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REDISCOVERING MYSTAGOGY THROUGH THE HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY

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ABSTRACT

Mystagogy was developed within early Christian communities, particularly with regard to the Sacraments of Christian Initiation. The idea of mystagogy was conceived in patristic time during the fourth and fifth centuries. Through the homilies and catechetical teachings, the church fathers described mystagogy as part of catecheses for candidates and neophytes before and after Easter. In this article, the idea of mystagogy is reconsidered through its understandings from the Greco-Roman world to early Christianity up to the context surrounding the church of today, mainly in the context of Sacraments of Initiation for adult. How mystagogy works in Christian liturgical teachings on Initiation will be analysed and its role in the liturgical context of the church will be refreshed. The revival of mystagogy has been initiated by the Vatican II when theology, catechesis and culture were put into dialogue. This move brings us further to see mystagogy as a personal and communal formation of a Christian.

Keywords :

*mystagogy, *mystagogue, *myste, *catechesis, *baptism, *church, *initiation, *sacrament, *cult, *rite of passage, *mystery, *christian community, *faith, *spiritual theology, *Vatican II, *liturgy, *revival.

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This anthology of the first Christian mystics therefore meets an urgent need, that of rediscovering the mystical sources of Christianity. It is not so much an anthology as a selection of passages with an

extended and lively commentary. The authors represented here do not appear in chronological or alphabetical order. the order and beauty of the world on the one hand, and all the events of history on the other. Through intelligent and beautiful forms of creation the invisible. gives structure and balance to the visible, but the means employed are gravity, death, disintegration. Humanity likewise, consciously or not History of Christianity - The Reformation Through the years, several individuals had tried to call attention to the theological, political, and human rights abuses of the Roman Church. All had been silenced in one way or another. But in 1517, a German monk named Martin Luther took a stand against the church, and everyone heard. With Luther came the Protestant Reformation, and the Middle Ages were brought to a close. The Reformers, including Luther, Calvin, and Zwingli, differed in many finer points of theology, but they were consistent in their emphasis on the Bible's supreme authority over ch