

## What is the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd?

CGS is a Montessori-based Catholic faith formation program where children can grow in their relationship with God through a deep engagement in Scripture and liturgy.

## God and the Child

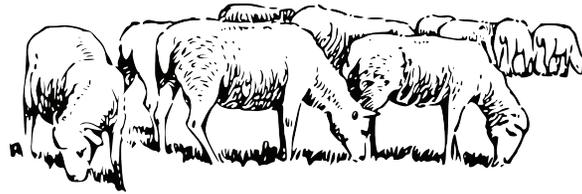
CGS is based on the belief that God and the child are already in relationship. Our work as adults is to provide a place for the child and God to come together and grow.

## The Atrium and Materials

The atrium is a specially prepared room where children can come to know Jesus, the Good Shepherd. The atrium is prepared with materials that children work with as a way of meditating upon the essentials of our faith found in Scripture and in liturgy. Examples of materials found in the atrium include small clay figures of Jesus and the disciples used to meditate on the Last Supper; detailed interactive maps of the Land of Israel and the City of Jerusalem to help situate Jesus as a real person in time; Jerusalem Mustard Seeds and beautiful pearls to help ponder the Parables of the Kingdom of God; and a small Baptismal font and Paschal candle used to explore the significance of Baptism

## Formation Leader

Anita Vincent has been working with CGS for 15 years. She has been the director of the program at Grace Montessori School (GMS) in Allentown, PA for nine years. She is a certified Montessori teacher and has several years' experience at both the primary (ages 3-6) and the lower elementary (6-9) levels. In addition to her work at GMS, she currently has an atrium for all three levels at her home. She graduated with a Masters in Pastoral Studies with CGS as the focus from Aquinas Institute of Theology, ST. Louis in 2012. She is now a doctoral student in Church Ministry at LaSalle University in Philadelphia. She lives in Bethlehem, PA with her husband and two boys, ages 16 and 10.



*"If God is presented to the child through tangible and meaningful activities, it will do more for the child than just arouse interest; it will create in the child a sense joy, admiration, and wonder."*

-Maria Montessori

## The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd



## Level 1, Part 2 Formation Course

For questions, contact:  
Marcy Farrand  
mmfarrand@hotmail.com  
605-390-8662

## Course Description

This Level I course is the foundation for all three levels of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. The objectives of this Level I formation include:

- Present the guiding principles of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
- Explore the religious nature and the most vital religious needs of the 3–6-year-old child
- Offer the adult time to prayerfully reflect and consider the Biblical and liturgical themes presented to the 3–6-year-old child
- Broaden the adult's ability to observe and learn from children's spirituality.
- Cultivate the capacity to deeply listen to and enjoy with children the Word of God
- Offer guidelines and assistance in preparing the atrium, making the catechist's album, and materials

This course is a spiritual formation experience for adults, as well as instruction in this method of catechesis for children. The pace of the course is retreat-like allowing for its contemplative nature. Presentations are given from Scripture and liturgy as they are given to the children. Adults will receive background information on selected themes and will be encouraged to read the core CGS texts throughout the course. Time will be allocated during the course for: visiting other atriums, sharing ideas, answering questions, working with Montessori Materials, and album page discussion and writing. Successful participation of this course will result in a certificate from the National Association.

## Level 1 Part 2

### Dates

June 19-22 and June 24-27, 2019

### Time

9:00am-4:30pm

### Location

Blessed Sacrament Church  
4500 Jackson Boulevard  
Rapid City, SD 57702

### Tuition

\$250.00

This includes National Registration.

*Please write checks to:*

Blessed Sacrament Church,  
Attn. CGS training

*Note:* Members of  
Blessed Sacrament Church  
may receive a scholarship.

*"If we want to help the child draw nearer to God, we should with patience and courage, seek to go always closer to the vital nucleus of things. This requires study and prayer. The children will be our teachers if we know how to observe them."*

-Sofia Cavalletti

## Registration Form

### Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Level 1, Part 2

June 19-22 and June 24-27, 2019

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parish/School: \_\_\_\_\_

Intended use (Are you taking this training in order to help minister at your home parish/school/personal information/etc.)

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### Send Registration to:

Mary Farrell (DRE)  
Blessed Sacrament CGS Formation  
4500 Jackson Blvd  
Rapid City SD 57702