

# Young Apprentices

A RESOURCE FOR THE OCIA

## MYSTAGOGY: THE ASCENSION

The Ascension of the Lord • Year C • May 29 or June 1, 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

If possible, gather in the worship space near the Paschal candle. If this is not possible, set the gathering 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.

### Word of God

Acts 1:1-11

Psalm 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9

Ephesians 1:17-23 or Hebrews 9:24-28; 10:19-23

Luke 24:46-53

### 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, sing together the Ascension hymn on the front of the participant page.

### Deepen

1. Lead a discussion, highlighting the following points:
  - All of the baptized—from the time of Christ to the present day—are called to be witnesses to Christ through their words and deeds. In this way, others come to know Christ and to embrace the Christian way of life.
  - The lives of the Apostles and the lives of saints such as Francis of Assisi, Maximilian Kolbe, the patron saint of the parish, and other saints and holy people give us examples of how to put our faith into practice today.
2. Recall with the group ways that the Apostles and saints whose stories they know gave witness to their faith in Jesus.
3. Ask volunteers to share ways we can be witnesses in the world today.
4. Review with the group the **Deepen** section of the participant handout.

### Meditate

1. Proclaim the Gospel, Luke 24:46-53.
2. Explore with the children their understanding of the Ascension of the Lord as told in the final verses of the Gospel.
3. Explain that the Ascension of the Lord is the event in which Jesus returned to God the Father in Heaven.
4. Ask whether anyone recalls what it is Jesus told the disciples to do after he returned to his Father. *(to stay in the city until they were clothed with power from on high)*
5. Explain that Jesus was telling them to stay in Jerusalem until they received the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.
6. Review with the group the **Meditate** section of the participant handout.

**Share**

1. Read and discuss the **Share** section of the participant handout.
2. Lead a discussion, highlighting the following points:
  - At the Dismissal of the Mass, we are sent out to be witnesses to the Gospel. The priest or deacon may say to us, “Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord,” or “Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.”
  - Saint Francis is often associated with the phrase, “Go and preach the Gospel. Use words if you must.” Ask volunteers to share what they think these words mean. (Hint: we often use the saying, “Actions speak louder than words.”)
  - We are called to be witnesses to everyone.

**Do**

1. Invite volunteers to share the names of those who have been witnesses to them and to share how the persons they name have been witnesses.
2. Brainstorm with the children ways they can be witnesses at home, at school, and with their friends.
3. Ask volunteers to share times when it might be difficult to be a witness. Ask, *Are you willing to pay that price?*
4. Read and discuss the **Do** section of the participant handout.

**Pray**

Conclude by singing together a song about being a witness for Christ, such as “Go Make a Difference” (S. Angrisano/OCP Publications), or sing again the Ascension hymn from the front of the participant handout.