

MYSTAGOGY

Listening to Sacred Scripture

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the OCIA

*You speak to us,
O Lord,
through Sacred Scripture.
Open our ears to receive
your living Word.
May we feast upon
its richness
and share that wealth
with others
through our good example.*

Recall the Easter Vigil

After processing into the church and exulting in the light of Christ, we listened attentively to many readings from Sacred Scripture.

Probe the Mystery

God takes the initiative. Time and again throughout history, God acts to save us from ourselves.

God created all things, establishing beauty and order in all his works. Still more wonderful is the sacred story of God's intervention in human history, bringing Abraham to faith. God also chose a people for his own and rescued them from slavery

in Egypt. He continued to call them to fidelity through the prophets. In the fullness of time, he sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to raise up a fallen world and offer all men and women Salvation.

The powerful, eternal, and everlasting Word rescues us, the Word of the Lord! Thanks be to God! Sacred Scripture tells us this wondrous story of Salvation. Its words echo and resound in our own lives. Thanks be to God!

As you listened to the unfolding Salvation story at the Easter Vigil, how were you comforted? Were there parts of it that made you uncomfortable, or challenged you? Why?

Savor the Sweetness of Salvation

We are natural storytellers. We love to regale each other with tales of our exploits in sports or how we got the best bargain at the mall. Even more so, we love to tell the story of how our parents or grandparents met. We love to hear and be moved by such stories.

Each Sunday we spend the first part of Mass, the Liturgy of the Word, telling God's story, the true and powerful story of his everlasting love for us. While at the Easter Vigil, through that series of readings, we were afforded a summary of Salvation History; each Sunday as we listen to Sacred Scripture, we are gifted with a "snapshot" of God's love. As we all know, one picture, one "snapshot" can be powerfully moving.

This is the God of compassion, yearning to save humankind. The Word himself at this point speaks to you plainly, putting unbelief to shame, and I mean the Word of God, who became man just that you may learn from a man how it may be that Man should become God.

Saint Clement of Alexandria, *Exhortation to the Greeks* I.8.(4):
ECF 244

Inspire Others

If you viewed your own life as a story composed of many chapters, what would you title the present chapter? What is the storyline of this current chapter and how important is Jesus Christ in it? Do you believe others can see in this chapter of your life the influence of the Church? How so?