



Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

EPISODE 4: PERIOD OF PURIFICATION AND ENLIGHTENMENT

Opening Prayer

Look favorably on us, your servants, O Lord,
that through the intercession of Blessed Mary ever-Virgin
our hearts, filled with the light of the Holy Spirit,
may constantly strive to cling to Christ, your Son.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

From the Ritual

141. The "Scrutinies," which are celebrated solemnly on Sundays, have the double purpose mentioned earlier, namely to reveal what is weak, sick, and sinful in the hearts of the elect so that it can be healed; and what is honorable, strong, and holy, so that it can be strengthened. The purpose of the Scrutinies, which are brought to completion with the help of the Exorcisms, is mainly spiritual. For the Scrutinies are ordered toward liberation from sin and the Devil, and they give strength in Christ, who is the way, the truth, and the life of the elect. Moreover, the Scrutinies are set forth to purify minds and hearts, to fortify against temptations, to convert intentions, and to awaken the will, so that the elect may cling more closely to Christ and pursue more vigorously their desire to love God.

Scripture

Scripture Reference: John 20:1-2, 11-18

On the first day of the week,
Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early in the morning,
while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb.
So she ran and went to Simon Peter
and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them,
"They have taken the Lord from the tomb,
and we don't know where they put him."
Mary stayed outside the tomb weeping.
And as she wept, she bent over into the tomb
and saw two angels in white sitting there,
one at the head and one at the feet
where the Body of Jesus had been.
And they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?"
She said to them, "They have taken my Lord,
and I don't know where they laid him."
When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus there,
but did not know it was Jesus.
Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?
Whom are you looking for?"

Scripture Reference: John 20:1-2, 11-18 (continued)

She thought it was the gardener and said to him,

"Sir, if you carried him away,

tell me where you laid him,

and I will take him."

Jesus said to her, "Mary!"

She turned and said to him in Hebrew,

"Rabbouni," which means Teacher.

Jesus said to her,

"Stop holding on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father.

But go to my brothers and tell them,

'I am going to my Father and your Father,

to my God and your God.'"

Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples,

"I have seen the Lord,"

and then reported what he told her.

Scripture & Sacred Art

Artwork: *Jesus and Peter on the Water*, Gustave Brion.



Scripture Reference: Matthew 14:22-33

After he had fed the people, Jesus made the disciples get into a boat

and precede him to the other side,

while he dismissed the crowds.

After doing so, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray.

When it was evening he was there alone.

Meanwhile the boat, already a few miles offshore,

was being tossed about by the waves, for the wind was against it.

During the fourth watch of the night,

he came toward them walking on the sea.

When the disciples saw him walking on the sea they were terrified.

Scripture Reference: Matthew 14:22-33 (continued)

"It is a ghost," they said, and they cried out in fear.

At once Jesus spoke to them, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid."

Peter said to him in reply,

"Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."

He said, "Come."

Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus.

But when he saw how strong the wind was he became frightened;

and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!"

Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand and caught Peter,

and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

After they got into the boat, the wind died down.

Those who were in the boat did him homage, saying,

"Truly, you are the Son of God."

Scripture

Scripture Reference: John 9:1-38

As Jesus passed by he saw a man blind from birth.

He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva,

and smeared the clay on his eyes,

and said to him,

"Go wash in the Pool of Siloam" — which means Sent —.

So he went and washed, and came back able to see.

His neighbors and those who had seen him earlier as a beggar said,

"Isn't this the one who used to sit and beg?"

Some said, "It is, "

but others said, "No, he just looks like him."

He said, "I am."

They brought the one who was once blind to the Pharisees.

Now Jesus had made clay and opened his eyes on a sabbath.

So then the Pharisees also asked him how he was able to see.

He said to them,

"He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and now I can see."

So some of the Pharisees said,

"This man is not from God,

because he does not keep the sabbath."

But others said, "How can a sinful man do such signs?"

And there was a division among them.

So they said to the blind man again,

"What do you have to say about him,

since he opened your eyes?"

He said, "He is a prophet."

They answered and said to him,

"You were born totally in sin,

and are you trying to teach us?"

Then they threw him out.

Scripture Reference: John 9:1-38 (continued)

When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out,
he found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"
He answered and said,
"Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?"
Jesus said to him,
"You have seen him, and
the one speaking with you is he."
He said,
"I do believe, Lord," and he worshiped him.

From the Ritual

168. After the Intercessions, the celebrant faces the elect and, with hands joined, says:
Most merciful Father,
who granted the man born blind to believe in your Son,
and through this faith to come to the kingdom of your light,
grant also that your elect here present
may be freed from deceits that surround and blind them,
so that, firmly grounded in the truth,
they may become children of light
and remain so for ever.
Through Christ our Lord.

Reflection Questions

- Do you find yourself clinging to old, earthly ways, and perhaps even sins? In what ways can you cling more firmly to the Risen Christ and the transforming power of his love?
- From the Precatechumenate until now, how might we observe the growth in maturity of faith that began as a broad inquiry and at the point of this Period becomes an intimate experience of God's healing and purifying mercy in the very specific circumstances of the Elect's life?
- Next time you walk into a church or worship at the liturgy, reflect upon the numerous symbols that are found to represent Christ's light. How does Christ's light manifest itself prominently both in our life and in the life of the Elect?

Citations

- Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (Totowa, New Jersey: Catholic Book Publishing Corporation, 2024), nos. 141, 168. Gallery 19C, Beverly Hills, California, United States. Public domain.
- Scripture texts in this work are taken from the New American Bible, revised edition © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Washington, D.C.