

# The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd National Certificate Training

A Level One Course for catechist training will be offered in the English Language during 2020-21

> School Year 2020-21: September to June Gesu School 17139 Oak Drive Detroit. MI 48221

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is an approach to the religious formation of children, 3-12 years of age. It originated in 1954 with the founding of the children's center or "atrium" in Rome by Sofia Cavalletti, a biblical scholar, and Gianna Gobbi, a Montessori educator of children and teachers. Inspired by Montessori principles of education, the catechesis is based on the conviction that God and the child are already in relationship.

The goal of Level One (ages 3-6) of The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is to help the child enjoy and be in love with God, first proclaimed as Jesus, the Good Shepherd. Such a relationship is the strongest possible foundation for life-long spiritual growth and moral living.

Children hear the Gospel by working with sensorially rich, but simple materials, keyed to scriptural or liturgical moments. Central to this program is the Atrium, a sacred space prepared for the children. A place of beauty, the atrium is designed for being with and enjoying God, listening to God's Word, and praying.

Implementation of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd requires training for adults at each level or age group: Level One focuses on children ages 3-6. The training course features 90 hours which includes input on themes of Scripture and Liturgy, participation in discussions, atrium presentations, and assistance with preparing materials and the catechist's album. The Level One course is foundational for all three levels of CGS.

## Level I course objectives include:

- To explore the religious nature and the most vital religious needs of the 3-6 year old
- To present the methodology and guiding principles of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.
- To broaden the catechist's ability to observe and learn from children, to listen with children to scripture and to deepen the catechist's enjoyment of God's presence.
- To offer guidelines and assistance in preparing the "atrium" environment, developing the catechist's teaching album, and making catechetical materials.
- To meditate on the scriptural and liturgical themes presented to the 3-6 year old.

The National Association of CGS Certificate will be granted to all participants who complete the course requirements. Equivalency with some Topics in Diocesan Catechist Certification Processes is granted from most Michigan Dioceses.



**Required textbooks:** The Religious Potential of the Child-3rd edition (Book 1: for ages 3-6)

by Sofia Cavalletti (\$27)

The Good Shepherd and the Child: The Joyful Journey-2nd edition

by Cavalletti, et al (\$17)

Listening to God with Children

by Gianna Gobbi, (\$14)

You can purchase them from the National Assoc. of CGS: www.cgsusa.org or (480) 874-3759

### **Course Dates:**

For 2020: Saturdays-September 12, October 3 and 17, November 7, December 5.

For 2021: Saturdays-January 9, February 6, March 6 and 27, April 17, May 8, June 5.

The daily schedule will be from 9 am to 4:30 pm.

Breakfast and Lunch will be provided on all days. Childcare will not be provided. Please make your own arrangements. Laura or Sr. Nancy can talk this over with you.

### **Information:**

Sr. Nancy Ayotte, IHM (734) 240-1445 <u>nayotte@ihmsisters.org</u> Laura Silveri (248) 548-2018 lsilveri321@yahoo.com

#### Course Leaders:

Sr. Nancy Ayotte is a member of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Monroe, Michigan. She holds a M.Div. and a M.R.E. Involved with religious education on all levels since 1965 and a catechist of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd since 1994, she is trained in all three levels by those who studied under Sofia Cavalletti and is a recognized formation leader from the National Office of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. She has given courses in the states of Michigan, Ohio, Montana and the country of South Africa.

Laura Silveri is the coordinator of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd at Gesu Church in Detroit, Michigan. She holds a B.S.W. and has taken the Heritage CGS and Montessori Foundations courses, as well as being trained in all three levels of CGS. Laura is a recognized formation leader of CGS. She joined Gesu parish in 1992 when the first Atrium in Michigan was established there. She has taught religious education to middle schoolers for several years and is the mother of five children.

#### Tuition

\$400 (\$100 deposit due with the registration form. Balance of \$300 is due at the first session.) Financial Assistance info: Sr. Frances Gerhard, <a href="mailto:fgerhard@mercywmw.org">fgerhard@mercywmw.org</a> (734) 416-6231 Registration is due at least 2 weeks in advance of the first session of the course or when the maximum number of 24 participants is reached. Registration is closed as of the first session of the course.

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| Parish/School  | Church Denomination |                    |          |  |  |  |
| Do you have a Level 1 atrium?                                | Will you be         | establishing a new | atrium?  |  |  |  |
| A check is enclosed A checks are payable to: Sr. Nanc        |                     |                    | hool     |  |  |  |
| Mail with registration form to: Si *Note to bookkeepers: IHM | r. Nancy Ayotte,    | IHM, 610 W. Elm,   | · ·      |  |  |  |