

THE MOVEMENTS OF MYSTAGOGICAL CATECHESIS

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1. THE EVENT

2. REFLECTIVE REMEMBRANCE

This step may be needed if some time has elapsed since the event. Recall the event using images, words, photos, video recordings, audio recordings, digital images, musical fragments, suggestions of sound, mood, color

3. INITIAL REFLECTION: DESCRIBING THE EXPERIENCE

This initial reflection is designed to allow the participants to initially describe the “raw” experience, without much quest for deeper meaning. This step is critical since the deeper levels of inquiry can only occur once the impact of the event is described.

Some questions to elicit initial description:

- 1. What did you experience?*
- 2. What touched you about the event?*
- 3. In what ways were you engaged/disengaged?*
- 4. How would you describe your feelings at any particular moment/s?*
- 5. What did you see, hear, smell, taste, feel?*

4. SECONDARY REFLECTION: THE QUEST FOR MEANING

This second reflection is designed to allow the participants to go beyond the experiential into the worlds of meaning behind the experience to “savor the mysteries.”

This is at the heart of mystagogy!

Some questions to achieve this probe of meaning:

- 1. In what particular way were you struck by God’s presence?*
- 2. Who was the God you experienced in this moment?*
- 3. What was your understanding of God during this event?*
- 4. How would you convey the presence of Christ during the event?*
- 5. How was the Church made present? What was your understanding of Church?*
- 6. If we could place lips on the symbols, what would the symbols say to us?*
- 7. What was written on your heart during this event?*

5. SHARING THE CHRISTIAN VISION

In dialogue with the experience, some relevant aspect/s of the Tradition may be developed, always using the experience and the reflection upon that experience as a starting point. This movement is designed to probe further the worlds of meaning revealed in the experiences and subsequent reflections. Many people would call this a “catechetical moment,” yet the entire process should be seen as catechetical, through and through!

6. CHANGE FOR THE SAKE OF MISSION

The ultimate quest of mystagogical catechesis is addressed in this final movement. Given the event, the reflection upon that event, the worlds of meaning disclosed and the dialogue with Christian Vision, what difference does it all make?
How has the event shaped the lives and future actions of the participants?
Where is God leading me? What is the cost?