

Mystagogy for the Rite of Sending

Your pastor introduced the rite with, "It is the responsibility of this community to inquire about their (the catechumens') readiness before they are presented to the Bishop."

Ask: How did you feel as you listened to the testimony of your Godparent?

What went through your mind and heart as you signed the Book of the Elect?

How did you feel as the community prayed for you?

Read this list of phrases that were found in the prayers, "freed from selfishness...learn to put others first...share with others the joy they have found in their friendship with Jesus".

Ask: Which of these petitions is most meaningful to you? (Reassuring or challenging?)

Following your reflection, prepare catechumens for the Rite of Election, noticing that there are similar questions being asked of the Godparents, but at the Rite of Election, the catechumens stand and speak for themselves. Encourage them to spend time in preparation, praying with gratitude for the journey they have been on and for the growing awareness they have of God in their lives.

Mystagogy for the Rite of Election

Invite the Elect to close their eyes and remember the day, the travel there, the church setting, those seated around them. If available, you may even play a selection of the music used during the celebration of the Rite. Use copies of the Worship Aid to guide your mystagogical process.

Ask: How did it feel to be among so many catechumens?

Read one (or all) of the Scriptures that were proclaimed (First Sunday of Lent Readings) and ask what was most meaningful to them. For Year A, you could ask:

In what ways is God still forming you, as a potter works with clay?

Where does temptation sneak in and catch you unguarded, like the snake in the garden?

What can you learn about following Jesus from the Gospel of the temptation in the desert?

Ask: How did you feel when you heard your own name called and stood up in response?

Remember the Bishop's question: *Do you wish to enter fully into the life of the Church through the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist?*

Ask: What was in your heart as you answered, "We do"?

What prepared you to make this declaration?

The liturgy concluded with the Bishop's prayer over you: *Guide the elect of your church: strengthen them in their vocation, build them into the kingdom of your Son, and seal them with the Spirit of your promise.*

Ask: How did the Rite of Election reinforce your desire to be Baptized? To live as a disciple of Christ?

For what graces do you ask of God as you enter the period of Purification and Enlightenment?

How can the church continue to support you?