

MYSTAGOGY

Imploring the Saints' Intercession

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the OCIA

Catechist Preparation**Read**

- Revelation 7:1-8
- Steps in the canonization process
- Life of your favorite saint

Music Suggestions

- “For All the Saints,” all hymnals
- “Litany of Saints,” J. Becker, OCP Publications

Pray

Use one of the prayers for your favorite saint.

Prepare

Prepare the space with chairs, a book of saints, and a large, white candle. If needed, have name tags. Have some refreshments available.

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

Gather

Greet people as they arrive. Take time for introductions and check in with everyone to find out how they are doing.

Have everyone stand in a circle and say their full names, including nicknames. Go around the circle a second time and have everyone share what they know about their given name and the origin of their family name.

Deepen

1. Recall with the participants the Litany of Saints prayed (sung) at the Easter Vigil. If possible, play a recording of the litany.

2. Briefly tell the life story of your favorite saint and why he or she is your favorite.
3. Discuss the following:
 - Participants' favorite saints and why
 - Their understanding of the role of saints
 - Why we pray to the saints
 - How we honor the saints
 - Steps of the process for a person to become a canonized saint (and the names of some who are now in the canonization process)
4. Read and discuss the *Probe the Mystery* section of the participant page.

Meditate

1. Refer to the *Savor the Sweetness of Salvation* section of the participant page.
2. Explore these points:
 - We belong to the Communion of Saints:
 - Those in Heaven
 - Those in Purgatory
 - Those on earth (in process of becoming saints)
 - In the Preface of the Mass, the priest prays that we join our voices with all the angels and saints and sing: “Holy, Holy, Holy.”
 - The saints show us many ways to live as a disciple of Jesus. Each saint's life provides an example of holiness.
 - Most saints are ordinary people who did ordinary things with great love.
 - Every person in Heaven is a saint; some are recognized for their holiness and canonized.

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3. Discuss the following:

- What it means to be holy
- The universal call to holiness in which we all share
- The many paths to holiness as exemplified in the lives of saints we know
- The Solemnity of All Saints and All Souls' Day and their importance in the liturgical calendar

Summarize the discussion.

Do

Refer to the *Inspire Others* section of the participant handout.

Encourage the participants to write notes to people they think are "saints in the making" to thank them for the example they show by their lives.

Pray

Pray a Litany of the Saints. Invite everyone to give an invocation and respond with "pray for us." For example:

Saint Joseph, pray for us.

Saint Helen, pray for us.

Saint Michael, pray for us.

Saint Julie, pray for us.

