OCIA: PERIOD OF MYSTAGOGY

Workshop Series, Part 4
Thursday, 20 NOV 2025

Questions? Contact us!

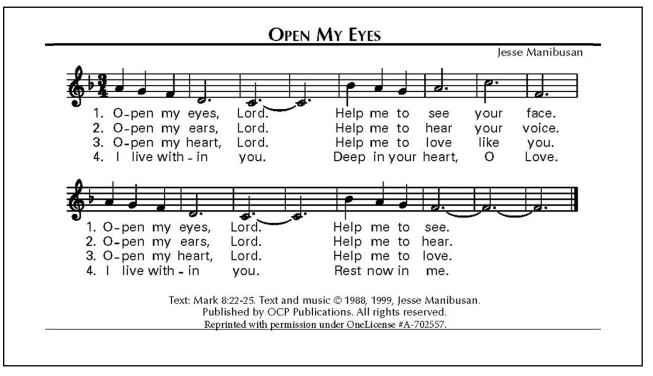
Mary Hrich

Director of the Office for Worship mhrich@dioceseofcleveland.org 216-696-6525, x4120

Laura McBride
Catechetical Consultant
Imcbride@dioceseofcleveland.org
216-696-6525, x2880

Christy Cabaniss
Director of Missionary Discipleship
ccabaniss@dioceseofcleveland.org
216-696-6525, x2552

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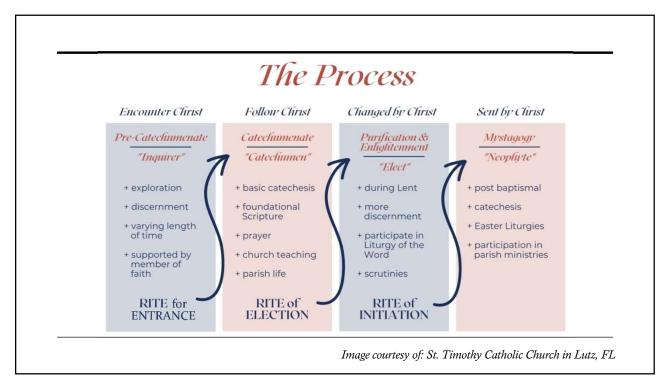


OPENING PRAYER

Accept, we ask, O Lord,
the prayers of your people
with our sacrificial offerings,
that what has begun in the paschal mysteries may,
by the working of your power,
bring those entrusted to our pastoral care,
and all of us,
to the healing of eternity.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen!

(Adapted from Prayer over the Offerings – Easter Vigil)

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INTENT OF THE PERIOD OF MYSTAGOGY



"The Period of Mystagogy is of great importance in enabling the neophytes, assisted by their godparents, to form closer relationships with the faithful and to communicate to them a new view of things as well as new enthusiasm. To strengthen their first steps, it is desirable that, in all circumstances, neophytes receive thoughtful and friendly help from the community of the faithful, their godparents, and their pastors. The greatest care should be taken that they receive a full and joyful inclusion into the community."

OCIA #246

ACCOMPLISHING THE INTENT OF THE PERIOD OF MYSTAGOGY



"Following the Period of Mystagogy, and to the extent possible, neophytes may benefit from meeting periodically to deepen their Christian formation, especially through opportunities that enhance their participation in the life of the parish or similar community."

National Statutes for the Christian Initiation of Adults, Norm 13

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ACCOMPLISHING THE INTENT OF THE PERIOD OF MYSTAGOGY



- To hold on to the graces of the experience of the celebration of the Sacraments
- To grow deeper in relationship to Christ and His Church (emphasis on the Church)
- Steep (oneself in God's word/permeating nature of the Sacraments) Savor (the graces) Serve (works of charity)

Sent by Christ

Mystagogy

"Neophyte"

- + post baptismal
- + catechesis
- + Easter Liturgies
- participation in parish ministries



ACCOMPLISHING THE INTENT OF THE PERIOD OF MYSTAGOGY

For Children and Youth:

• Steep – Savor – Serve... in age-appropriate ways!



Steep - Savor - Serve

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Sent by Christ

Mystagogy "Neophyte"

- + post baptismal
- + catechesis
- + Easter Liturgies
- participation in parish ministries

BUILD THE TEAM

- Engage the previous Neophytes! This extends their mystagogy and revives their experience.
- Team members who have social justice attitude / aware of the needs of the poor or marginalized
- Those engaged in deep spiritual reflection
- Those who hear God's call to action and consider what to do about it
- · Good story tellers
- Youth specialists

TELLING OUR STORY

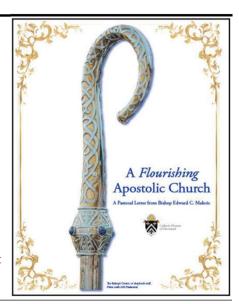
How do we share what happened...

- Logistically
- Who was there
- · What was said
- Emotions evoked
- Meaning for your life

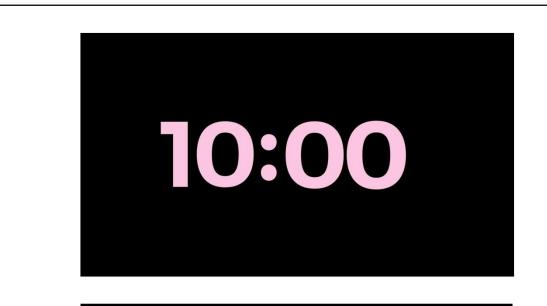
Just like how Lent is for all of us, so, too, Easter.

Neophytes pave the way, but we are all called to reflect

- Easter stirs us up!



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LET'S TAKE A BREAK!

WHAT DO FORMATION SESSIONS LOOK LIKE?



"Throughout Easter Time at Sunday Masses neophytes should be allowed their own special places among the faithful. All the neophytes should make an effort to participate in these Masses with their godparents. The Homily and, as circumstances suggest, also the Universal Prayer (Prayer of the Faithful) should take account of them."

OCIA, #248

You are called! How do you respond?

- Growing deeper meaning
- Emphasizing this intentionality teaches by example
- This is not "one and done"... how do I live this?

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WHAT DO FORMATION SESSIONS LOOK LIKE?

Communicate dates you know at the onset of the process:

- · Rite of Election
- Scrutinies
- · Triduum
- Pentecost

Set the expectation that this continues!

- If small groups already exist, integrate into existing groups
- If not, start their own one!
- Meet weekly during Easter season
- Breaking open the Word
- Meeting with leaders of ministry
- Have a parish party at Pentecost, including the whole community, where the Neophytes are the guests of honor

FORMATION SESSIONS WITH YOUTH AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- · Reflective activities
- Spend some time on incorporating prayer into daily life and how we do that (savoring the graces)
- Ask:
 - · What's new?
 - · What's different?
 - What is your new sense of God's presence in your life?
 - · Connections between the Gospel and their reception of Eucharist
 - Connections between Gospel and what they are experiencing in life
 - What is available for them to do in the parish?



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HOW LONG DOES MYSTAGOGY LAST?

- At least the 50 days of Easter
- Celebration at Pentecost (see OCIA #250)

FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS



- Weekly meetings during Easter Season
- Possibly monthly for the next year (small groups are good!)



MYSTAGOGY WITH YOUTH AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- · Weekly through Easter, monthly after
- Hopefully youth are already involved in faith formation (less ministry opportunities for them to plug into)
- Establish trust so youth are free to explain/express what they are feeling
- Engage the parents, especially in mystagogy
 - Parents are foundational for kids to live their faith
 - They are also witnesses to the growing faith in their kids
 - Younger children are more comfortable with their parents
- · Recognize the holiness within!

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NEXT STEPS

Call to action:

- How are you Serving Others?
- How to use your gifts?
- What are you interested in?



ENGAGING ADULTS IN PARISH LIFE



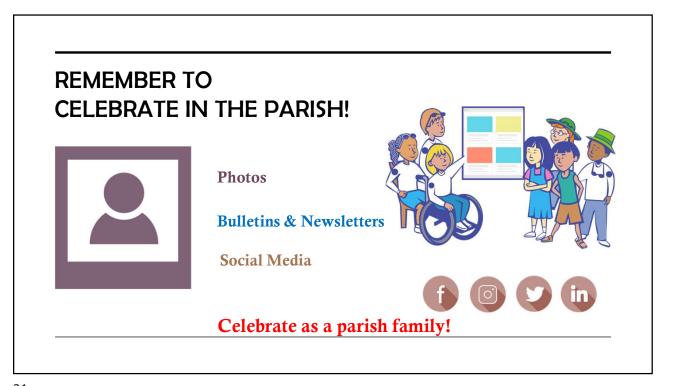
- Ministry fair
- Called by the Spirit / Gifts inventory
- Brochures
- Inviting / Integrating (invite heads of ministries into sessions OR bring the group to some of the ministries – MAKE THE CONNECTIONS)
- Explore the bulletin
- Have team members notice where charisms match needs
- Discernment is helpful

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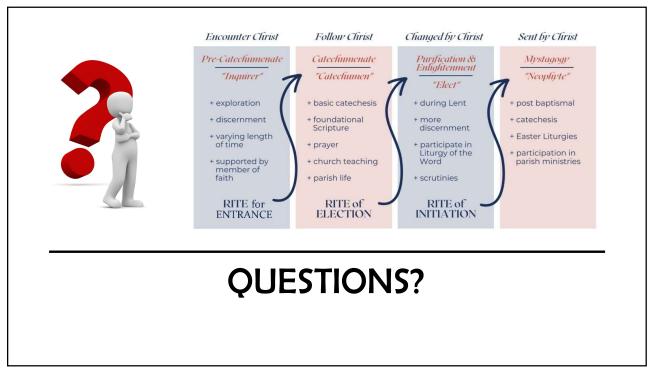


ENGAGING YOUNG PEOPLE IN PARISH LIFE

- Less ministry opportunities for the youngest ones more opportunities to connect teens with service
- Service opportunities in home / school
- Daily prayer
- Consider what else is going on in the community Youth ministry, associates of organizations, connection with high school



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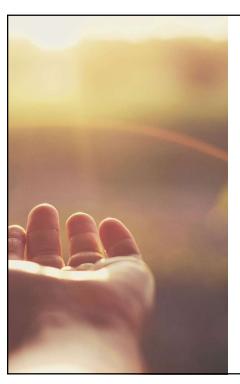


SOME FINAL THOUGHTS



- Many families didn't baptize babies during Covid review your records (esp. Preschool – K – 1) ... it's easier to baptize those under 7 than to wait and have full OCIA process
- Reminder: Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion 22 Feb 2026, Public Auditorium. Not optional for adults journeying to the sacraments.
- Reminder: Chrism Mass 31 Mar 2026, St. Sebastian
- Participate in all of Triduum (immerse) for your own process of STEEP – SAVOR – SERVE

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CLOSING PRAYER

Pour out on us, O Lord, the Spirit of your love, and in your kindness make those you have called to your Sacraments, and all who serve in this ministry of OCIA, one in mind and heart. Through Christ our Lord. Amen!

(adapted from the Prayer After Communion – Easter Vigil)

