

MYSTAGOGY

Processing with the Light of Christ

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the OCIA

*Over the threshold
of love,
we enter and we go out,
O God,
as your Church—
one, holy, catholic,
and apostolic.
Gathered by grace,
we rejoice.*

Recall the Easter Vigil

Once the new fire was lit and blessed, we processed into the Church following the light of Christ, the Paschal candle.

Probe the Mystery

We have a place, a home to which we belong. Darkness may encroach and many difficulties abound in life, but we are safe in this holy place, mother Church, bearer of life and love.

The light of Christ gathers us into the Church and guides us. The light of Christ shines within our hearts even as the Paschal candle and a myriad of other candles illuminate our places of worship. Hearts and voices resound: *Lumen Christi! The Light of Christ!*

Aside from the prayer to bless the new fire and the words that bespoke the preparation of the Paschal candle, the primary and major acclamation that signals the start of the Easter season is this exultant acknowledgment that we are a people of light, led by Christ. He triumphs, and in his glowing love we live! Did your heart quicken to that triple acclamation?

How did you feel as the assembly of worshipers slowly entered the church as the flame atop the Paschal candle led you over the threshold into God's house?

Savor the Sweetness of Salvation

There are many "threshold" moments in life: a pregnant wife telling her husband, "It's time to go to the hospital" so that the baby can be born, or those first steps forward a student takes to mount the stage and receive his or her diploma, or the phone call informing you that you got the job for which you interviewed.

At the Easter Vigil, together we passed over a holy threshold, led by the light of Christ.

It was a dramatic moment, a final, momentous step for you as a candidate to be baptized or to complete your Christian initiation. Imagine! Every time you enter the threshold of a Church, you will be reminded of those steps you took over the threshold and into your new life in Christ!

I congratulate you on the fact that your firmly rooted faith, celebrated ever since the earliest days, persists till now and still brings forth fruit to the honor of our Lord Jesus Christ, who patiently went to meet his death for our sins; he whom God raised by ending the throes of death. You never saw him and yet believe in him with sublime and inexpressible joy, a joy that many desire to experience.

Saint Polycarp of Smyrna, *To the Philippians* 1.2-3: ACW 6:76

Inspire Others

What steps can you take to gently invite others to consider following Christ more closely? How can your own personal light shine so as to drive the darkness back in others' lives? Be a threshold experience—an open invitation to discover Jesus—for those around you!