

GATEWAY REGION CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Volume 1 / Issue 1

Please send us special days of celebration for you. We want to know your birthdays, when you have babies, when you get married and other important milestones in your life.

Does your parish or school offer sacramental retreats? If you send us the dates, we can publish the information and pray for your community during the time of the retreat.



From the Archives: Catechist Course to be Presented

The Association of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd will present a course July 23-27 at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary, 5200 Glennon Dr. in Shrewsbury to train adults working in religious education with children ages 3-6. The course is co-sponsored by the archdiocesan Catholic Education Office.

In addition, a session offering basic information on the preschool religion program for children ages 3-12 will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, July 25, at Kenrick-Glennon.

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a spiritual, experiential, Montessori-based program developed over the past 35 years. The presenter of the program is Rebekah Rojcewicz, one of the founders of the association. Cost of the course is \$150. It will be followed by weekend courses during the academic year and a five-day course next summer. For information call...

A HISTORY OF CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD IN GREATER ST. LOUIS

While the article that appeared in the St. Louis Review was considerable much shorter than the more than two page, typewritten letter that inspired it, dated July 5, 1996, it paved the way for the first St. Louis course. We can all trace our roots not only to Sofia Cavalletti and Gianna Gobbi, but to a Montessori Directress in California who sent a copy of *The Religious Potential of the Child* to a friend, Theresa Everson, in St. Louis. Theresa reflects, “Cavalletti’s and Gianna Gobbi’s deeply respectful approach to the formation of the young child—indeed the whole human person—and the careful, loving, intelligent way of nurturing a child’s relationship with the Divine struck me to the core. I wanted to bring this wisdom and way to the children in my life. So I called the National Association of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd in Chicago and spoke with Tina Lillig. She introduced me to Rebekah Rojcewicz and Rich and Judy Main and with their blessing, encouragement, and guidance we began planning to bring a Level 1 training to St. Louis. Sr Marianne Almon who was part of the religious education leadership team in the Archdiocese was also very encouraging. As so it began.”

That first course brought catechists from the St. Louis and Kansas City areas, from parishes and schools, most of whom were Catholic, and one Lutheran. The course was completed in June of 1997 at Sacred Heart Villa. A few, fledging atria appeared. At Sacred Heart Villa, at Sts. Joachim and Ann, and at St. Pius the V. A number of these newly formed catechists continued their formation, and a second St. Louis Course was offered for Level 2 beginning the summer of 1998 and completing in 1999 at Eden Theological Seminary. This course drew catechists from Kansas City, Chicago, Cleveland, Indiana, Texas, and Colorado. The following summer saw some of these St. Louis catechists leaving to participate in Level 3 courses in Chicago and Arizona.

Since that time in 1996, when one person read *The Religious Potential of the Child* and was moved to find out more, we have grown to have at least 17 atria, form more than 200 catechists, and develop six formation leaders. (Currently five of those live locally.) We have much to be thankful for as we celebrate our past, cherish our present, and look forward eagerly to what is to come.



A graduation photo of the Level I course in St. Louis taken June 1997. **Front Row:** ?, Gina Smrt, Mary Rodgers, ?, Theresa Everson, Mary Ann Frenking **Middle Row:** Ann Garrido, Rebekah Rojcewicz, Sr. Margo Rey, Cindy Gentsch, Rich Main **Back Row:** ?, Jeanne Wichmann, Bettie Comas, Sr. Mary Jo Ritter, Sue Stuhlsatz-Reese, Sue Velders, Judy Main, and Marie Mudd.

Stay Connected

Where do you get the most accurate information regarding upcoming courses, guidelines for material making, opportunities to connect with the larger CGS community, and little treasures from Sofia's own catechist diaries, often found in the Fogliotto? From the United States Association of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. <http://www.cgsusa.org>

WE WANT TO CELEBRATE YOU!

We're looking for submissions

- Catechist bios—let's get to know each other better. Tell us how you came to know CGS and how you fell in love with this approach. Tell us about your family.
- Atrium spotlight—tell us who you're serving and where you are.
- What are you doing—tell us about your retreats, your parent and parish involvement and your material making. Words are great, photos are even better.

Tell us about your needs.

- Are you looking for a formation course?
- Looking for help?
- Looking for a day of reflection to feed your soul?
- Looking for ideas?
- Want to visit other atria?
- Looking for a speaker to come to your parish or school?
- Looking for a workshop on practical lif

Deadline for submissions to the next newsletter is April 21. Please email submissions to gatewaycgs@outlook.com