

# Young Apprentices

A RESOURCE FOR THE OCIA

## MYSTAGOGY: OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Fifth Sunday of Easter • Year C • May 18, 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 continue to reflect on their experience of now being fully initiated members of the Church.*

### Supplies

Set the space with chairs in a circle around a prayer table containing a large white candle, a Bible, pictures of your family, pictures of the parish family, and pictures of Jesus. You will also need copies of the participant handout, drawing paper, crayons or markers, and pictures of Catholics at Mass in various countries throughout the world (from print resources or from the internet).

### Word of God

Acts 14:21-27

Psalm 145:8-9, 10-11, 12-13

Revelation 21:1-5a

John 13:31-33a, 34-35

### 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.
3. As a gathering prayer, invite all to stand and sing a favorite hymn about the Church, such as "All Are Welcome" (M. Haugen/GIA Publications) or "Somos el Cuerpo de Cristo/We Are the Body of Christ" (J. Cortez/OCP Publications). Then invite the group to pray with you the prayer on the front of the participant handout.

God, our loving Father,  
thank you for our families.

Thank you for the families we live with  
and for their love and care.

Thank you for the parish family we pray with  
and for their faith and example.

Bless all families everywhere.  
Amen.

### Deepen

1. Invite those present to draw pictures of their families. When all are ready, invite them to form small groups and to share with each other one thing about each family member they drew.
2. Then invite all to draw pictures of themselves with some of their friends. Again, invite small-group sharing about one thing they like about each friend they drew.
3. Finally, invite those present to draw pictures of Jesus, his family, and who they think his friends were. When all are ready, invite large-group sharing about the drawings and what the participants know about Jesus, his family, and his friends.

## Meditate

1. Proclaim the First Reading, Acts 14:21-27.
2. Read the **Meditate** section of the participant handout.
3. Lead a discussion, highlighting the following discussion points:
  - Families share things about their days, such as what they did, whom they saw, and whom they talked to.
  - Sometimes it is hard to wait your turn to share, and sometimes you might feel like you do not have anything to share.
  - The Church family comes together to share and to give thanks to God for all the ways God has blessed them.
4. Invite volunteers to name ways the Church family shares with its members and shares with everyone. *(For example, the Church family shares the Word of God with its members; the Church family shares the Eucharist; the Church family shares in the celebration of the sacraments with its members; the Church family shares in the joys and sorrows of its members; the Church family shares food and clothing with those in need; the Church family shares time with the homebound and the sick; the Church family members share their gifts to teach, to sing, to assist in the liturgy, etc.)*

## Share

1. Read and discuss the **Share** section of the participant handout.
2. Explore with the neophytes these discussion points:
  - Our Baptism makes us members of the Church, the Body of Christ.
  - Baptism makes all baptized persons sisters and brothers in Christ, a family of faith.
  - When we participate at Mass, we are joined with all believers throughout the world, and we pray for everyone in the world.
  - When we receive Holy Communion, our connection with Christ and with his Body, the Church, is strengthened.

## Do

1. Refer to the **Do** section of the participant handout.
2. Share images of Catholics at Mass in various countries throughout the world, highlighting pictures that may have come from your own parish outreach ministry or twinning relationship with another parish in another country.

## Pray

1. Again pray together the prayer on the front of the participant handout.
2. Conclude by singing together "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands," remembering our Catholic family throughout the world.