

Mystagogy Session

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the RCIA
Fifth Sunday of Easter • Year B • May 3, 2015

Catechist Preparation

Readings

Acts 9:26-31

Psalm 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32

1 John 3:18-24

John 15:1-8

Liturgy of the Hours

Read and reflect on the Second Reading from Tuesday of the Fifth Week of Easter, Office of Readings (from a commentary on the Gospel of John by Saint Cyril of Alexandria, bishop).

Mystagogy Session Guide

(Approximately 60 minutes)

If possible, gather in the worship space around the altar. (If not, then prepare the space with chairs in a circle around a prayer table upon which are placed a candle, a loaf of bread, and a bunch of grapes.)

If needed, provide nametags. Have some refreshments available for the group.

Welcome

Greet people as they arrive. Take time for introductions and check in with everyone to find out how they are doing.

Deepen

1. Gather the group around the altar.
2. Invite them to remember the night of their First Holy Communion. Use these or similar questions to lead their remembering:
 - As the time for your First Communion was approaching, what were you thinking and feeling about receiving Jesus?
 - What was the first experience of receiving Jesus like for you? What is your experience now that you have received Communion several times?

- When you think about the depth of love that Jesus has for you, that He was willing to give his life for you, how do you respond?
 - What questions do you have about the Eucharist and its celebration?
3. After some time for quiet reflection, invite them to share some of their thoughts first with one other person. Then gather some of the fruit of their sharing.

Meditate

1. Proclaim the Gospel: John 15:1-8.
2. Refer to the *Deepen* section of the participant handout. (If the neophytes have questions, collect them in order to respond to them at a future gathering, or - if you are comfortable responding - do so at this time.)
3. Highlight the following discussion points:
 - Jesus is the vine. He desires for all of us to stay connected to Him.
 - Jesus is the source and summit. He provides sustenance to us through the Word proclaimed and through his Body and Blood received in Holy Communion.
 - Jesus warns us that without Him we can do nothing; we are to remain in Him.
 - Jesus promises that if we remain in Him we will bear much fruit and do the work of His disciples such as:
 - Feed the hungry
 - Heal the sick, the blind, the lame, the deaf
 - Care for the widow and the orphan
4. Refer to the *Meditate* section of the participant session.

Share

1. Read and discuss the **Share** section of the participant page.
2. Include these points:
 - Jesus is truly present in the bread and wine; these elements have been changed into His Body and Blood.
 - We are to become what we eat – Christ for the sake of the world. We are the hands, the feet, and the voice of Jesus. What is the message we are proclaiming?
 - Jesus shows us the Father. He reveals to us how much God loves us and desires to be one with us. How are we proclaiming God’s message of love?

Do!

Our sharing in the Eucharist is the food for our living the new Commandment to love God and to love one another. As it has been stated in previous sessions: “We are to become what we eat”. In what way does this Gospel passage challenge us to do so?

This raises the question, then, of why there is such violence in the world, in our lives, and in our communities. In what ways are we called to be the peacemakers needed to end violence? How does the Eucharist help us to do this?

Pray

Take the loaf of bread and pray a blessing over it. Take it and break it and share it with the group. Invite each one to voice a prayer of thanksgiving for the gift of the Eucharist.