

# Young Apprentices

A RESOURCE FOR THE OCIA

## MYSTAGOGY: A NEW CREATION

Second Sunday of Easter (or Sunday of Divine Mercy) • Year A • April 12, 2026

### Introduction

*A period of post-baptismal catechesis or mystagogy should be provided to assist the young neophytes and their companions who have completed their Christian initiation (see OCIA 330). Mystagogy is the final period of post-baptismal catechesis intended to help the neophytes and the Christian community grow in their understanding of the Paschal Mystery through continuing to reflect on God's Word, by taking their place in the assembly for the celebration of the Eucharist, and by continuing to answer Christ's call to love others through works of charity (see OCIA 254).*

*This session is offered to help neophytes and their companions continue to reflect on their experience of the Easter Vigil, most particularly their experience of Baptism.*

### Supplies

The optimum setting for this session is in the church, gathered around the Paschal candle and the baptismal font. If a different space must be used, set the space with chairs in a circle around a prayer table containing a large white candle, a large glass bowl of holy water, and a Bible. You will also need copies of the participants' handout.

### Catechist Preparation

1. Read the Scriptures for the Second Sunday of Easter (Sunday of Divine Mercy).
2. Read some background about Saint Faustina (Kowalska) and the Sunday of Divine Mercy. (You may find the information at [SaintsResource.com](http://SaintsResource.com) to be of help.)

### Word of God

Acts 2:42-47

Psalm 118:2-4, 13-15

1 Peter 1:3-9

John 20:19-31

### Gather

1. Greet the children and their families as they arrive.
2. Take time for introductions and check in with everyone to find out how they are doing.
3. Ask the children with whom they have shared their experience of the Easter Vigil, and their favorite memories of the celebration.
4. As a gathering prayer, invite all to stand and sing a portion of the Litany of the Saints that was sung at the Easter Vigil. Then lead the group in a remembering of the Rite of Baptism on that night. Invite all to share one or two memories.

### Deepen

1. Invite the children to raise their hands if they feel new today! Ask those who raise their hands to tell why they feel new. What has happened in their lives?
2. Remind the children that each one of them was made a new creation in Baptism. Invite volunteers to recall what happens in Baptism to make them a new creation.
3. Continue the discussion by asking what things they can do to remain a new creation in Christ.
4. Remind the children that they have celebrated another Sacrament in which they are made new through the gift of God's mercy and forgiveness. Invite a volunteer to name the Sacrament. (*Penance and Reconciliation*)
5. Refer to the **Deepen** section of the participants' page.

**Meditate**

1. Invite the group to stand. Sing an Easter Alleluia and proclaim the Gospel: John 20: 19-31.
2. Ask volunteers to share examples of times they have felt like Thomas. Be prepared to share an example from your own life.
3. Ask what Jesus meant when he said, “Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”
4. If time allows, play a recording of or sing together “We Walk By Faith” (M. Haugen/ GIA Publications).

**Share**

1. Read and discuss the **Share** section of the participants’ page.
2. Explore these points:
  - Through Baptism, and through receiving the Sacraments of Initiation, we become members of the family of God—the Christian community of the Catholic Church.
  - Coming together with the Catholic community to celebrate the Sacraments and the Mass, to spend time together, and to serve others helps us to become and to remain faithful followers of Jesus Christ.
  - Coming together to celebrate the Eucharist on Sunday is the greatest gathering we share.

**Do**

1. One of the first tasks of a believer is to share with others the Good News of Jesus Christ, that He loves us. Jesus is our best friend. He walks with us every step of every day. He will never leave us.
2. Share with them the story of Saint Faustina (see [SaintsResource.com](http://SaintsResource.com)). Ask volunteers to name the Good News she shared with others. Explain that we celebrate today as the Sunday of Divine Mercy because of the message Saint Faustina proclaimed, and because today’s readings and Responsorial Psalm speak of the mercy of God.
3. Invite the children to think about a person or people that they want to tell about Jesus. What Good News will they share with that person or those persons?

**Pray**

Pray the prayer from the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy, on the front of the participants’ handout. Conclude by singing an Easter Alleluia.