Mystagogy and the 50 Days of Easter

The final period (of the RCIA) extends through the whole Easter season and is devoted to the postbaptismal catechesis or mystagogy. It is a time for deepening the Christian experience, for spiritual growth, and for entering more fully into the life and unity of the community. (RCIA, 7)

Mystagi - what?

Mystagogy is a process of leading into the mystery. Or, perhaps a better way to say that is that mystagogy is initiation into that which is not yet fully revealed. Even more specifically, mystagogy is an initiation into God’s self-revelation.

The final phase of the catechumenate is called “mystagogy” because it is through baptism that the catechumens are given the insight of the royal priesthood of Christ. With that grace, they are brought to the table to eat and drink the full presence of Christ in a way they have not yet fully encountered. The 50 days of Easter is a time to focus specifically on remembering that initiation into the Banquet in a systematic way.

Mystagogical Reflection on the Easter Vigil

The Easter Vigil is four liturgies
What do we do with them for 50 days?

The ritual book for the RCIA gives some suggestions:

"... the celebration of the sacraments, is followed by the final period ... of ... mystagogy. This is a time for the community and 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 the works of charity. To strengthen the neophytes as they begin to walk in newness of life, the community of the faithful, their godparents, and their parish priests should give them thoughtful and friendly help." (RCIA 244)

The Sunday Masses of the Easter season are, “... occasions for the newly baptized to gather with the community and share in the mysteries, (and) these celebrations include particularly suitable readings from the Lectionary, especially the reading for Year A.” (RCIA 247)

Continuing to read from the ritual text, paragraphs 244 - 251, we see highlighted additional ways to journey with the neophytes. Consider which ones your parish can do:

- Ongoing Formation - A Year of Monthly Sessions
- Reflecting on, and Praying with, the Sunday Readings
- Reserved Seating at Masses
- General Intercessions that Mention the Newly Baptized
- Celebration Near Pentecost
- Anniversary of Baptism
- Fieldtrip/Pilgrimage - Meet the Bishop
- Special Invitations to all Parish Events - Spiritual, Outreach and Social!

Smile - God Loves You!

Share your favorite photo of initiation from your parish. Just attach it to the email below, stating your name, parish name, and a one sentence description of what is taking place.

We want to see photos from:
Scrutinies, Easter Vigil, Rite of Welcome, Rite of Acceptance, Blessing of Catechumens, Service Projects, Family Meals, Retreat Days, etc.
Photos from Rites of Election

Did you miss seeing the photos from the Rite of Election in the last newsletter? If so, the links are here:

Western Vicariate:  

Central Vicariate:  

Eastern Vicariate:  

Have questions about RCIA?

Contact:  
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Visit our website

Missed last month's newsletter with articles on reflecting back on the Rite of Election and celebrating the Scrutinies? You can find it on our website!