

Mystagogy Session

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the RCIA
Sixth Sunday of Easter • Year B • May 10, 2015

*Loving God,
in Baptism you have filled us with new life
and claimed us as your very own children.*

You set us free, O God.

*Fill our hearts with the Spirit of your love
so that we may always live in peace.*

*We praise and thank you, now and always.
Amen.*

Sunday Word

Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48

Psalm 98:1, 2-3, 3-4

1 John 4:7-10

John 15:9-17

Reflection

Deepen

As you progressed through the initiation process, you met new people and became more involved in the parish community, that is, the Church. In effect, your personal horizon expanded due to the network of relationships engendered in the initiation process.

Those who had been “strangers” to you evolved into “friends.” They may not all be close or dear friends, but they are friends nonetheless. These friends and, indeed, this network of relationships, are a gift to you from God.

Meditate

During the Easter Season, the First Reading of the Mass is taken from the Acts of the Apostles. Week after week we hear how the community of believers

grew as a result of the Apostles’ preaching, and of the signs and wonders they worked among the people. The initial Christian community also took on new members as others were attracted to their appealing lifestyle, their closeness, and the love radiating out from the community to all. Those new members were even Gentiles, as were Cornelius and all in his household!

You have been a recipient of the community’s love and fondness as you journeyed through the initiation process. In the Catechumenate period, guided by your sponsors and others, you also engaged in apostolic works, that is, you provided service to people in need. Those who were on the receiving end of your service saw the love of the community in action as a result of your involvement.

Share

Jesus speaks to his disciples of his love for them. Just as God the Father loves Jesus, so too does Jesus love his followers. It is love that binds us together and reveals all that is true, good, and beautiful in life. In fact, those who are without love cannot know God, for as the Evangelist writes, “God is love” (see today’s Second Reading, 1 John 4:7-10).

This great network of divine love forms us and influences us in such a way that we, in turn, form and influence the world around us. It is just as Jesus says: we have been chosen and appointed by him to go and bear fruit that will remain. Is there one particular service experience during the past year that stands out for you? One that powerfully revealed the presence of God? Which one, and why?

Do!

Make the commitment to continue to engage in apostolic works, that is, in service or outreach to those in need. If necessary, call the organization or your parish social outreach coordinator in order to talk about and schedule your continuing involvement.

For Reflection . . .

Why is it that our involvement in service is the “proof of the pudding” that our faith is real?