

Mystagogy Session

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the RCIA
Pentecost Sunday • Year B • May 24, 2015

*Lord God,
through your Son Jesus
we now bear the royal image,
the imprint of divinity,
upon our souls.*

*May we live up to this high calling
and yield an abundant harvest of holiness.*

Amen.

Sunday Word

Acts 2:1-11

Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34

1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13 or Galatians 5:16-25

John 20:19-23 or John 15:26-27; 16:12-15

Reflection

Deepen

At the Easter Vigil you were anointed with Sacred Chrism, fragrant oil consecrated by the bishop for use at Confirmation. Up from the waters of Baptism, you were strengthened with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

The Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation are closely connected in the unity of the Paschal Mystery. The mission of the Son beckons us while the energizing, fruitful counsel of the Advocate helps us in pursuing that mission.

Meditate

The Risen Lord appears to the disciples. He greets them with a word of peace, *shalom*, which implies so much more than the mere absence of conflict. *Shalom* is the total rightness of relationship, with God and with one another. Living up to *shalom* means that justice flourishes everywhere and all

things in this world are as they should be, as intended by God. It is as much a vision of right relationships as it is an imperative—all implied in that single word.

The Risen Lord also tells the disciples that as he has been sent by the Father, so now they are sent by him. They are to be a leaven in the world for *shalom*. Then the Risen Lord breathes on the gathered disciples, bidding them to receive the Holy Spirit. They themselves, through this Spirit, are empowered to release others from the dominion of sin so that all might live as children of the kingdom, flourishing citizens in the dominion of God.

Share

At the first Pentecost the disciples were gathered together in one place, and suddenly a sound came from the sky, from Heaven, a noise like a strong driving wind. From that time onward, the sound we hear among the people of God is *shalom*! From that time onward, the sound we hear in our liturgy is *Alleluia*!

When you received the Sacrament of Confirmation, you were imprinted with that *shalom* and that *Alleluia*. The sweet smell of the Holy Spirit was lavished upon you. By now, that external fragrant smell has abated. But the Chrism was absorbed into

your skin, and from there, sacramentally, it went deeper, forever indelibly marking your soul so that you might truly be Christian, a leaven in the world for peace, justice, and love. How are you leaving your own good and holy “mark” on others as you witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ?

Do!

Spend this entire day in celebration. Radiate your joy to all those you meet.

For Reflection . . .

As you felt the Sacred Chrism on your forehead and as you smelled it, how did you feel? When you heard the ritual greeting, “Peace be with you,” what stirred within you?