

Mystagogy Session

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the OCIA
Second Sunday of Easter (Sunday of Divine Mercy) • Year C • April 27, 2025

*Father of mercy,
quicken the spirit of adoption within our hearts,
that we may acclaim your Son, Jesus Christ, as the First and the Last,
the Risen One who holds the keys to eternal life. Amen.*

Sunday Word

Acts 5:12-16

Psalms 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24

Revelation 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19

John 20:19-31

Reflection

Deepen

You are eight days old, newly remade, fresh from the waters of the font. You have also shared in the Eucharist, perhaps now for a second time. Regardless of how many times you have done so, as you participate in the Eucharist, time itself takes on a heightened quality. You partake of the Resurrection, the newness of life in Christ. This plunges you into the eternal, endless day, the so-called eighth day of the new, everlasting creation made possible by the Risen Lord. The Bible describes creation as taking place over seven days. But by your re-creation through the Sacraments of Christian Initiation, timeless eternity opens for you.

Meditate

The disciples lock the doors out of fear. The Crucifixion replays in their hearts and minds. Suddenly the Risen Lord stands in their midst, greeting them with his peace. Joy is theirs, even as Jesus shows them his wound marks.

Thomas, who is absent from the gathering, refuses to believe unless he sees. A week later, the disciples gather together and are visited again by the Risen Lord. He invites Thomas to believe what he sees. How much more blessed are those who, without seeing, come to believe!

Share

In part of the Eucharistic Prayer, we commemorate and raise up to God in prayer those gathered by the liturgy who, firmly believing, dedicate themselves to God. Gathering together for liturgy, here and now, promotes our seeing and believing.

It is not as if we are without faults or limits. Yet imperfect as we are, we are drawn up into the holiness of God. We see things anew. The Resurrection gives us new possibilities. Fears retreat in the face of Christ's loving, self-sacrifice. His Cross and Resurrection offer us an astounding fullness of life. This is one thing we "see" when we gather to celebrate the Eucharist.

Act

Consider the sacrifice of Christ, which resounds throughout history—past, present, and future. Consider, too, the triumph of the Resurrection and the tremendous love of God proclaimed in Sacred Scripture and contained in the Eucharist.

The great fidelity of God shown to us in Christ calls from us a corresponding response, the gift of faith. Joined with other believers in that profession of faith, we approach the table to eat and drink the Eucharist. The future opens for us, bright with the promise of new life.

For Reflection . . .

During the coming week, look for the subtle or perhaps very bold ways in which God surprises you, visits you with his presence, and invites you to newness of life.