

Young Apprentices

A RESOURCE FOR THE OCIA

MYSTAGOGY: THE GIFT OF PEACE

Sixth Sunday of Easter • Year C • May 25, 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 and a Bible. You will also need copies of the participant handout, a whiteboard or flip chart, and markers.

Word of God

Acts 15:1-2, 22-29

Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8

Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23

John 14:23-29

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 pray together the prayer on the front of the participant handout.

Deepen

1. Ask those present to think about what they do when they disagree with a family member. Then ask them to consider whether it makes a difference which family member it is, and why or why not.
2. Invite volunteers to share their thoughts.
3. Again invite volunteers to share what they do to resolve disagreements.
4. Ask, *How do you know a disagreement is over with?*
5. Then refer to the **Deepen** section of the participant handout.

Meditate

1. Proclaim the Gospel, John 14:23-29.
2. Emphasize that Jesus' gift to us is the gift of peace. Invite volunteers to share the meaning of the word *peace*.
3. Further explain that peace is the calm, good feeling of being together with God and with others. Peace follows forgiveness.
4. Refer back to question #4 in **Deepen** (above). Suggest to the group that one response to the question might be that we feel peace in our hearts and at peace with God and with the other person.
5. Refer to the **Meditate** section of the participant handout.

Share

1. Continue a discussion of the Gospel, focusing on Jesus' words: "Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid."
2. Invite volunteers to share things that trouble or upset people and things that make people afraid.
3. Explain that the peace Jesus gives is a peace that helps us stay calm even in times of fear and worry. This is because we know Jesus is with us every minute of every day.
4. Invite volunteers to complete this phrase: *The peace of Jesus is like _____*. (Be prepared to give an example or two of your own, such as, "The peace of Jesus is like total quiet" or "The peace of Jesus is like a smile on the inside.")
5. Review together the **Share** section of the participant handout.

Do

1. As a group, name people who might be troubled or afraid today—for example, people in countries where there is war or famine, or where a natural disaster has just occurred; people who have lost their jobs; people who are sick; people who have tests coming up; or people who have no one to love them. List the group's ideas on the board or on a flip chart.
2. Encourage everyone in the group to choose one of the situations or groups of people listed on the board or flip chart, and to pray for peace in that situation or for those people every day in the coming week.

Pray

Conclude by praying together the prayer on the front of the participant handout.