

## MYSTAGOGY

*Lighting and Blessing of New Fire*

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the OCIA

**Catechist Preparation****Read**

- The Roman Missal, First Part of the Easter Vigil: The Blessing of the Fire and Preparation of the Candle
- Luke 12
- 2 Corinthians 4

**Music Suggestions**

- The Easter Proclamation (Exsultet), Roman Missal
- “Christ, Be Our Light,” B. Farrell, OCP Publications

Pray this portion of the Creed:

*I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were made.*

**Prepare**

If possible, gather in the space where the fire of the Easter Vigil was lit. (If not possible, then prepare the space with chairs, a Bible, a large white candle, and small, white taper candles—one for each person.) If needed, have nametags. Have some refreshments available.

If the group is larger than five or six, guide people to share in smaller groups whenever possible.

**Gather**

1. Greet people as they arrive.
2. Take time for introductions and check in with everyone to find out how they are doing.
3. Facilitate a discussion about the importance of light and the many ways light plays a part of daily life. Include stories of power outages or extended periods of no sun and how participants cope with darkness or cloudiness.

**Deepen**

1. Light the large candle.
2. Lead a reflection on the Blessing of the Fire from the Easter Vigil using these or similar words: *Remember the beginning of the Easter Vigil—we gathered . . . It was dark . . . There was an energy in the assembly . . . Father and altar servers gathered around an unlit fire . . . A spark ignited the fire . . . It lit up the space and the faces of the people gathered . . . He blessed the fire . . . He lit the large new Paschal candle . . . He marked the candle . . . The candle was lifted into the air . . . The Light of Christ . . . The fire of the Paschal candle was passed from person to person . . . The great Exsultet was proclaimed.*
3. After a few minutes of quiet, invite people to share what they were thinking or feeling during the blessing of the new fire and the lighting of the Paschal candle.
4. Summarize their sharing.
5. Read and discuss the **Probe the Mystery** section of the participant page.

**Meditate**

1. Refer to the **Savor the Mystery** section of the participant page.

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2. Explore with these points:

- The light of Christ penetrates all darkness.
- The Paschal candle is lit at every Mass from the Easter Vigil until Pentecost and at every Baptism and funeral throughout the entire year.
- At the liturgy of Baptism, a candle is lit from the Paschal candle and given to the newly baptized, signifying that the light of Christ is within and that each of us is to be a light of Christ in the world.
- Christ is the Light of the world. Christ has conquered all sin and darkness through his Passion, Death, and Resurrection.

**Do**

1. In Baptism, we become members of the Body of Christ. We are to carry on the mission of Christ—to be light for the world. We do this through the way we live—in word and deed.
2. Consider the past week. In what ways did your words and actions proclaim Christ, the Light of the world?

3. In what way can you (the parish) be a beacon of hope to those in need?

- Refer to the *Inspire Others* section of the participant handout.
- After a few minutes, invite participants to share with another person.

**Pray**

Give everyone a taper and have them light it from the large candle. Sing or play a recording of “Christ, Be Our Light” (B. Farrell, OCP Publications) or use the prayer from the participant handout.

