

Young Apprentices

A RESOURCE FOR THE OCIA

MYSTAGOGY: THE HOLY SPIRIT

Sixth Sunday of Easter • Year A • May 10, 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 being confirmed, and they will learn that the Holy Spirit is their helper.

Supplies

The optimum setting for this session is in the church, gathered near the ambry. 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, and a vessel containing Sacred Chrism. You will also need copies of the participants' handout and paper and pencil or pen for each participant.

Catechist Preparation

1. Read the Scriptures for the Sixth Sunday of Easter.
2. Reflect on how the Holy Spirit has helped and guided you in recent weeks.

Word of God

Acts 8:5-8

Psalm 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20

1 Peter 3:15-18

John 14:15-21

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. Distribute the paper and pencils or pens. Invite the participants to make a list of the people who are an important part of their lives. Ask them to write after each name why that person is important to them.
2. Invite volunteers to share a name from their list, and the reason that person is an important part of their lives.
3. Then give the group a couple of minutes of quiet to again look over their lists and to write down the gift each person listed has given to them.
4. Refer to the **Deepen** section of the participants' handout.

Meditate

1. Invite all to stand, light the candle, sing an Easter Alleluia, and proclaim the Gospel: John 14:15-21.
2. Lead a discussion of the Gospel, highlighting the following points:
 - Jesus says that he will ask the Father to send an Advocate, or Helper.
 - The Advocate, or Helper, is the Holy Spirit.
 - Jesus says that the Holy Spirit will be with us always.
3. Read and discuss the **Meditate** section of the participants' handout.

Share

1. Proclaim the First Reading: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17.
2. Ask the children when hands were laid on them, and when they received the Holy Spirit. (*In the celebration of Confirmation at the Easter Vigil*)
3. Invite volunteers to share what else they remember about their Confirmation.
4. Remind the group that their Confirmation included the laying on of hands, the anointing with Sacred Chrism, and the Sign of Peace.
5. The priest also prayed, "Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."
6. Explain that God the Father sends the Holy Spirit to us to be our helper, teacher, and guide. We can pray to the Holy Spirit when we need help, wisdom, and guidance in any situation and at any time.
7. Read and discuss the **Share** section of the participants' handout.

Do

Remind the group that the Holy Spirit also gives us the strength and courage to use our gifts to make a difference in the world. Recall with them some of the people they listed at the beginning of the session. Invite volunteers to share again the name of a person they listed, the gift that person has, and how that person uses his or her gift to make a difference.

Pray

Sing or play a recording of "Go Make a Difference" (S. Angrisano, T. Tomaszek/OCP).