

Message from the National Director and the Board Chair



"I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart. I will tell of all your wonderful deeds." Psalm 9:1

"God, you are so good to us. You gave us miracles, You introduced love and You love us. Forever and ever you will live in us. Amen." Elizabeth, age 9

What wonderful deeds He has done for us! As Elizabeth tells us, "You introduced love and you love us." We know that children have something to teach us about God's love. Through their joy, their wonder and awe, their capacity for love and prayer, and their radical simplicity, they offer us adults a glimpse of what it means to fall in love with God. The work of CGSUSA is to advocate for the children's joy in their relationship with God. This has been our lived reality these past eighteen months.

We give thanks for the gift we have received in living out the Gospel with the children. For more than sixty years, the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd has been celebrating the gift of sharing a common religious experience with children in which the religious values of childhood, primarily those values of contemplation and enjoyment of God, are predominant. Our Association serves and supports this gift. Our members come from across the country and around the world. We are joined by a strong and joyful friendship that comes from His presence.

This report reflects the work of the United States Association of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd during the eighteen months from January 2017 through June 2018. We have seen tremendous growth and have responded with new publications, new technology, and

additional staff and events. Much has happened as we seek to meet the needs of our members and all those who have discovered the religious potential of the child.

We are grateful for the legacy left to our Association by the founders of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd; our mission, purpose and vision; the friendship of catechists; and most importantly, the privilege of serving the relationship between God and the child.

We are thankful for all those who join us in our mission and purpose – catechists and formation leaders, patrons and donors, committee members and LEAVEN volunteers, board and staff, and especially the children.

And we are joyful for the ministry and the many wonderful moments we have shared. Let us continue to celebrate the abundant gift of our shared work and prayer and His presence among us. As we look back at the year that has passed, let us celebrate the joy it brought, learn from its challenges and opportunities, and look toward the future with hope and confidence.

Mary Mirrione

Mary Mirrione
National Director

Barbara Matera

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Board Chair

GRATEFUL!

We are grateful for the legacy left to our Association by the founders of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd; our mission, purpose and vision; the friendship of catechists; and most importantly, the privilege of serving the relationship between God and the child.

THANKFUL!

We are thankful for all those who join us in our mission and purpose – catechists and formation leaders, patrons and donors, committee members and LEAVEN volunteers, board and staff, and especially the children.

JOYFUL!

We are joyful, for the news is good! We are joyful for so many wonderful moments and ministry in the past 18 months.

OUR PURPOSE

To assist the involvement of children and adults in a common religious experience in which the religious values of childhood, primarily those values of contemplation and enjoyment of God, are predominant.

OUR MISSION

To support catechists, parents, and others in the Church and beyond, as they grow in their understanding of the religious potential of children.

OUR VISION

The National Association will work to make the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and the writings of Sofia Cavalletti and Gianna Gobbi accessible to all.

Recognizing the need for clear and available communications, the National Association will avail itself of written, voice and visual electronic media to maintain contact with catechists and others.

The National Association will provide formation in accord with the work of Sofia Cavalletti and Gianna Gobbi, through the provision of a discernment process and training for formation leaders, offering regular retreats and conferences and the use of approved formation leader's handbooks.

In addition to current sites, courses in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd will be held in colleges, universities and seminaries across the United States.

The National Association will support the work of the International Council and work in harmony with it.

Materials changes and new materials as recommended by the International Council will be translated and distributed to formation leaders and catechists through the National Association.

The Association will provide a manual at each level with accurate and most excellent plans and schematics for constructing atrium materials.

Regional groups will be encouraged in every part of the nation.

The National Association will establish and maintain links with diocese and denominations represented by the membership and other formation and educational groups.

The National Association will provide help and resources to assist catechists in adapting this work to the liturgy of their denominations.

The National Association will establish and maintain historical archives of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, making them accessible to members.