

“What about the Mystagogy Period”

The Period of Post baptismal Catechesis or Mystagogy

The period of post-baptismal catechesis or mystagogy refers to the fifty days of the Easter season, concluding at Pentecost Sunday (RCIA no. 249), and also to the first year of the neophyte's life as a baptized Christian (NCCB Statutes no. 24), concluding on the anniversary of the neophyte's initiation (RCIA no. 250).

The neophytes and their godparents should participate as a group in the Sunday masses of the Easter season, and special places in the assembly should be reserved for them (RCIA no. 248). Their presence in the assembly should be made visible to the assembly. These "neophytes' masses," are the main setting of the mystagogy period. (RCIA no. 247). Candidates whose initiation was completed in the catechumenate participate in this period in the same way as the newly baptized. Their sponsors should support them and participate in the neophytes' masses with them.

Catechesis during the Period of Mystagogy

Mystagogical catechesis is different from the catechesis of the preceding periods because in mystagogy the neophytes' new experience of the sacraments is engaged and deepened. This period is centered on the sacraments and on living a sacramental life. The role of the parish during this time is exercised under four headings (cf. RCIA 244):

a. Meditation on the Gospel

The parish helps the neophytes and newly confirmed explore the meaning of the Easter lectionary, especially the Sunday Gospel readings in order to discover how the Sunday Mass readings illuminates their new life of baptism. **Note:** the neophytes participate fully in the Sunday Mass. They no longer participate in the dismissal catechesis after the homily, as catechumens usually do.

b. The experience of the sacraments

The parish guides the neophytes and the newly confirmed in reflecting on their actual experience of the sacraments (baptism, confirmation & eucharist). Catechesis on the meaning of the Mass is very appropriate for this period. Catechesis on the meaning of the **sacrament of Reconciliation** is also appropriate. Neophytes should be gathered for the celebration of the sacrament of Reconciliation during this period, since this will probably be their first experience of this sacrament.

c. The works of charity

The parish continues to encourage the neophytes and newly confirmed to join the community in its works of charity (apostolic service).

d. The role of the community

The parish receives the neophytes and the newly confirmed in a spirit of joyful welcome and establishes ongoing relationships with them.

The parish should offer a variety of ongoing faith formation opportunities for all their neophytes and newly confirmed. They should join their fellow parishioners in faith formation and ministry opportunities.

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- Adult Neophytes & Newly Confirmed... participate in ... ongoing adult faith formation,
- Teen Neophytes ... participate in ...ongoing youth ministry,
- Child Neophytes ... participate in ... ongoing religious education

... offered by their parish and the wider Church community.