

MYSTAGOGY: *Putting on the White Robe*

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the RCIA

Catechist Preparation:

Read:

- OCIA ritual text 214
- Revelation 6 and 7

Music Suggestions

- “At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing,” traditional, all hymnals
- “You Have Put On Christ,” S. Dean, GIA Publications

Pray

Pray the prayer for the Clothing with a White Garment from the Rite of Baptism.

Prepare

Prepare the space with chairs, an alb (or the white garment given at the Baptism), a Bible, and a baptismal 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. Recall the Easter Vigil when those newly baptized were dressed in a white robe and given a candle lit from the new Paschal candle.
3. Discuss what they remember—their thoughts and their feelings—as well as where they have kept their baptismal candle.

Deepen

1. Discuss with the participants whether they have clothes for special occasions such as weddings, Christmas, the theater, funerals, or other events.
2. Ask:
 - What do the clothes indicate?*
 - How does it feel to wear these clothes?*
 - Where do you keep these clothes?*
 - So wearing certain clothes means what?*
3. Read and discuss the **Probe the Mystery** section of the participant page. Ask what it means to “put on” the white robe.
4. Proclaim Revelation 7. Ask what being dressed in white means.

Summarize the discussion.

Meditate

1. If possible, visit the sacristy to see the white robes (albs) of the priest, deacon, and altar servers, if it is your parish practice that the altar servers wear white.
2. Refer to the **Savor the Sweetness of Salvation** section of the participant page.
3. Explore these points:
 - Every person who is baptized wears the white robe; he or she is a new person, a child of God.
 - In our Catholic tradition, a person is baptized only once; Baptism is forever. It cannot be undone; once baptized, always baptized.

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- In Baptism, we are wrapped in God's grace. We are gifted with the Holy Spirit; thus the gifts of wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear (awe) of God are bestowed on us.

Discuss each of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and the following points:

- An understanding of what the gift is
- Examples of the impact of the gift in one's life
- Ways that we can expand and deepen our use of the gift

Summarize the discussion.

Do

1. Invite one or two members of the parish to relate to the group examples of how they live out their understanding of Baptism in their home or workplace.
2. Allow some time for discussion.
3. Refer to the *Inspire Others* section of the participant handout.

Pray

Pray the prayer for the for the Clothing with a White Garment from the Rite of Baptism or the prayer found in the participant handout.

