

The Consiglio

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 September, representatives to the International Council (Consiglio), Mary Mirrione and Karen Maxwell, joined Rebekah Rojcewicz who serves on the Board for the International Council, in Rome for the gathering of associations of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. The Consiglio meets every three years.

What is the Consiglio?

It is always an amazing opportunity to gather with our sister catechists and member associations in the world to share our experiences and news with our work with children and adults in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd! The Consiglio is comprised of six associations who send two representatives to this gathering. They are from Australia, Colombia, Germany, Italy, Mexico, and the United States. The gathering is spoken and interpreted for different members in Italian, Spanish and English. This year there were 18 attendees including two guests.

The greatest importance to the Consiglio's identity can be found in its Statutes and especially #2 which states:

"The International Council (Consiglio) of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a sign of unity of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd which is present in various countries through the Associations which have been formally established according to the guidelines of the Consiglio."

One of the biggest topics of discussion for this gathering was around Formation. A letter from the members of the Board for the International Council outlines some new directives for CGS formation worldwide.

Two Key Statements from the Letter on CGS Formation:

For all catechist formation courses, offered in the name of The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, anywhere in the world, at least one of the team members must be a recognized formation leader who is faithful to the 32 Characteristics of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and the formation guidelines of the Consiglio.

Recognition as a formation leader in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd must come through one of the current International Consiglio member associations: Australia, Colombia, Germany, Italy, Mexico, and USA.



The Centenary

On August 21, 1917 Sofia Cavalletti was born. In many places in the world, wherever the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is present, there were many initiatives to honor her life on this date. We are grateful to all those who shared memories with us to honor Sofia on the occasion of her centenary.

In 2017, we celebrated the Centenary Anniversary of Sofia Cavalletti who was born on August 21, 1917. We know that Sofia never wanted for her own persona to be exalted; rather, she wanted any focus of celebration to be on the child and the gift of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, while she would fade into the background. In seeking to honor her wishes and in this spirit we share the following with joy! The following resources were prepared for our members to assist them in celebrating the Centenary of the birth of Sofia Cavalletti within their regions.

As we remembered and celebrated Sofia's wisdom and joy, CGSUSA invited everyone to share their "mustard seed of wisdom" for 100 days. We posted reflections, memories, images and videos via daily email and to our members, on Facebook and now archived on our website.

CGSUSA prepared a small prayer service for the regional gatherings and invited regions to share with us how they locally celebrated Sofia's Centenary.

So that we might properly remember and celebrate her life, the 2017 *Journal* explored the Child as Theologian as we have seen children share their relationship with God through their prayers, theological statements, and artwork.

Notre Dame Liturgical Symposium. The McGrath Institute for Church Life invited leaders in Catechesis of the Good Shepherd,

parish catechists, and Catholic educators to the Church Life Summer Institute to study and reflect on the scholarly work of Sofia Cavalletti looking at the Sacramental Imagination and the Senses of the Scriptures in 2017 and then in June of 2018 at The Sacramental Catechist. Using the theological and methodological insights of Sofia Cavalletti, we will think about sacramental pedagogy for the 21st century.

Sofia Cavalletti Symposium at Aquinas Institute of Theology, Catechists from around the North America attended. The event was designed as a cross between an academic symposium and a birthday party—an opportunity for old friends to get together again, and to meet some new ones who share common interests. Participants of all five MAPS-CGS cohorts and the two CGS Heritage courses were invited, as well as scholars in the wider academic community who share an interest in Sofia's writing. This event was a great conversation among peers. All those who had been doing research on Sofia's work and its connection to their own areas of theological or ministerial interest were welcome to present their current work.

In honor of the gift of Sofia's work with children, we were so pleased to offer a new publication by Ann Garrido, "A Year with Sofia Cavalletti," which highlights the spiritual and theological influences that, in addition to the children, shaped Sofia and the development of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.

