

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Level I Formation Course for adults
Blessed Sacrament Church, Albany NY

WEEKEND FORMAT: JANUARY - NOVEMBER 2017

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a hands-on method of faith formation based on the Montessori method of learning. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd utilizes a prepared space for children called the "atrium" and extensively trained catechists. The atrium is filled with child-sized furnishings and manipulative models representing people, places, and objects found in scripture and liturgy. Everything in the atrium is made to feed the deep religious potential of children.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd began in Rome in the 1950s with a collaboration between Sophia Cavelletti, a Hebrew scripture scholar who served on the Vatican commission for Christian-Jewish relations, and Gianna Gobbi, a Montessori educator. They spent their lives developing materials that feed the spiritual development needs of children ages 3-12. Catechists began using Catechesis of the Good Shepherd in the United States in the 1970s. It continues to grow and today it is used in many dioceses across the nation, in 37 countries, and by several religious orders. **For more information on Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, see the National Association Website: www.cgsusa.org**



Training in Catechesis of the Good Shepherd prepares adults to work in the atrium with children. Often adults also find the courses to be useful to their own spiritual life as well. This is a Level I course in preparation for working with 3-6 year-old children. Level I is foundational to training and work in Level II (6-9 year-olds) and Level III (9-12 year-olds). It is appropriate for those wishing to be catechists as well as others wishing to have a deeper understanding of the spirituality of children.

This course is structured to prepare catechists to begin work in a Level I atrium as soon as Fall 2017 and aims to:

- present the methodology and guiding principles of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
- explore the general developmental characteristics, religious nature, and the religious needs of the 3-6 year old child.
- meditate on Biblical and liturgical themes and presentations presented to the 3-6 year-old child.
- offer guidelines and assistance in creating a 3-6 atrium, preparing the catechist's album, and material making.
- broaden one's ability to observe and learn from children, to listen with children to Scripture, and to deepen one's enjoyment of God's presence.

Course Schedule and Dates:

This course will be held over 7 weekends in 2017. Saturdays 1:00-7:00* PM and Sundays 8:30 AM-3:30 PM.

- Jan 28-29
- March 25-26
- April 29-30
- *Snow make-up weekend:* May 20-21 (if needed)
- June 10-11
- Sept 16-17
- Oct 7-8
- Nov 4-5

*Course will end in time for participants to attend 7:00 PM Mass at Blessed Sacrament

Questions about this course? Contact Andrea Reno at AndreaRenoCGS@gmail.com