



Catechesis of the Good Shepherd **Materials List for the Level One Atrium**

National Association of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, USA - Handout

Note: This list is intended to supplement the Description of Materials section of the catechist's album page. Also, please see the *Level I Online Materials Manual* for a more detailed description of all the materials, including photos of Sofia's and Gianna's atrium materials as well as some examples of U.S. atria materials.

GENERAL FURNISHINGS

- Several individual tables and chairs, perhaps some low tables that do not require chairs, perhaps a slightly larger table for small group projects, also some individual rugs for floor work
- Container for the rolled work rugs
- Low shelving units for the atrium materials, approximately:
 - 1 or 2 for Practical Life materials
 - 1 or 2 for art and handwork materials
 - 1 or 2 for Geography and Infancy Narratives
 - 1 for Parables of the Kingdom
 - 1 for Eucharistic Gestures
- Some plants and a few sacred art images to enhance the beauty and sacred sense of the atrium
- Some lamps (so as not to depend on brighter, overhead lighting)

ART AND HANDWORK MATERIALS

- A regular art and handwork shelf containing:
 - Colored pencils arranged by color in color-coded cans or jars
 - One or two sets of large crayons (for the youngest children)
 - Perhaps one or two watercolor sets.
 - Plain pencils and a few manual sharpeners
 - Rulers
 - Scissors
 - Two or three pasting sets (including paste, brushes, pasting mats)
 - Papers:
 - Plain white
 - 8.5 inches x 8.5 inches tracing paper
 - Colored construction paper
- Folders for each child in which to store their atrium paper works and a "file box" or basket in which to keep the folders
- Perhaps a special shelf and desk just for prayer card making, containing:

- ½ sheets of parchment
- Whole sheets of parchment (or special quality paper)
- Simple pre-bordered (black and white design) sheets
- A few felt calligraphy pens, pencils, rulers, good quality colored pencil set
- Collage basket of border pieces and a pasting set

INTRODUCTION TO THE LIFE OF THE ATRIUM AND THE CHURCH

Practical Life Materials

There are two basic categories of practical life materials in the atrium. The first category of materials is those which might be useful at the beginning of the atrium year to help younger children begin to settle in and work with their hands. Most or all of these activities will be removed as the year progresses, so as to focus the child's attention more on the atrium themes and works. Examples of exercises in this first category might include dry pouring, wet pouring, spooning, cloth folding, cutting exercises, etc.

The second category of practical life activities are basic to the life of the atrium and will remain throughout the year. The materials for these activities will include:

- Large Thermos/water dispenser (if a low sink is not available in the atrium) and bucket for waste water
- A hand washing stand with small basin, pitcher, small soap in a dish, nail brush, hand towels
- Basins, sponges, soap for table washing or glassware washing
- Plant care (watering can, leaf cleaning set)
- Flower arranging
- Basic child-sized cleaning tools: broom, mop, dustpan and hand brush, duster
- Polishing sets for brass, silver, wood
- Perhaps window or mirror cleaning set
- Candle trimming set
- Trash basket/can

Prayer Corner

- Low table or bench
- Small kneeler or cushion to invite individual prayer
- Shelf nearby to hold the prayer table articles:
 - A medium-sized "real/important-looking" (preferably leather bound) Bible
 - A lovely cushion or a bookstand for the Bible
 - A taper candle in a polishable metal candleholder
 - A match tray (with matches, spent match container, and snuffer)
 - Four prayer table cloths in the 4 liturgical colors (purple, white, green and red)

- Two or three small statues: the Good Shepherd, the Blessed Mother or Madonna and Child, the Holy Family
- *Optional:* A box or basket of a few carefully selected religious art cards that correspond to the atrium themes.
- Prayer card stands/easels
- Three Prayer Card Collections (in boxes or baskets that allow the child to flip through them to find the one he/she wants to use):
 - One-word or very short phrase prayers (on cards approximately 5 inches x 7 inches) such as Amen!, Alleluia!, Hosanna!, Glory to God!, Peace be with you, Praise the Lord!
 - Some short psalm verses (on cards approximately 8.5 inches x 11 inches) which express praise, thanksgiving and images of God. This collection will include the 2 cards for Psalm 23: 1 and Psalm 23: 1-3.
 - 5 Advent (or Messianic) Prophecies (on cards approximately 11 inches x 17 inches) of the Great Light, the Names of the Messiah, the Mother, the Birthplace (Bethlehem), the Star and the Scepter.
 - A "quiet bell" or chime.

The Model Altar

- Small altar table on platform or lovely area rug
- Lectern or Ambo
- Tabernacle (proportionate to altar table and ideally with lock and key), small ciborium and sanctuary lamp
- Sacristy Cabinet to hold the altar articles (proportionate to the altar table):
 - White altar cloth/fair linen
 - Paten and Chalice in polishable metal
 - Crucifix of the Risen Christ
 - Two small taper candles in holders
 - Lectionary (model book or small Bible covered to look like the Lectionary)
 - Roman Missal or Altar Book (optional stand)
 - Small cruets on tray
 - Corporal, purificator, priest's hand towel
 - Bells (if used in one's parish)
- Matches/snuffer set
- 3 Wall Charts
 - The Altar
 - The Articles of the Mass
 - The Tabernacle
- Handworks:
 - Altar Care (dusting, polishing materials found in Practical Life area)

- Altar Collage/Pasting Work (divided box of cutouts corresponding to Altar articles, with dark colored background paper, pasting set, control collage – one control is in the lid of the collage box, another is moveable for the child's use)
- 3 White Altar Card Packets with colored drawings and names are written on the front of 8.5 inches x 8.5 inches white cards
 - The Altar
 - The Articles of the Mass
 - The Tabernacle

Sign of the Cross

- *Optional:* Montessori Planisphere map with wooden cross to lay flat on it
- *Or* Cosmic Cross puzzle with materials to make a Sign of the Cross prayer card (see Materials Manual photos)

Vestments of the Priest

- Small mannequin
- Drawer or basket to hold small alb, cincture, stole, chasuble (*Note:* stole and chasuble may be taken from those already included in the Liturgical Colors collection)
- White Vestments card packet (8.5 inches x 8.5 inches white cards with name of Vestment written on the bottom of the front of the card)
- Wall chart with vestments and their names

The Liturgical Colors

- 4 (or 5 if appropriate to the denomination) small chasubles in the 4 (or 5) liturgical colors
- 4 (or 5) chasuble stands
- Separate drawers or baskets in which to store the chasubles
- Wall Chart and smaller control charts for child's work
- Handworks:
 - Liturgical Colors Collage (divided box with 4 colors of paper chasubles, yellow or gold strips for decoration, background sheets of tan or gray construction paper, pasting set)
 - Liturgical Colors Card Packet (Four 8.5 inches x 8.5 inches white cards with colored chasuble drawings and brief identification words written on the bottom of the front of the card) (*NOTE:* The Rome picture shows a red packet cover. It is also optional to make a white packet cover.)
 - Liturgical Colors Template (with four rectangular cut-outs, plus star comet, cross, and flame or dove)

The Liturgical Calendar

- Liturgical Calendar (varnished wood) with 52 separate colored prisms, three principle feast spokes, six inner arcs naming the seasons, and two outer arcs for Cycle of Christmas and Cycle of Easter (which might be saved for the Level II Atrium)

- Control chart that is the same size as the Liturgical Calendar which the child may use when working with the movable pieces
- Separate box or frame for storing the Liturgical Calendar.
- Copies of black and white blank calendars for the child's coloring work. Control for the child's personal use

MYSTERY OF THE INCARNATION

Geography of the Land of Israel

Globe

- Small land and water globe with Israel marked by a tiny red dot

Raised Surface Map of the Land of Israel

- Raised surface map of Israel with three small clusters of wooden match stick pieces to represent the 3 principle cities of Nazareth, Bethlehem, and Jerusalem
- A small box that contains three free-standing symbols of dove or flame, star comet, and a gold or yellow cross to mark the three cities
- A Wall Map corresponding in size to the raised surface map and identifying the three principal cities, the four regions and the waterways.
- Box of labels with color-coded names of cities (red lettering), regions (brown lettering) and waterways (blue lettering)

The Regions Puzzle Map

- Puzzle made up of moveable outline of the Land of Israel and moveable regions pieces
- Wooden frame for the moveable Land of Israel and regions pieces
- Plain paper (approximately 11 inches x 17 inches) that fits nicely inside the Regions Puzzle Map frame and under the Land of Israel moveable pieces
- Moveable control chart

Handwork

- Three Cities Pasting Work (divided box with cutouts of the symbols for the three cities, black and white maps with three dots, control for child's work, pasting set)
- Coloring and Labeling work (black and white maps with lines to guide writing labels, colored pencils, plain pencil and control for the child's work)

Messianic (Advent) Prophecies

- **Five Messianic (Advent) Prophecy Prayer Cards** (11 inches x 14 inches with matching paper or border design)
- Advent Wreath materials with four candles (preferably 3 purple and 1 pink for the third week of Advent) and purple cloth for the prayer table

Infancy Narratives

- **The Annunciation to Mary**
 - White covered Scripture booklet
 - Diorama of Mary's house with small table and perhaps a rug and broom
 - 3-D figures of Mary, Gabriel, detachable flame or dove
 - Container for the 3-D figures and flame or dove

- **The Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth**
 - White covered Scripture booklet
 - Diorama of Elizabeth's house
 - 3-D figures of Mary and Elizabeth (both are pregnant)
 - Container for the 3-D figures

- **The Birth of Jesus and the Adoration of the Shepherds**
 - White covered Scripture booklet
 - Stable, with manger, and a nearby field
 - 3-D figures of Mary, Joseph, and the Baby, two or three shepherds, 5 or 6 sheep, and a standing angel
 - Container for the 3-D figures

- **The Adoration of the Magi**
 - White covered Scripture booklet
 - House for Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
 - 3-D figures of Mary, Joseph, slightly older baby Jesus, 3 Magi, three detached gifts to represent gold, frankincense, and myrrh and a detached star comet
 - Container for the 3-D figures and moveable pieces. *Optional:* treasure chest for the gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh

- **Presentation in the Temple**
 - White covered Scripture booklet
 - Temple
 - 3-D figures of Mary, Joseph, infant Jesus, 2 turtle doves (birds) in a basket, Simeon, Anna
 - Box for the 3-D figures and moveable pieces

- **Handwork**
 - Creative artwork materials
 - Five white Infancy Narrative Packets with names and art image on packet cover and containing 8.5 inches x 8.5 inches white cards:
 - Annunciation: 1 drawing, 1 narrative text card, 2 prayer cards
 - Visitation: 1 drawing, 1 narrative text card, 2 prayer cards
 - Nativity and Adoration of the Shepherds: 1 drawing, 1 narrative text card, 1 prayer card

- Adoration of the Magi: 1 drawing, 1 narrative text card (no prayer cards)
- Presentation in the Temple: 1 drawing, 1 narrative text card, 2 prayer cards

MYSTERY OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD: THE PARABLES OF THE KINGDOM

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

- Blue covered Scripture booklet
- A medium-sized treasure box with a smaller container inside to hold a few mustard seeds ("Jerusalem type," very tiny mustard seeds)
- A framed photograph of a real ("Jerusalem type") mustard tree with a person standing in front of or beside it

The Parable of the Precious Pearl

- Blue covered Scripture booklet
- A diorama of the pearl merchant's house with a table and eye-level shelf inside and a patio attached on the side
- 2-dimensional figure of the pearl merchant (with face), 2 or 3 small chests or baskets of pearls, a single pearl (and not the biggest pearl) glued to a small shell, and (*optional*) a small rug on which to place the pearl (where the merchant finds it, beyond his house and patio)
- A box to hold the 2-D figures and pearls

The Parable of the Yeast

- Blue covered Scripture booklet
- Two medium-sized clear glass bowls
- Container of flour and a 1/3 cup measurer
- Container of yeast with a teaspoon measure
- A small thermos of warm water with a clear measuring cup marked at 1/3 cup
- A wooden spoon
- A mat or board on which to knead the dough
- Two white cloths with which to cover the bowls while the dough is rising
- *Optional*: a heat lamp to facilitate the dough's rising if a warm, sunny window is not available.

[*Note*: The above list reflects the making of two batches of dough (one with, one without yeast) for the small group presentation, while only one batch of dough is made for the child's personal work.)

The Parable of the Hidden Treasure

- Only the Blue covered Scripture booklet

The Parable of the Growing Seed

- Only the Blue covered Scripture booklet

Parable Handwork

- 5 White Kingdom parable card packets
- Two 8.5 inches x 8.5 inches cards with black and white drawings inside each)
- Tracing paper

Wall Chart of the 5 kingdom parables

MYSTERY OF CHRIST AS THE GOOD SHEPHERD

The Parable of the Good Shepherd

- Blue covered Scripture booklet
- Sheepfold
- 2-D figures of Good Shepherd and 10 sheep (5 looking up / listening, 5 looking down / eating)
- Box or container for the 2-D figures
- White Card Packet (with three cards with black and white drawings, 8.5 inches x 8.5 inches)
- Tracing paper

The Found Sheep

- Blue covered Scripture booklet
- Same sheepfold and 2-D figures as for the Good Shepherd parable

Psalm 23

- 2 prayer cards (Psalm 23: 1 and Psalm 23: 1-3)

The Eucharistic Presence of the Good Shepherd

- Circular base (same size as sheepfold base but covered in green felt)
- Small altar table
- Moveable pieces
 - Altar cloth/fair linen, miniature chalice and paten with bread
 - Small black and white 2-D figure of the Good Shepherd
 - 10 figures: 9 adults and children and 1 priest
 - Container for these moveable pieces (with a small container or divided section within the container for the chalice, paten with bread and small black and white Good Shepherd)
- Eucharistic Presence of the Good Shepherd booklet (Words of Consecration) (Orange)
- Handwork: Words of Consecration booklet
 - Divided box with cut-outs of the Good Shepherd, chalice, paten with bread
 - Orange 8.5" x 11" paper (to be folded in half)

- Pasting set
- Control/model booklet

PASCHAL MYSTERY

The Last Supper (The Cenacle)

- Red covered Scripture booklet
- Diorama of the “upstairs room” in the Cenacle, with table, which is part of the diorama and so it is not stored with the 3-D figures
- Drawer or flat baskets to hold 3-D figures of Jesus and 11 or 12 apostles
Note: The Scripture text says, “He came with the twelve.” Only 11 were present at the breaking of the bread.
- A small box containing the table cloth, miniature chalice and paten with bread, crucifix, two candles in candleholders

City of Jerusalem

- Raised surface map of Jerusalem with some small buildings (houses) glued on; stairs are part of the model and are not moveable
- Moveable pieces: Walls of the City, the Temple, Tower of Antonia, Pool of Siloam, Sheep’s Pool, Cenacle, Mount of Olives, House of Caiaphas, Herod’s Palace, Calvary, Tomb of the Resurrection (with moveable stone and candle)
- Control Chart that is the same size as the model of the City of Jerusalem. The child will use this control when working with the moveable pieces.
- Box of labels or “flag markers” for the moveable pieces of the map
- Copies of 11 inch x17-inch black and white maps (for coloring and with lines for labeling)
- Moveable Control for the 11 inch x 17-inch personal work of the child

The Mystery of Life and Death

- Illustrated Scripture card of John 12:24
- Tray containing:
 - Clear, lidded container of wheat seeds
 - 3 small pots of dirt (for the seeds that have been planted at different intervals)
 - Vase with a few mature wheat stalks
 - *Optional:* one seed glued down on a tiny tray (to better see the contrast with stalk of mature wheat)
 - Fork or small digging tool along with white paper napkin or paper towel sheet for examining the dug-up seeds

The Empty Tomb

- Red covered Scripture booklet
- Diorama with side that opens to show the inner chamber of the tomb, with moveable stone at the entrance of the tomb
- 3-D figures (depending on the Gospel text chosen), white burial cloth, and candle
- Container for the 3-D figures, white burial cloth, and candle

EUCCHARIST: GESTURES

- Recommended 3 shelf unit:
 - Top shelf low enough for the child to do the Preparation of the Cruets work on it
 - Second shelf to store the Preparation of the Cruets materials, plus the glass chalice for the Preparation of the Chalice
 - Bottom shelf for chalice (made of metal that can be polished), paten, cloth and prayer booklets for all the gestures
- **Preparation of Cruets and Chalice**
 - 2 regular sized glass cruets with lids on tray
 - Small carafe of red wine
 - Small pitcher of water
 - Small funnel on dish (*Optional*: small sponge)
 - Clear glass chalice
 - Emptying vessel with lid
- **Other Materials for Gestures Works**
 - Small table with white table cloth (to represent altar cloth)
 - Medium-sized chalice and paten with paper host for gestures of Epiclesis, Offering, and Peace
 - Small pitcher of water in small basin for Lavabo, with hand towel
- 5 Color-coded prayer booklets
 - Orange for Epiclesis and Offering
 - Yellow for the Preparation of the Chalice and Lavabo
 - Gray for the Sign of Peace

BAPTISM

- Baptismal Font, with water, and shell for pouring
- Paschal Candle
- Crucifix of the risen Christ
- Lectern with white Bible or model of Bible
- Small cabinet to hold:
 - White garment
 - Individual taper candles with drip catchers

- Hand towel
- Oil of Catechumens and Sacred Chrism (which could also be stored in separate wall cabinet, as in the Rome atrium)
- Wall Chart
- Handwork
 - Two white Baptism card packets with 8.5 inches x 8.5 inches cards
 - The Articles of Baptism – 8 cards with colored drawings and the names written on the bottom of the front of the cards
 - The Gestures of Baptism – 4 cards, no writing
 - Baptism Collage
 - Cut out collage pieces in divided box: Paschal Candle, white garment, and small lit candle
 - Dark paper for background of collage
 - Pasting supplies, red pencil
 - Control with the collage box; movable control for the child's use

