



RCIA

MYSTAGOGY

13-16
YEARS

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CONTINUING JOURNEY

Aim

To share the experience of the Sacraments of Initiation and to look at being peacemakers. It is a time to deepen their understanding of God's word, the sacraments and what it means to their lives.

Information for Catechist

The word *Mystagogy* means mystery in Greek. The fourth period of RCIA is the time when the newly baptised (neophytes) begin their lifelong commitment to living a Christian life. It marks a shift from learning about faith to living faith in everyday life and a shift from looking within to looking outside, to the community.

This is a time for the community to help “strengthen the neophytes together to grow in deepening their grasp of the Paschal mystery and in making it part of their lives through meditation on the Gospel, sharing in the Eucharist, and doing works of charity.” RCIA 234

Catechumens are now referred to as Neophytes.

The Mystagogy period is important for the young neophyte and their companion to complete as it allows them to unpack the mystery of what they experienced in the Sacraments of Initiation. It is a time for the community and the neophytes to deepen their understanding of the faith, to participate in the Eucharist and to live their mission.

This period includes contemplation of the scriptures, sharing the Eucharist through Sunday Mass and involvement in the parish community and ministry of the Church.

Preparation for the Catechist

Spend time in prayer for the young person. Consider your experiences of living your Christian faith. Be willing to share these with the young person.



Exploring

Share the experience of the Sacraments of Initiation

Mystagogy is a time to deepen your understanding of God's word, the sacraments and what this means in your life. It marks a shift from learning about faith to living faith in everyday life and a shift from looking within to looking outside, to the community of faith.

How did you feel after receiving the Sacraments of Initiation?

Think about the celebration where you received the Sacraments.

What did you smell?

What did you hear?

What did you see?

What did you taste?

How did you feel?

Think about the symbols were used.

How did they speak to you?

If the Sacraments were celebrated at the Easter Vigil, what meaning did the fire/the darkness have for you?

What meaning did the Paschal Candle have for you?

What stories from the readings spoke to you?

What was it like to go into the waters or poured with the waters of Baptism?

What did the Oil feel like?

What was it like to receive Communion?

Scripture

Listening to the following reading from John, a story of what happened after Jesus' resurrection.



From the Gospel of John.

Glory to you, O Lord



John 20:19-21

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.



The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Following a couple of minutes of silence to reflect on the scripture, invite the young person to share a word or two from the passage that was particularly meaningful for them.

What is one important message for you in this scripture passage?

How can you respond to this scripture passage in the coming week?

How do you think the disciples were feeling when Jesus appeared to them after rising from the dead?

Activity

Three times Jesus tells the disciples "Peace be with you".

When something is repeated in the gospels, it is a clue for us to take notice.

Why do you think that Jesus said this and what does this mean for you?

Jesus offers us the same gift of peace. How will this gift help you?

How can you bring peace to your family and friends?

Create a list of Peace Actions. What actions can you take to be peacemaker?



Prayer



St Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.

O, Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled
as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love;
for it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
it is in dying that we are born again to eternal life.



DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

Aim

To explore what it means to be a disciple of Christ.

Background

Information for Catechist

Mystagogy is a time to deepen a neophytes understanding of God's word, the sacraments and what this means in their lives.

Preparation for the Catechist

Spend time in prayer for the young person. Consider your experiences of living your Christian faith. Be willing to share these with the young person.



Exploring

During your Baptism, you became a member of the Christian community.

During your Confirmation, you were sealed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

At Eucharist, you are fed at the table of the Lord.

Each time we attend Mass, we are sent forth to live the Eucharist. We are sent out on a mission to serve and help others as Jesus did, to be his disciple. It is here that we are nourished to live our lives as disciples of Jesus.

Scripture

From the Gospel of John.
Glory to you, O Lord



John 13:4-15
Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet

So during the meal Jesus got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.



The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

2 DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

Following a couple of minutes of silence to reflect on the scripture, invite the young person to share a word or two from the passage that was particularly meaningful for them.

What is one important message for you in this scripture passage?

How can you respond to this scripture passage?

Exploring

Washing of the Feet

During Jesus' time, the roads were very dirty and it was customary for people to wash their feet when entering a home. If the household was wealthy, there was a servant who did this job.

In John's gospel, we hear the story of Jesus washing the disciples' feet. Through the action of washing feet, Jesus was behaving like a servant to his disciples.

Jesus sets us an example; we are called to serve one another just as he did.

What does it mean to be a disciple today?



Video

Let's watch a clip of Pope Francis washing the feet of 12 inmates, of different religions, half of them women, in Rome's Rebibbia prison.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1_brCm6Sd24

Video **Link 2.1**



What are your responses to watching this clip?

Are there any insights, new ideas, questions or challenges you have after watching this clip?

Activity

Let's look to some quotes from Saints about helping others.

The **Activity Sheet: Disciples of Christ Quotes** contains the following quotes.

This can be downloaded from the crossroadsrcia website:

www.crossroadsRCIA.org (copy on page 12).

2 DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

Choose one to help to keep you on your path to Jesus.

- “Never see a need without doing something about it.” [St Mary MacKillop \(1871\)](#)
- “Extend your mercy towards others, so that there can be no one in need whom you meet without helping. For what hope is there for us if God should withdraw His Mercy from us?” [St Vincent de Paul](#)
- You know well enough that Our Lord does not look so much at the greatness of our actions, nor even at their difficulty, but at the love with which we do them. [St Therese of Lisieux](#)
- Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier. [St Teresa of Calcutta](#)
- Pray as though everything depended on God. Work as though everything depended on you. [St Augustine](#)
- Love God, serve God; everything is in that. [St Clare of Assisi](#)
- You learn to speak by speaking, to study by studying, to run by running, to work by working, and just so, you learn to love by loving. All those who think to learn in any other way deceive themselves. [St Francis de Sales](#)
- Pray, Hope, and Don't Worry. [St Pio](#)
- We can do no great things; only small things with great love. [St Teresa of Calcutta](#)
- Preach the Gospel at all times. If necessary, use words. [St Francis of Assisi](#)
- The missionary disciple has first of all a centre, a point of reference, which is the person of Jesus. [Pope Francis \(20 July 2018\)](#)
- You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. [John 15:16](#)
- By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. [John 13:35](#)
- In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. [Matthew 5:16](#)
- Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” [John 8:12](#)
- But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. [Galatians 5:22-23](#)

What quote did you choose and why?



Exploring

Our mission is to the other people we come in contact with everyday. We are called to make a difference in our school, in our families, in our parishes and communities.

What are you challenged to do as a disciple of Christ and a servant to others?

What will you do to continue the mission of Christ?

Who has made a difference in your school, family, parish or community?

Have you seen someone disadvantaged?

What action could you take in the future to serve them?

What can you do at School?

- For example, be willing to reach out in kindness to others or help coach a soccer team.

What can you do at home?

- For example, help around the house without being asked.

What can you do at your parish?

- For example, become a helper in Children's Liturgy or a reader at Mass, or perhaps join a St Vincent De Paul group.

What can you do in your community?

- For example, support people in need through initiatives like Project Compassion

You are a disciple, following in the footsteps of Jesus.



Prayer

Let us pray together the prayer from *St Teresa of Avila*.

“ Christ has no body now but yours.
No hands, no feet on earth but yours.
Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world.
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good.
Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

**Activity Sheet:
Disciples of Christ Quotes**

**Disciples of
Christ**

↓ Cut out the below cards.

**Never see a need
without doing something about it.**

St Mary MacKillop (1871)

**We can do no great things; only small things
with great love.**

St Teresa of Calcutta

**Extend your mercy towards others,
so that there can be no one in need
whom you meet without helping.
For what hope is there for us if God
should withdraw His Mercy from us?**

St Vincent de Paul

**Preach the Gospel at all times.
If necessary, use words.**

St Francis of Assisi

**The missionary disciple has first of all
a centre, a point of reference,
which is the person of Jesus.**

Pope Francis (20 July 2018)

**You know well enough that Our Lord
does not look so much at the greatness
of our actions, nor even at their difficulty,
but at the love with which we do them.**

St Therese of Lisieux

**You did not choose me,
but I chose you and appointed you
that you should go and bear fruit
and that your fruit should abide, so that
whatever you ask the Father in my name,
he may give it to you.**

John 15:16

**Let no one ever come to you without
leaving better and happier.**

St Teresa of Calcutta

**Pray as though everything
depended on God. Work as though
everything depended on you.**

St Augustine

Pray, Hope, and Don't Worry.

St Pio

**Love God, serve God;
everything is in that.**

St Clare of Assisi

**In the same way, let your light shine before
others, so that they may see your good works
and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.**

Matthew 5:16

**You learn to speak by speaking, to study
by studying, to run by running, to work by
working, and just so, you learn to love by
loving. All those who think to learn in any
other way deceive themselves.**

St Francis de Sales

**Again Jesus spoke to them, saying,
"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows
me will not walk in darkness, but will have the
light of life."**

John 8:12

**By this all people will know that you are my
disciples, if you have love for one another.**

John 13:35

**But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy,
peace, patience, kindness, goodness,
faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.**

Galatians 5:22-23

