



## Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

### Mystagogy

The final period of formation after the reception of the Sacraments is called the Mystagogy. This centres on a fuller understanding of Christ's mysteries through the sacramental life of the Church, particularly through participation in the Sunday Eucharist. Catechesis at this time is ordered towards a lifelong conversion and the continuation of the journey begun at the inquiry stage. It is supported by the unique relationship which has been developed over the process with the sponsor/godparent.

The Neophytes are invited to continue to assess their gifts and talents to discern where God is calling them to active service within the Church. At the same time the Neophytes are supported in their baptismal promises through the guidance and friendship of their sponsor/godparent. This is a time not only for finding a place within the parish, but also a call to living a more Christian life in the world.

At this time there is a focus on the deepening of the spiritual life as Neophytes are introduced to various spiritual exercises in the rich tradition of the Church. It is a time to introduce the newly baptized to the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance), which serves as a reminder to all Neophytes of the generous mercy of God.

The length of the Mystagogy will vary, but as a minimum would include the whole of the Easter Season up to Pentecost. However, it is best to continue to follow up with the Neophytes on a monthly basis for an additional year, that is, until Pentecost of the year after the reception of the sacraments.

Within the Archdiocese of Edmonton, introducing the Neophytes to the Pastoral Letter of Archbishop Smith - *Living in the Word of God* - is a wonderful opportunity to strengthen the connection to the mission of the Archdiocesan Church and to guide the Neophytes in a plan for spiritual growth.

### PERSONAL

The Mystagogy focuses on two areas of continual growth.

1. The assessment of gifts and talents and the discerning how best to promote the mission of the Church, within the parish community.
2. The commitment to a plan for spiritual growth.