

# Young Apprentices

A RESOURCE FOR THE OCIA

## MYSTAGOGY: THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Fourth Sunday of Easter • Year C • May 11, 2025

### 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 244).

This session is offered to help neophytes and their companions reflect on Jesus, the Light of the world and the Good Shepherd.

### Supplies

If possible, gather in the worship space, surrounding the baptismal font. Light the Paschal candle and display a white garment used at the Easter Vigil. If it is not possible to gather in the worship space, then prepare the gathering space with chairs in a circle around a prayer table covered in a white cloth. On or near the prayer table, place a large white candle, a white garment from the Easter Vigil, and a bowl of holy water.

### Word of God

Acts 13:14, 43-52

Psalms 100:1-2, 3, 5

Revelation 7:9, 14b-17

John 10:27-30

### 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. For today's gathering prayer, turn off all the lights except for the lighted candle.
2. Refer to the **Deepen** section of the participant handout.
3. Invite those gathered to recall the lighting of the fire, the lighting of the Paschal candle, and the lighting of taper candles at the Easter Vigil.
4. Sing a refrain about light, such as "Christ, Be Our Light" (B. Farrell/OCP Publications) or "This Little Light of Mine" (African-American spiritual).

### Meditate

1. Refer to the **Meditate** section of the participant handout.
2. Remind those gathered that we are called to be Christ's light to the world.
3. Brainstorm with the group ways that we can do this.

### Share

1. Proclaim the Gospel, John 10:27-30.
2. Invite the neophytes to consider their new status as members of the Good Shepherd's flock.
3. Ask volunteers to name how the Good Shepherd cares for his flock.
4. Ask volunteers to explain how we know or recognize the voice of the Good Shepherd.
5. Read and discuss the **Share** section of the participant handout.

**Do**

1. Remind the group that as members of the Body of Christ, the flock of the Good Shepherd, we are called to carry on Christ's mission of sharing the Good News of Salvation. We share the light of Christ with others through the things we do and the words we say.
2. Ask those present to think about and name the ways they shared the Light of Christ through words they said or things they did in the past week.
3. Give members of the group quiet time to think about what they will do in the coming week to share the Light of Christ in word or deed. Then have them share their idea(s) with one or two other people in the group.

**Pray**

Sing together a familiar setting of Psalm 23 ("The Lord Is My Shepherd") or read aloud Psalm 23.