

# Catechesis Of the Good Shepherd



Level One

## Adult Formation

(To work children ages 3-6)  
**Part 1: June 9-12 and July 15-17**  
**9:00am-4:30pm**

**Part 2: TBD**

*Hosted by*  
*Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Church*  
7809 Shadyvilla Lane  
Houston, Texas 77055

## What is Catechesis of the Good Shepherd USA?

The National Association of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd USA was formed in 1984 by catechists with the purpose to “involve adults & children in a common religious experience in which the religious values of childhood predominate.” This course will give you the background information as well as the skills to create a prepared environment, an atrium, and make presentations that enable the child to draw near to God. The themes that comprise the presentations and adult reflections in Catechesis of the Good Shepherd are based on more than 60 years of work with children by Sofia Cavalletti and Gianna Gobbi. Since it first began in the Roman Catholic tradition, CGS is presented in a course as it has been passed down from its co-founders.

### Formation Leader

Amelia Galiunas Hemming began her formation in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd in 2010 while serving in the atrium at St. Clare of Assisi Catholic School in Clear Lake, Texas. She then served in the atrium at St. Catherine’s Montessori in Houston, during which time she also completed her AMI Primary Montessori training. Currently she coordinates the atrium at Presentation of the Lord Catholic Church in Montgomery Texas and serves as a catechist in the Level 3 atrium. She holds a BA and MA in Theology from the University of Bristol, England and a Master of Education from the University of St. Thomas, Houston.

### Level I Formation Registration Form

**Catechesis of the Good Shepherd 2020 Level I, Parts 1 & 2 Formation**  
**Part 1: June 9-12 and July 15-17 2021. Part 2 TBD**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Church/School/Denomination: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

To secure a place in the course, please complete the above form and return to: **Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Church, 7809 Shadyvilla Lane, Houston, TX 77055 Attn: Lynn Schmidt.** Cost of formation, Part I, \$200.00, Part 2, \$200.00. Please make your check payable to Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Church.

## ☞ A Vision for Children ☞

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd offers Christian formation for children ages 3 through 12. Through this experience, children are helped to form an authentic, faithful relationship with God. The Catechesis is grounded in scriptural and liturgical study framed by Montessori's principles of education. This gives children the opportunity to hear the Gospel and absorb its message through the use of sensorially rich materials and the work of their hands which is very appropriate to their developmental needs.

This method of catechesis began in Rome, Italy in 1954 by Sofia Cavalletti, a Hebrew and Scripture scholar, and her colleague, Gianna Gobbi, a Montessori trained educator. Both women were Roman Catholic. In their observation and engagement with children, they sought to discover what face of God children most needed to see in order to grow in their knowledge and love of God. Children need the sensitive guidance of the adult and the inner guidance of the Holy Spirit to nurture this relationship. The adult prepares a sacred space, called the atrium, which allows children a prayerful place to learn to listen to and respond to a relationship with God through Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

The atrium is a place of community and worship - to be with God, enjoy Him, listen to His Word, and to pray. It is designed to reflect the beauty of His creation and God's abiding love. It is also a place to begin to learn and recognize the signs and symbols that speak of Him through the liturgies of Baptism and Eucharist.

## ☞ Course Description ☞

The 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:

- ❖ To present the guiding principles of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd;
- ❖ To explore the religious nature and the vital religious needs of the 3-6 year-old child;
- ❖ To offer the adult time to prayerfully reflect and personally consider the Biblical and liturgical themes presented to the 3-6 year old child;
- ❖ To broaden the adult's ability to observe and learn from children's spirituality;
- ❖ To cultivate the capacity to deeply listen to and enjoy with children the Word of God;
- ❖ To offer guidelines and assistance in preparing the atrium, making the catechist's album, and materials.

## ☞ Your Invitation ☞

You are invited to participate in this Level I Formation which will prepare you to work in an atrium with children ages 3-6 years old.

**Part 1 of Level I** will meet June 9-12 and July 15-17 (seven days) The Cathedral of Our Lady of Walsingham, 7809 Shadyvilla Lane, Houston, TX 77055.

**Part 2 of Level I** is to be determined.

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 to be a prayer experience for adults as well as model the atrium experience for children. Presentations are given from scripture and liturgy in the same way they will be given

to the children. Adults will receive background information on selected themes, including a foundational study into Maria Montessori's work with children, and will be encouraged to read the core CGS texts throughout the course. Time will be allocated for making materials used in the atrium and discussing and writing album pages for presentations. Successful participation of this course will result in a certificate from the National Association of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.

## ☞ Tuition ☞

Cost of this formation is \$400 total, payable to Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Church. Membership in the National Association of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, [www.cgsusa.org](http://www.cgsusa.org), is *highly recommended* for each participant and will allow access to the Level I Materials Manual. (\$50/year.)

Hosting coordinator for this formation is Lynn Schmidt, animlvr@hotmail.com.

*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*