

Young Apprentices

A RESOURCE FOR THE OCIA

MYSTAGOGY: JESUS, THE WAY

Fifth Sunday of Easter • Year A • May 3, 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).

In this session, the neophytes and their companions will continue to reflect on their experience of receiving First Holy Communion, and they will reflect on Jesus' statement that he is the way.

Supplies

The optimum setting for this session is in the church, gathered around the altar. 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 Bible, a loaf of bread, and a bunch of grapes. You will also need copies of the participants' handout.

Catechist Preparation

1. Read the Scriptures for the Fifth Sunday of Easter.
2. Reflect on the statement that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. What does this mean to you on your own journey of faith at this point in time?

Word of God

Acts 6:1-7

Psalms 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19

1 Peter 2:4-9

John 14:1-12

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.

Deepen

1. Gathered around the altar, or seated around the prayer table, invite the children to remember the night of their First Holy Communion. Invite volunteers to help everyone recall that night by asking the following questions:
 - When you took your place in the procession to the altar to receive your First Holy Communion, how did you feel? What were you thinking?
 - What was the first experience of receiving Jesus in Holy Communion like for you?
 - How does receiving Jesus in Holy Communion feel now that you have received Holy Communion several times?
 - What questions do you have about the Mass? About Holy Communion?
2. Read together the **Deepen** section of the participants' handout.

Meditate

1. Invite all present to stand. Light the candle (if it is not already lit), sing an Easter Alleluia, and proclaim the Gospel: John 14:1-12.
2. Ask the children to share the word or phrase that they remember from the Gospel. If need be, proclaim phrases and verses from the Gospel for the children to consider.
3. Explain that there are two phrases you are going to focus on today.

4. Invite all to be seated, and lead a discussion as follows:
- In this Gospel reading, Jesus says, “I am the way and the truth and the life.”
 - Explain that in the early Church, those who chose to follow Jesus were called members of The Way.
 - Invite the children to share what they think Jesus meant when he said, “I am the way.”
 - Jesus also says in this Gospel that whoever believes in him will do the works that he does, and even greater works.
 - Invite the children to name some of the works of Jesus. Make sure to highlight: feeding the hungry; healing the sick, the blind, the lame, and the deaf; and caring for the widow and the orphan.
 - With the group, think about ways we can do the works of Jesus while here on Earth.
5. Read and discuss the **Meditate** section of the participant page.

Share

1. Read and discuss the **Share** section of the participant page.
2. Highlight the following discussion points:
 - Catholics believe that Jesus is truly present in the bread and wine. Through the prayers of the priest and the power of the Holy Spirit, the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ. We call this the Real Presence of Christ.
 - All who receive the Body and Blood of Christ are to become his presence on Earth. We become the eyes and ears, the hands and feet of Jesus, doing the works that he did by loving and serving others.
 - We proclaim Christ’s message of love by what we say and by what we do.

Do

What are ways that you can be the eyes and ears, the hands and feet of Christ at school, at home, and in your neighborhood?

Pray

Pray all or a part of the Litany of the Holy Eucharist from *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers*.

Conclude by singing a familiar refrain to a Eucharistic hymn or an Easter Alleluia.