

MYSTAGOGY

Professing the Faith

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the OCIA

Catechist Preparation**Read**

- Renewal of Baptismal Promises
- Romans 6:3-11
- The Apostles' Creed

Music Suggestions

- "Wade In the Water," M.D. Ridge, OCP Publications
- "There Is One Lord," Taizé, GIA Publications

Pray

Pray the Apostles' Creed.

Prepare

Prepare the space with chairs, a Bible, a large bowl of water, 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

1. Greet people as they arrive. Take time for introductions and check in with everyone to find out how they are doing.
2. Lead them in a guided reflection using these or similar words:

Take a few deep breaths. Think back to when you first thought about becoming Catholic and the journey that has brought you to today.

What were some of the surprises along the way?

In what way(s) has your relationship with Christ changed? Deepened?

Remember the Easter Vigil when you were asked to proclaim your rejection of Satan and all his empty works and promises.

Remember when you were asked whether you believed in God . . . in Jesus Christ . . . in the Holy Spirit.

What were your feelings, your thoughts, your hopes, your fears when you proclaimed your belief?

3. Allow for some quiet time; then ask participants to share their reflection with one or two other people.

Deepen

1. Invite all to consider:

At this point in your faith life, how would you describe the works of Satan in our world, our society, and our lives?

At this time, how would you describe the empty promises of Satan?

How do you recognize the works and empty promises of Satan?

2. After a few minutes of quiet, discuss the questions and responses with the group.
3. Continue with these questions:

What does it mean to say now that you believe in God . . . in Jesus Christ . . . in the Holy Spirit?

What does it mean to profess faith?

What difference has it made or does it make in your life now?

In what way do you want to grow in your faith?

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4. After a few minutes of quiet, discuss the questions with the group.
5. 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:
 - Every Sunday at Mass, we profess our faith by praying together the Apostles' Creed or the Nicene Creed.
 - We are renewed and recommitted to the Body of Christ in our profession of faith.
 - The profession of faith is a dynamic reality. In our daily living, we come to understand and embrace a fuller and deeper meaning of what it is we profess in Christ Jesus, our Lord.
3. Read the Apostles' Creed together. Ask:

Choose one of the credal statements. What do you understand it to mean?

Is there one statement in the Creed that you would like to explore in a deeper way?

Summarize the discussion.

Do

Refer to the *Inspire Others* section of the participant handout. (If possible, gather around the baptismal font and do a renewal of baptismal promises. End by asking each person to take holy water and make the Sign of the Cross.)

Pray

Proclaim the passage from Saint Paul's letter to the Romans (6:3-11).

