

DISCUSSION GUIDE

part 7 of 7



The Period of Mystagogy

After their initiation, the community joyfully welcomes the neophytes and draws even closer to them as they share together in receiving the Eucharist at the table of the Lord. During the Period of Mystagogy, the faithful continually provide the neophytes with “thoughtful and friendly help” (RCIA/OCIA, 246) as they are led to reflect on the paschal mystery more deeply in light of their experience of the Easter sacraments. The celebration of their new life in Christ continues in each Mass of the Easter season, with sponsors, godparents, and the whole community of the faithful there to accompany and support them.



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FOR YOUR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

WE ARE IN IT TOGETHER

The biggest myth of mystagogy is that it’s just for the neophytes. The period is for the neophytes and all the community members together to deepen their understanding of the paschal mystery and make it part of their lives. At this point, we do not ask the neophytes to do anything we wouldn’t do ourselves. Let us all practice the process of mystagogical reflection with this simple lesson plan. After the Easter liturgies—and any other ritual experiences—ask and share responses to these three questions: What did you experience? What does it mean? What are you going to do about it?

- How can your parish intentionally engage in mystagogical reflection?
- When can your parish’s neophytes have an opportunity to meet the bishop?

THE MORE THE MERRIER!

Upon their initiation, the neophytes join the ranks of the faithful as full members of the Christian community. With the waters of the font and the chrism still glistening on their foreheads, their witness is a source of inspiration for the entire Christian community. The faithful joyfully welcome these new members into the fold, giving them thoughtful and friendly help as they begin their Christian life. Walking side by side and sharing together at the table of the Lord, the deepening bonds of friendship between community members and the neophytes further strengthen the Body of Christ.

- How might you increase opportunities for personal contact and sharing between neophytes and the general parishioners in your parish, particularly during the Easter season?
- How are neophytes invited to a deeper participation in the life of the community post-Easter?

A SPIRIT-FILLED CELEBRATION AT PENTECOST

As the Period of Mystagogy concludes, the neophytes gather once more for a special celebration. Invite the community and others who have gone through the catechumenal process in previous years. Gather on the Vigil of Pentecost and use the extended form of the Liturgy of the Word. Bring people around the baptismal font, light candles, renounce sin, renew promises. Following the liturgy, invite neophytes (and other community members) to speak about how they follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit in their everyday lives—use the fruits of the Holy Spirit as inspiration for your conversations. Finally, throw a big party! Celebrate well!

- Why does Pentecost serve as an opportune time to regather the neophytes for a celebration?
- In which ways can you involve the community in making this a festive celebration for all parishioners?