



The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd National Certificate Training

***A Level One Course for catechist training
will be offered in the English Language
during 2016-17***

***School Year 2016-17:
September to May
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, an 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 of lectures, participation in discussions, lesson 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 Diocesan Catechist Certification topics is also granted from most Michigan Dioceses.



Required textbooks:

The Religious Potential of the Child

by Sofia Cavalletti

The Good Shepherd and the Child: The Joyful Journey

by Cavalletti, et al

Listening to God with Children

by Gianna Gobbi,

all are available at the National Assoc. of CGS: www.cgsusa.org or (708) 386-8032 or LTP.org

Course Dates:

For 2016: September 10 and 24, October 8 and 22, November 5 and 19, December 3.
For 2017 (no sessions in January and February), March 4 and 18, April 1, May 6 and 20.

The daily schedule will be from 9am to 4:30 pm.
Breakfast and Lunch will be provided on all days.

Information:

Sr. Nancy Ayotte, IHM (734) 240-8234 nayotte@ihmsisters.org
Laura Silveri (248) 548-2018 lsilveri321@yahoo.com

Course Leader:

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. Sr. Nancy has been 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 (www.cgsusa.org). She has given courses in the Saginaw Diocese, Lansing Diocese, Detroit Archdiocese, Cincinnati Archdiocese, in Montana and South Africa.

Tuition

\$400 with \$100 deposit due with the registration form. Balance is due at the first session.

Please submit at least 2 weeks in advance of the first session of the course.



Registration Form

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Email _____ Fax _____

Parish/School _____ Church Denomination _____

Do you have a Level 1 atrium? _____ Will you be establishing a new atrium? _____

A check is enclosed _____ A check will be sent by my parish/school _____

***checks are payable to:**

IHM Sisters: Sr. Nancy Ayotte IHM, 610 W. Elm, Monroe, MI 48162

*Note to bookkeepers: IHM Sisters is a tax-exempt Religious Congregation