



## The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a Montessori-based religious formation for children starting at the age of 3. It seeks to create and facilitate a sacred, 'hands-on' space for children called an atrium, in which both the children and their catechists can listen, ponder and celebrate the most profound mysteries of the Christian faith as revealed in Scripture and Liturgy. Founded in Rome by Sofia Cavalletti and Gianna Gobbi in 1954, the Catechesis has spread world-wide and is used by various Christian traditions to nurture the child's relationship with Jesus.

The course is presented in the Roman Catholic tradition but includes awareness of material adaptations to the Anglican, Lutheran and Orthodox traditions.

There are three levels of training for adults interested in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd:

Level 1 for children 3-6 years of age

Level 2 for children 6-9 years of age

Level 3 for children 9-12 years of age

Level 1 training must be completed before beginning Level 2 and Level 2 training must be completed before beginning Level 3.

The Level 1 course lays the foundation of the theory and practices of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd for all three levels of CGS. This 90+ hour course concretely prepares the adult to work, to listen to the Word of God and to learn with and from children.



## Expectations of Participants

1. 100% attendance and engagement in group discussions, prayer and in simulated presentations using the materials.
2. 10 hours minimum observation in a level 1 atrium and / or Montessori casa.
3. Submit a minimum of 10 completed personal album pages from 5 different subjects.
4. Complete mandatory course readings.

## Mandatory Course Reading

1. **The Religious Potential of the Child.** Sofia Cavalletti.  
Chicago LTP 1992. ISBN 0-929650-67-0
2. **The Good Shepherd and the Child, A Joyful Journey**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition.  
Sofia Cavalletti, Patricia Coulter, Gianna Gobbi, Silvano Quattrocchi Montanaro M.D., Rebekah Rojcewicz.  
LTP Chicago 2013. ISBN 978-1-61671-178-8
3. **Mustard Seed Preaching**  
Ann M. Garrido.  
LTP 2004. ISBN 1-56854-555-X
4. **The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd in a Parish Setting**  
Tina Lillig.  
LTP Chicago 1998. ISBN 1-56854-262-3
5. **Listening to God with Children**  
Gianna Gobi, Treehaus Communications 1998.  
ISBN 1-886510-14-8

**Order books in advance** through Veritas Catholic Books by Jan. 8 2019 at 902-429-7216  
[veritashfx@gmail.com](mailto:veritashfx@gmail.com) or from CGSUSA.org

**Bring your bible!**

## Course Objectives

1. To explore the methodology and guiding principles of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd for the 3-6 year old child.
2. To explore the religious nature and the spiritual needs and capacities of the child.
3. To meditate on the mystery of the incarnation and the paschal mystery through the scriptural accounts shared with children.
4. To offer guidelines and assistance in preparing an atrium, writing album pages and making materials.
5. To deepen the participant's ability to observe and learn from children, and to discuss the challenges of engaging the child in the work of Level 1.

