“I AM THE VINE, YOU ARE THE BRANCHES”

LITURGICAL FORMATION IN MYSTAGOGIA

“REMAIN IN ME, AS I REMAIN IN YOU. JUST AS A BRANCH CANNOT BEAR FRUIT ON ITS OWN UNLESS IT REMAINS ON THE VINE, SO NEITHER CAN YOU UNLESS YOU REMAIN IN ME.” —JOHN 15:4
I. INTRODUCTION

• Liturgical formation in the period of Mystagogia has as its main focus the “new, personal experience of the sacraments and of the community.” (RCIA 247)

• The witness, example, and support of the RCIA team, godparents, sponsors, and the entire Christian community is crucial during this period to help the new faith of the neophytes grow.

II. MASSES FOR NEOPHYES

“Since the distinctive spirit and power of the period of postbaptismal catechesis or mystagogy derive from the new, personal experience of the sacraments and of the community, its main setting is the so-called Masses for neophytes, that is, the Sunday Masses of the Easter season. Besides being occasions for the newly baptized to gather with the community and share in the mysteries, these celebrations include particularly suitable readings from the Lectionary, especially the readings for Year A.” —RCIA 247

→ These Masses should include the participation of the godparents and the entire Christian community.

→ Special seating in the congregation should be reserved for them.

→ The homily should be directed to the formation and encouragement of the neophytes.

→ They should be included in the general intercessions prayers.

• At the end of the period of Mystagogia, a special celebration on or close to Pentecost should be arranged to celebrate the new faith of the neophytes (RCIA 249).

• The local bishop should also arrange to meet and celebrate Mass with the neophytes at least once during the neophyte year (RCIA 251).

• Have Mass for the neophytes at least once a month during the neophyte year as a way of encouraging and supporting them as they continue their postbaptismal catechesis.

“On the anniversary of their baptism, the neophytes should be brought together in order to give thanks to God, to share with one another their spiritual experiences, and to renew their commitment.” —RCIA 250

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III. LITURGICAL AND SACRAMENTAL FORMATION

- During this period, the neophytes should be encouraged in regular and fruitful participation in the sacramental and prayer life of the Church.

- The neophytes should receive the Sacrament of Penance during the period of Mystagogy, along with the candidates who received the sacrament during Purification and Enlightenment.

- Along with appropriate catechesis on the sacraments and prayer, the neophytes should also be encouraged to participate in organized prayer and devotions with the Christian community, such as:
  - Eucharistic Adoration
  - The Divine Mercy Novena and Chaplet
  - The Liturgy of the Hours
  - First Friday and First Saturday Devotions
  - The Rosary
  - Corpus Christi Processions/Celebrations

- The neophytes should also receive continuing formation on the liturgical year during the neophyte year, especially on the liturgical seasons, solemnities, feasts, holy days, etc.
PARISH DISCUSSION AND ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS

1. What are we doing well?

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2. What needs to be improved?

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3. Questions or action items for further implementation?

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