

MYSTAGOGY

Offering a Sign of Peace

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the OCIA

Catechist Preparation**Read**

- Luke 10:1-9
- James 2 and 3
- 2 Corinthians 13

Music Suggestions

- “Make Me a Channel of Your Peace,” S. Temple, all hymnals
- “Peace Is Flowing Like a River,” C. Landry, all hymnals

Pray**Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi**

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
 Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
 where there is injury, pardon;
 where there is doubt, faith;
 where there is despair, hope;
 where there is darkness, light;
 and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not
 so much seek
 to be consoled as to console;
 to be understood as to understand;
 to be loved as to love.
 For it is in giving that we receive;
 it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
 and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
 Amen.

Prepare

Prepare the space with chairs, a Bible, 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. Invite everyone to begin by offering each other a Sign of Peace.
2. Ask:

In your life, when do you shake hands?

What is the meaning of the handshake gesture?

How do you describe a “real” handshake?
3. Invite the participants to share with one other person. After sharing, gather some insights about the gesture of the handshake.

Deepen

1. Ask:

When did you first experience the Sign of Peace at Mass?

What does it mean to you to exchange this Sign of Peace?

What do you understand to be the reason for the placement of the Sign of Peace before the reception of Communion?
2. Invite the participants to share with one other person. After sharing, gather some of their insights.
3. Read and discuss the **Probe the Mystery** section of the participant page.
4. List some characteristics of a person of peace.

MYSTAGOGY

Offering a Sign of Peace

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the OCIA

Meditate

1. Explore with these points:

- Peace is more than the absence of external violence; it describes a person who is in harmony with God, others, and all creation.
- People who are in harmony with God, others, and all creation have an aura of peace about them.

2. Refer to the *Savor the Sweetness of Salvation* section of the participant page.

3. Discuss:

- We are called to be peacemakers in our world.
- Peace begins with the individual and extends out to others directly and indirectly.
- Peace is the gift that Jesus gave to the disciples when he first appeared to them after the Resurrection.

- The exchange of peace is a gesture to symbolize the unity and harmony that exists between God and all creation.
- The Sign of Peace is a gesture of readiness to approach Communion; we are at peace with our brothers and sisters.

Summarize the discussion.

Do

Refer to the *Inspire Others* section of the participant handout. Encourage the participants to discuss the ways that they can be peacemakers at home, in the workplace, and in the neighborhood.

Pray

Pray again the Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi.

