Rebekah: The most immediate or pressing reason to update the book was to accurately reflect changes in the catechesis over the past 20 years since the book was first published, a primary example being that of no longer narrating a biblical text in our own words before listening together with the children to the solemn reading of the text directly from the Bible itself (rather than from the Scripture booklet, which is expressly for the children’s ongoing personal work with the text). Another example are the liturgical text changes to correspond to the new Roman Missal.

Other than these and few other minor corrections, an equally important reason to update the book was to include the “new” and very essential meditation on the Mystery of Life and Death (which had not been discovered when the book was first published). Also, because we have seen how important a resource this book is for catechists, how it serves as a necessary reinforcement to the formation course experience, we felt it should include certain Level I presentations/reflections that had not been addressed in the previous edition, such as the geography of the Land of Israel, the prophecies of Advent, and the feast of Pentecost.

It should also be noted that the new edition has not eliminated any section of the book. In Part I there are only very minor “tweaks;” while Part II, where Sofia says: “we try to respond to those who repeatedly ask us, ‘But how do I do [the catechesis] with children?’” will hopefully feel very familiar and yet quite new.
Mary: *The Good Shepherd and the Child: A Joyful Journey* was the first Good Shepherd publication that I bought, and it is the one I seem to return to and refer to as a catechist and formation leader. Do you have a favorite passage or paragraph from *Joyful Journey* that strikes your heart?

Rebekah: I have particularly loved Sofia’s choosing to end the book with the reflection on Moral Formation, which I feel has been one of the more impoverished themes in the world of conventional religious education and that comes as one of the richest surprises even to us who have committed to the journey of the catechesis. I also particularly treasure this book because it carries the voices of my three main formation leaders in the Rome training: Sofia, Gianna, and Silvana Montanaro.

Mary: What advice do you have for catechists who struggle with changes in materials or in how we present, i.e. no longer narrating the text in our own words before the solemn reading of Scripture? Or the Merchant’s house having four walls?

Rebekah: For starters, I would remind us all that all living things grow and change. What’s important is that we become always more capable of listening to the voice of the Teacher within and discerning the work of the Teacher in the child. There is no one and only way to make a material or to give a presentation to children; but there is a sort of “non-negotiable” discipline in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd of simplicity, essentiality, and objectivity in how we seek to serve the child’s relationship with God. *Joyful Journey* never was, nor now is intended as a teacher’s manual or a regimented syllabus; rather, it is a reinforcement to the Level I formation course and a useful guide in our on-going effort to be better “matchmakers” and “unprofitable servants.”

Mary: Do you have a favorite memory about Sofia and Gianna regarding the work of *The Good Shepherd and the Child: A Joyful Journey*?

Rebekah: Not really, since the book was done 10 years after my Rome training. I did not collaborate on the first edition, although I participated in a meeting with Bishop Gervais, Sofia, Patricia Coulter and a few others in Canada in the mid-’80s and delighted in Bishop Gervais’ commitment to the catechesis and his wisdom in asking us for such a book that would make the catechesis more accessible to parents and educators. I think it is significant that *Joyful Journey* did not originate as a new “publications scheme” of Sofia’s but as a “yes” to someone’s hunger and asking for such a book.

Mary: *The Good Shepherd and the Child: A Joyful Journey* was authored by Sofia Cavalletti, Patricia Coulter, Gianna Gobbi and Silvana Q. Montanaro, M.D.; many voices collaborated on this beautiful

©The National Association of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd 2014

www.cgsusa.org
volume. Our work has a collaborative spirit – can you tell us how collaboration has impacted you as a catechist, a formation leader, an author and Consiglio member? OR How was that spirit of collaboration a part of this second edition?

Rebekah: Bishop Gervais asked for such a book because he saw the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd as “hope for the Church” and wanted it to be made visible and accessible throughout Canadian Catholic schools. Sofia said yes to such a project and entrusted Patricia Coulter to organize and produce it, who in turn called for and beautifully rendered the input of Sofia, Gianna, and Dr. Montanaro, along with her own. When the time came for the second edition, Patricia chose to pass the task of the revision to me, and I joyfully jumped in because I love the Level I atrium life and cherish this book and have seen how important it is, not only to catechists in atria, but also to parents who don’t have access to an atrium for their young children but recognize their capacity for God and very much want to nurture that relationship.

Collaboration is another “non-negotiable” element in CGS; it’s one of our core mysteries! Each of us is “called by name” and brings unique gifts to the table, but one of the first things we realize is that the richness and beauty of this work demands collaboration. Once we fall in love with the kingdom, with God speaking through the child, with the marvels of the Vine we’re all part of, it never even occurs to us that we can do anything alone (except attend to those “closet prayer times” the Lord calls us to!).