



RCIA

MYSTAGOGY

9-12
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 child. Consider your experiences of living your Christian faith. Be willing to share these with the child.



Exploring

How did you feel after receiving the Sacraments of Initiation?

Think about the night that 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 that were used.

How did they speak to you?

If the Sacraments were 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 to feel the waters of Baptism poured over you?

What did the Oil feel like?

Scripture

Listen 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 children 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

Jesus tells the disciples “Peace be with you” more than once.

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

How can you bring peace to people around you?

Create a list of Peace Actions.

What actions can you take to be a 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 child. Consider your experiences of living your Christian faith. Be willing to share these with the child.



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.

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 children 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?

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

We cannot change the whole world but we can change our own actions towards others.

Can you think of anyone who has made a difference in the world?

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?

Activity

Print the [Activity Sheet: Healing the World](#) which has a map of the world and several Band-Aids for writing on.

This can be downloaded from the [crossroadsrcia](http://www.crossroadsrcia.org) website:
www.crossroadsRCIA.org (copy on page 11).

Cut out the Band-Aids and have the children write on them any situations that need healing. These can be situations in the world, in their school, in their community or in their families. Stick the Band-Aids on the Map of the world.

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 in your parish?

- For example, become a helper in Children's Liturgy or a reader at Mass.

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.

Disciples of Christ

Activity Sheet: Healing the World



↓ Cut out the Band-Aids.

