

# Formation

*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.*

**GRATEFUL!** To be connected like branches on the True Vine with catechists around the world serving children.

Our association connects with six other associations formed for the work of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd around the world through the International Council (Consiglio). Following our participation in the last Consiglio in September 2017, a letter was sent to all catechists and countries where CGS is offered from the Board of the International Council indicating that wherever courses are being offered in Catechesis of the Good Shepherd in countries where there is no association, the courses need to be given by a formation leader recognized by one of the associations connected to the International Council. We are, therefore, working more closely with our formation leaders leading courses in these countries and with catechists in several countries as they enter the Formation Leader Discernment Process. These countries include India, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, South Africa, and the United Kingdom.

In addition, we have revised our certificates to be clearer about our name as the United States Association of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and our connection to the International Council. This also allows us to give certificates to our formation leaders to use in countries other than our own for courses they are leading. We continue to work with several other English-speaking countries where Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is growing to provide

resources for courses and formation leaders in those countries.

**THANKFUL!** To offer this past year national catechist formation for adults working with six to twelve-year-old children and seminal catechist formation for Infant-Toddlers. This year we prepared for Part 2 of the Seminal Infant-Toddler Catechesis in Menlo Park, CA in April 2018 in which 30 catechists completed formation. We also prepared for Part 2 of the National Level II and III Formation located in Federal Way, WA in July in which 20 Level II catechists and 39 Level III catechists completed formation.

**JOYFUL!** To serve formation leaders, catechists in discernment and formation courses. The Formation Leader Discernment Process is very active with inquiries from catechists and those entering this discernment process with their completed application documents. We have 60 catechists involved in the Formation Leader Discernment Process. In 2017, the committee recognized 15 Level I Formation Leaders and in the first half of 2018, 6 Level I Formation Leaders. During this first half of 2018, the committee also recognized 7 Level II Formation Leaders and 2 Level III Formation Leaders. We have ongoing work of registering courses and being of service to CGS formation in this country. As of July 2018 we had 204 courses registered with our association, some not having started yet, some having just completed and some in process. We are very excited to see the continued interest in Catechesis of the Good Shepherd!



# Membership

*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.*

**GRATEFUL!** To be connected like branches on the True Vine with catechists around the nation serving children.

The child recognizes the Good Shepherd's Voice and follows Him. The adult hears this call as well, and comes to know, observe and follow the child. Both the work of the child in the Atrium and the work of the catechist to prepare that environment, offers a satisfaction of spirit and gladdens the heart. Membership in CGSUSA allows the catechist and parent, the priest and catechetical leader, or the parish and school an opportunity to be connected with others who love and appreciate this work.

2017 brought further clarification regarding the two types of membership offered in CGSUSA: The Individual Membership and the Organization Membership. Membership brochures which highlight those details were emailed and made available on our website.

The online materials manual is a benefit for those Individual Members who have participated or are participating in a formation course. One of the benefits for the Organization Member is a monthly newsletter, *In the Meadow*. This newsletter includes features that can be included in the local parish bulletin, a parent newsletter, selections from core CGS sources with discussion questions for the catechist, and a video clip of a song to be shared with the catechist. The summer issues of *In the Meadow* provide a framework for a CGS Catechist In-Service.

**THANKFUL!** To all those who serve our membership, our committees and regional groups.

Membership in CGSUSA allows members who are far away and have never met to share a kind of friendship as they participate in the ongoing conversation of CGS – its Montessori underpinnings, its scriptural and liturgical themes, setting up and maintaining an atrium, making materials, and the response of the child. It is a blessing for catechists to gather to pray and share with each other. There are members within CGSUSA who are geographically isolated from others in this work or would like assistance in forming community or even structure a local association. The Membership Committee consists of a representative group of catechists from each of our seven regions. The Membership Committee has invited established regional groups to assist with identifying Regional Representatives and Teams in their region, who will assist with strengthening the region and sharing information from CGSUSA.

**JOYFUL!** For the friendship of catechists that form our Association.

The "Regions and Regional Groups" page on the CGSUSA website now includes more resources from around the country, including samples of newsletters from regional groups and associations. At this time, CGSUSA counts close to 2,500 members (the largest in the history of CGSUSA) serving in over 3,750 atria.

