

## **Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS)**

It was December of 2013 when I asked JoAn Choi if she had considered Catechesis of the Good Shepherd as the faith formation process for children in the parish. She replied that yes, she was familiar with CGS but we really don't have a space for it - and more importantly, no volunteer catechist.

I indicated I'd become a CGS catechist so that I could better advocate for the children

In January 2014 JoAn spoke to me after Mass one Sunday with a few different options of spaces we might be able to make work for an Atrium. She also said there was money in the budget for me to take the training to become a catechist, and that CGS had Fr. Pat's and her support and that she would try to recruit others to take the training with me.

I then learned a Level I course (for children 3-6 years old) had just started and I had missed the first weekend session — but they would help me make it up and I could join the course.

Sessions were held on weekends once a month (all day Fri and Saturday and 1/2 day on Sunday) in Tacoma or in Olympia. After about 90 hours of such meetings between January and November of that year, I had experienced some training in theology, liturgy, childhood development and CGS presentations. I immediately began the training to become a **Level II** catechist (6-9 years of age)

Meanwhile, an experienced maker of wooden materials needed for the children's presentations and work, was busy. This was the father of one of our parishioners (Jan Thomas). A providential connection! I stayed busy finding and making all the other child-sized items needed. And numerous other parishioners contributed their talents: sewing, painting, lettering, drawing, and calligraphy necessary Atrium items for the children.

In the fall and summer of 2014 Ann Mescher traveled to British Columbia to pursue a **Level I** (for 3-6 year olds) course offered in an "intensive format" that fit her schedule and availability.

Robin Rowedder agreed to take the Level I training in 2015 and went on to complete **Level II** training and **Level III** (for 12-15 years of age).

Also in 2015, Mike Wagner and the facilities crew began "transforming" the downstairs room in Roanoke House into a bright, beautiful prayer space for the young children to come and share faith with the catechists for 2 hours each Sunday. All was prepared by September of that year. Fr. Pat and JoAn joined our small group of children, their parents, and catechists to bless the new Atrium in the fall of 2015.

I gave you more info than you asked for, but it was a gift to recall how "things just came together." I hope I have the dates correct.

Thanks for asking,  
Millie May  
January 1, 2021