

Mystagogy Session

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the RCIA
Fourth Sunday • Year B • April 26, 2015

*Loving God,
you guide us to yourself through your Son, Jesus Christ.
He is our Savior, our protector.
He is also the One who knows us and lays down his life for us.*

*All praise and honor to Jesus, the Good Shepherd.
Amen.*

Sunday Word and Eucharist

Acts 4:8-12

Psalm 118:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 29

1 John 3:1-2

John 10:11-18

Reflection

Deepen

In the initiation process, you have had some wonderful guides to help you along the way. The initiation team has helped you, although some members of the team may be working mostly behind the scenes. You have also had the help and guidance of facilitators, catechists, sponsors, deacons, and priests.

The Lord works through his instruments and in this initiation process the team, facilitators, catechists, sponsors, deacons, and priests—as well as the entire worshipping assembly—have all been instruments in the hand of God. The Lord cares for us so much that throughout life he gives us many guides who help us along the way, pointing us to Jesus, his Son and our Savior.

Meditate

Sheep recognize their own shepherd's voice. They do not respond to others' voices. The image that Jesus uses is apt for the way in which we relate to him as our guide, the one who leads us.

There are many other voices in the world telling us how to live our lives. But as believers there is only one voice to which we respond and adhere, the voice of the Risen Lord. He guides us along the right path.

His guiding presence also represents protection and safety for us. When we ignore his direction, we can end up harming ourselves. Without his lead, we falter. Without the Lord we wander and fall into sin.

Share

Unless we live on a farm, we may not have a lot of contact with animals, especially sheep. We may not relate so well to the image of a shepherd and sheep, or of the corral where sheep sleep safely at night, with the body of the shepherd laid across the opening to guard against predators. We may not have first-hand evidence of the close bond between shepherd and flock.

However well we are acquainted with sheep and shepherds, many of us today own a GPS device. It shows us the way to get to our destination. In the days before such devices, we owned maps which we kept in our glove compartments.

Shepherds keep sheep from being lost. So do GPS devices. The Church, in the name of Jesus, acts as a sure guide for us, pointing us in the direction of a good life, a life pointed toward Heaven. How has the initiation process guided you aright? Where have your facilitators, catechists, and sponsors guided you?

Do!

Take the time to send a thank you note or a small token of appreciation to those in the initiation process who have helped and shepherded you.

For Reflection . . .

How have you shared the Gospel of Christ with others, guiding them along right paths?