

Tina

CAROL NYBERG-CARAVIOTIS

I remember the first time I met Tina, in the basement of St. Barnabas Episcopal Church in Glen Ellyn, Illinois, in 1984. She radiated peace and calm. She brought with her a simple sheepfold with a wooden shepherd and some sheep that she very slowly and deliberately moved as she read the parable of the Good Shepherd. It was love at first sight. That evening I fell in love with the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and with my new sister, Tina. I cannot remember if my daughter Kirsten was with me; she would have been just a few months old, but Tina would remember. Tina was my Catechesis of the Good Shepherd memory, my cheerleader, and my mentor. Tina was this not only for me, but also for the whole community of catechists of the Good Shepherd around the world.

I remember an incident after we had taken Level I together for first time in St. Paul, Minnesota. We had three weeks of training and near the end I was exhausted. As I worked through the church year in the atrium I could recall most presentations vividly and had album pages to work from, but when it came time for the Pentecost presentation I had an album page but no memory of having seen the presentation. When I asked Tina about it she assured me that I had been at the presentation and that we had been

sitting next to each other. I insisted that I had not seen it and that I must have left the course early. A few days later Tina shared a photo with me from the St. Paul course and there we were, next to each other, watching Maria Christlieb light the red candles.

For a number of years Tina and I were the National Association of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd office, or rather a large blue laundry basket was the office and we were the staff. The office spent a few weeks at my house and a few



*Trudy, age 9
St. Mary–St. Edward Parish
Kinde, Michigan*

(Catechist: “When Trudy completed the drawing above after a lengthy solitude, she said, ‘This is Jesus on the cross, when the light came into him.’ At the next atrium time, she did the second drawing very quietly, repeating her thought.” First picture: the background is blue, the cross is brown, Jesus’s eyes are black, his tear is blue, his mouth is red, his hair is brown; rays of yellow and orange light surround his head. Second picture: colors are the same except his cheeks are red and pink, and his smile is pink.)

weeks at Tina’s. It is hard to believe how much the association has grown under Tina’s tender care. Our friendship and collaboration in sharing the Catechesis in the Chicago area gave us a deep love and appreciation for ecumenism. Together we discovered and lived the wonderful words from John 10, “There will be one flock and one shepherd.”

I still get the urge to call Tina from time to time. Instead I send her prayers and love and try to find my inner Tina. Then her voice sounds in my heart, calling me back to my best self and reminding me of the love we all share.