

Young Apprentices

A RESOURCE FOR THE RCIA

MYSTAGOGY: GO!

The Ascension of the Lord • Year B • May 9 or 12, 2024

Introduction

A period of post-baptismal catechesis or mystagogy should be provided to assist the young neophytes and their companions who have completed their Christian initiation (RCIA 503). Mystagogy is the final period of post-baptismal catechesis intended to help the neophytes and the Christian community grow in their understanding of the Paschal Mystery through continuing to reflect on God's Word, by taking their place in the assembly for the celebration of the Eucharist, and by continuing to answer Christ's call to love others through works of charity (see RCIA 244).

In this session, the neophytes and their companions will reflect on their call to be witnesses of the Good News of Jesus Christ to all they meet.

Supplies

The optimum setting for this session is in the church, near the Paschal (Easter) candle. If a different space must be used, set the space with chairs in a circle around a prayer table covered with a white cloth and containing a large white candle, a Bible, and a globe or map of the world.

Catechist Preparation

1. Read the Scriptures for the Ascension of the Lord.
2. Reflect on those who have been witnesses of the Good News of Jesus Christ to you.
3. Think about how you are a witness of the Good News of Jesus Christ to others.

Word of God

Acts 1:1-11
 Psalm 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9
 Ephesians 4:1-13
 Mark 16:15-20

Gather

1. Greet the children and their families as they arrive.
2. Take a few minutes to ask what they already know about the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord.

Deepen

1. Read the Deepen section of the participant handout.
2. Discuss the following with the children:
 - All baptized people of all ages, from the time of Jesus until the present day, are called to tell others the Good News.
 - The Good News is that God so loved the world that Jesus, the Son of God, came down to earth as the baby in Bethlehem to tell us how much God loves us. Jesus was willing to suffer and die on the Cross for us. He rose from the dead so that we might know that we too will be raised on the last day.
 - The saints are witnesses of the Good News of Jesus Christ and examples to us of how to put our faith into practice.

Meditate

1. Invite volunteers to name as many nations of the world as they can. If possible, point out the nations on the globe or world map.
2. Ask the children to listen to what Jesus says about the world in today's Gospel.
3. Invite all to stand. Light the candle (if it is not already lit) and proclaim the Gospel, Mark 16:15-20.
4. Ask what Jesus said about the world. (*We are to go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature.*)

5. Invite all to be seated and continue the discussion, highlighting the following points.
 - The disciples are to go into the whole world.
 - The disciples are to baptize those who come to believe in the Gospel.
 - The Lord will work with them as they preach the Gospel.
 - Ask the children how disciples in the world today fulfill Jesus' command. If time allows, introduce them to Catholic missionary outreaches or to World Mission Sunday (usccb.org).
6. Read and discuss the Meditate section of the participant handout.
7. Invite participants to talk about what it means to be a witness and to suggest ways to be a witness at home, at work, at school, and with friends.

Share

1. Read and discuss the Share section of the participant handout.
2. Review with the children the Dismissal Rite of the Mass. Remind them that at the end of Mass, the deacon or priest says one of the following:
 - Go forth, the Mass is ended.
 - Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.
 - Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.
 - Go in peace.
3. Explain that with these words, we are sent forth to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with others.

Do

1. Read and discuss the Do section of the participant handout.
2. Give the children the handout containing the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. Explain that the Works of Mercy are good guides for how to be witnesses of the Good News of Jesus Christ to others.

Pray

Conclude by singing "The Servant Song" (R. Gillard; found in most hymnals) or "Go Make a Difference" (S. Angrisano, T. Tomaszek; [spiritandsong](http://spiritandsong.com)).