

The Period of *Mystagogy* and the Neophyte Year

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Mystagogy and the Neophyte Year

This final period ... is devoted to postbaptismal catechesis or mystagogy. It is a time for deepening the Christian experience, for spiritual growth, and for entering more fully into the life and unity of the community. “ (n. 7.4)

- Mystagogy takes place during the 50 days after Easter through Pentecost. It is the fresh spiritual reality for the newly baptized and initiated that is not only for this period, but through the neophyte year - which ends on Easter of the following year - and beyond.
- The new Catholics are called Neophytes - and this period is about reflecting on their experience of Sacramental Initiation and their new life of grace. It is about how they will now live, pray, and worship throughout their lives with the continued support and assistance of the Christian community that helped to bring them to the fullness of faith.

Mystagogy and the Neophyte Year

Some important Directives for the Neophyte Year indicated by the Rite include:

1. Plan for monthly gatherings following the Pentecost celebration and look forward to experiencing with the neophytes their first year of full membership in the church. Plan with them from the beginning of Lent to celebrate the first anniversary of their initiation at the Pentecost that concludes their neophyte year. (n. 250)
2. Ask neophytes to participate in the General Intercessions and Presentation of the Gifts. (Ap. II, N. 22)
3. Encourage the celebrant to use the Easter Season Cycle A readings at Masses where neophytes are present and preach the homily with them in mind. (n. 244)
4. Invite the local bishop to visit with the neophytes during their first year as fully initiated Catholics. (n.251)

**Mary, Star of the
New Evangelization
And our Mother, pray for
us, servants of your Son
and for all our Elect
and Candidates!**

