or chanted: "Go forth, the Mass is ended." An "Alleluia" is appended to this simple sentence because it is now the Easter Season.

Filled with great joy, we go forth with an "alleluia" under our breath, our steps and our hearts quickened by the Spirit. Fully initiated now, each of us is a new creature in Christ, a work of beauty through the grace of God.

Though outside the Easter Season we do not get dismissed with an "alleluia" added to the final statement at the end of Mass, we nevertheless leave the liturgy filled with joy at our Salvation. The dismissal statement is our cue, our invitation, to go forth and witness to the life-changing gift nourished within us by the Eucharistic meal.

Who among your family, friends or co-workers most needs to hear and see in you the Good News of Jesus Christ? Why?

*The Head and body of the Church exhort each member to faith. . . .
Whoever has received and possesses in their mind the interior light of
faith and love, calls also others to share in this.*

Saint Bede, *Explanation of the Apocalypse* 22.17: CCL 121A:573-75

Inspire Others

Invite someone who is not Catholic to come to Mass with you. Or, if you think this would be too overwhelming for them, you might consider inviting them to attend a small faith-sharing group (if you belong to one). If even this type of gathering would be too much for them, invite them to an upcoming parish party.