

Resource Book

Purification and Enlightenment

Year A,B,C

Contents



INTRODUCTION	5
PART ONE	7
CHAPTER 1 UNDERSTANDING THE PERIOD OF PURIFICATION AND ENLIGHTENMENT	9
CHAPTER 2 THE ELECT AND THE CANDIDATES	15
CHAPTER 3 THE PARISH	27
PART TWO	39
CHAPTER 4 REFLECTION SESSIONS	41
CHAPTER 5 SCRUTINY AND PENITENTIAL RITE PREPARATION	111
CHAPTER 6 RESOURCES FOR RETREATS	123
APPENDIX HANDOUTS	139

EXTENDED REFLECTION FOR YEAR A

(Ordinarily this session will take sixty to ninety minutes.)

Processing

1. Welcome the godparents, sponsors, and team members as they arrive. Invite the godparents and sponsors to be seated with their elect or candidate. Ask for a few moments of silence, and then sing a song or acclamation that has been part of the Liturgy of the Word.
2. Give each person Handout 10 which provides an opportunity to reflect and discuss the following:
 - All of the characters in the gospel story have traits found in each of us: the blind man to whom Jesus gave sight, the pharisees who questioned Jesus' actions and were concerned about laws and rules, the parents who really didn't want to get too involved. *What is the new sight or vision Jesus is offering to you? Is there a part of you—some excuse, belief, feeling, or rationalization—that resists?*
 - The blind man received sight. He was open to Jesus. Jesus offered him more than physical sight. *How are your eyes being opened to see in a new way who Jesus is for you?*
 - *What is the message of the closing dialogue between Jesus and the Pharisees concerning seeing, blindness, and sin? What are the implications of this dialogue for us, who call ourselves believers?*
3. Invite everyone to take fifteen to twenty minutes to listen to, reflect on, and pray about *one* of the above. Then ask them to take time to speak with Jesus about their thoughts and reflections and what they desire, or need, in order to see with the eyes of faith.
4. When they are ready, ask the participants to join with their godparents or sponsors to share what they gained from their insights, challenges, and thoughts. Allow at least fifteen minutes for this sharing before inviting them to come back together and sit, forming a circle.

5. Gather any responses from the reflection that they wish to share. Listen attentively and affirm and/or restate their insights about blindness and seeing, darkness and light, and Jesus as the Light of the world.

Putting Faith into Practice

1. Encourage everyone to converse with God throughout their day, in particular when they are experiencing a challenge to living as a Christian. Also encourage them to thank God for the blessings of each day.
2. Ask them to name the ways in which Jesus is the light for them.
3. Reflect with them on the gift of Jesus as the Light of the world.

Prayer

Invite everyone to become quiet. After a brief moment of quiet time, ask them to think about how they would complete this petition:

Lord Jesus, I bring you my blindness of . . .
(Pause.) *Heal me, and give me your true sight.*

Invite anyone who wishes to pray their petition aloud. After all have had the opportunity to pray, lead everyone in singing the first and last verses of "Amazing Grace."