

Mystagogy Session

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the OCIA
Third Sunday of Easter • Year C • May 4, 2025

Catechist Preparation

Readings

Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41
Psalm 30:2, 4-6
Revelation 5:11-14
John 21:1-19 or 21:1-14

Liturgy of the Hours

Read and pray the Second Reading, "The Celebration of the Eucharist," from the Liturgy of the Hours, Office of Readings for the Third Sunday of Easter.

Mystagogy Session Guide

(Approximately 60 minutes)

Set the space with chairs and create a focal point with a candle, a bowl of water, and a Bible. Provide name tags and have some refreshments available.

Welcome

Greet the participants as they arrive and allow time for informal conversation.

Deepen

1. Invite the neophytes to consider their new name, "Christian." This is their name now that they are fully initiated into the Catholic Church. They have been made new in Christ.
2. Ask the following questions and invite the group to reflect on them quietly before sharing their responses with one or two other people.

What do you know about your given name? Who or what are you named after?

When you were initiated, you took on a new name, "Christian." What do you understand this new name to mean for you? For the Church? For the world?

3. Invite several volunteers to share their reflections with the large group.
4. Provide some brief time for the participants to read **Deepen** on the participant handout.

Meditate

1. Lead the group in a guided meditation using these or similar words: *Take several deep breaths. (Pause.) Close your eyes if you want. Picture a beautiful lake on a warm, sunny day. (Pause.) You are in a boat and have been fishing for a long time. You are tired and have caught nothing. (Pause.) From the shore, a man calls out to you, but you do not recognize him. (Pause.) He tells you to try fishing again. He says that you will find a large catch of fish. (Pause.) Not realizing why you do so, you cast your net. (Pause.) You discover a huge catch of fish. (Pause.) Then you recognize the one on the shore. It is Jesus. (Pause.) You quickly get out of the boat because you are in a hurry to see him; you want to be with him. (Pause.) Jesus prepares breakfast for you and invites you to take and eat. (Pause.) Think about Jesus, who comes to you at different times and places. Consider how you have come to recognize him. (Pause.)*
2. After some time of quiet, invite the participants to become more deeply aware of the present time and place. Ask them to share their reflections about how they recognize Jesus in their midst.

Share

Read and discuss **Share** on the participant handout. Then explore the following points:

- We receive nourishment for our spiritual journey through the Word proclaimed and the Body and Blood of Christ given to us in the Mass.
- We are to become what we celebrate at Mass—Christ himself. We are to act as Christ acts.

Act

Christians are called to live the Great Commandment to love God and to love their neighbor. There are many challenges as we live this Great Commandment. Ask the participants to reflect on how others will know by their actions that they are Christians.

Pray

Use the prayer from the participant handout as the closing prayer.