



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
Gesù 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 child.
- 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.

