

Young Apprentices

A RESOURCE FOR THE OCIA

MYSTAGOGY: PEACE BE WITH YOU

Pentecost Sunday • Year A • May 24, 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 the Easter Vigil and on the gift of Christ's peace.

Supplies

The optimum setting for this session is in the church, around the baptismal font. Include in the setting the Paschal candle, Sacred Chrism, and a white garment. 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 bowl of holy water, a vessel of Sacred Chrism, and a white garment.

Catechist Preparation

1. Read the Scriptures for Pentecost Sunday.
2. Sit in the quiet, and pray for the peace of God to fill your mind and heart.

Word of God

Acts 2:1-11

Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34

1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13

John 20:19-23

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. Lead the children in a guided meditation using the following or similar words.

Close your eyes and quiet yourselves. (Pause) Remember Easter Vigil, the night of your initiation. (Pause) What do you see? (Pause) What do you hear? (Pause) What do you smell? (Pause) Remember the events of the evening - your arrival at the darkened church (pause), the bright fire we gathered around (pause), the lighting of the Paschal candle (pause), the procession of light and all of the lit candles (pause); the singing of the Exsultet (pause), listening to the Scripture readings and singing the psalms (pause).

Then you were called by name. We all processed to the font. (Pause) You professed your faith in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. (Pause) You went into the waters of Baptism (pause), you were clothed in white (pause), you received the light of Christ (pause), you were anointed with Sacred Chrism and confirmed with the gift of the Holy Spirit (pause), you received Holy Communion for the first time (pause).

You are a new creation. (Pause) You have received a new name—Christian.

2. After some quiet time, invite all who wish to share some of their memories of the Easter Vigil.
3. Read the Deepen section of the participants' handout.

Meditate

1. Invite all to stand. Explain that in today's reading, Jesus says something to his disciples twice. Encourage them to listen for what Jesus says.
2. Light the candle, sing an Easter Alleluia, and proclaim the Gospel: John 20:19-23.
3. Ask the children what Jesus said twice.
4. Continue the discussion, highlighting the following points.
 - Another word often used to speak of peace is *shalom*. Shalom means that everyone and everything is in right relationship. All creation is living as God intended.
 - Just as Jesus speaks the words "Peace be with you" in today's Gospel, his followers—including each one of us—are called to speak words of peace to all we meet.
 - We are to take the peace of Christ out into the world—to our classrooms, to our homes, to our teams, to our neighborhood, to our families, and to our friends.
5. Read and discuss the **Meditate** section of the participants' handout.

Share

1. Proclaim the First Reading: Acts 2:1-11.
2. Read and discuss the **Share** section of the participants' handout.
3. Continue the discussion, highlighting the following points.
 - The disciples were so filled with the Holy Spirit that they went out into the crowds to tell everyone about the mighty acts of God.
 - The Holy Spirit enabled them to speak in languages that all the people there could understand.

- In the Sacrament of Confirmation, we received the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit helps us to share the Good News of Jesus with everyone.

Do

Lead the group in a celebration of Pentecost. Fly kites, make red streamers, sing a Pentecost hymn, listen to wind chimes, sing "Happy Birthday" to the Church and enjoy birthday cake, and encourage everyone to think of at least one way they will share the gift of the Holy Spirit in the week ahead.

Pray

Sing the refrain of a familiar Pentecost hymn or an Easter Alleluia, and say together the Prayer to the Holy Spirit. The words are on the front of the participants' handout.