

The National Association of

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

United States



"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." Matthew 18:20

2016 Annual Report



This report reflects the living out of our vision during the fiscal year that ended December 31, 2016.

In some instances, to maintain continuity, events beyond the fiscal year have been included.

We were incorporated in the State of Maryland on October 7, 1986 as

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, Inc.

National Offices are located in Scottsdale, Arizona; Marietta, Georgia; Memphis, Tennessee;

Urbandale, Iowa and Croton On Hudson, New York.

A MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR

"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." Matthew 18:20



What a gift we have received in the living out of this 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 when we gather together.

This report reflects the work of the National Association of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd in the year of our Lord 2016. We have seen a tremendous growth and have responded with new publications, new technology, additional staff and events, and a new office in Urbandale, Iowa. 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.

Let us continue to gather in small group where the seeds of the Gospel are sown in the hearts of the children and adults who value the religious values of childhood. 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 shared, learn from its challenges and opportunities, and look toward the future with hope and confidence.

A ti catequista hispana, te saludamos y te damos las más expresivas gracias por tu apoyo a la Asociación Nacional de la Catequesis del Buen Pastor en los EU. El grupo étnico de más crecimiento en los EU es el nuestro y agradecemos tu gran colaboración con nuestros niños hispanos. Sabemos que la CBP ofrece muchas herramientas para el desarrollo integral del niño o dentro de un ambiente a veces tan diverso. Si de alguna forma te podemos ayudar, escribemos. Queremos saber de ti. Puedes comunicarte a lourdesvazquez@cgsusa.org . Dios te bendiga.

In His Love,

Mary Mirrione
National Director
marymirrione@cgsusa.org
480-228-5189

OUR PURPOSE

CGSUSA's purpose, prepared in consultation with Sofia Cavalletti and Gianna Gobbi, is 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

CGSUSA's mission is 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

- remaining faithful to the Characteristics of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, 32 Points of Reflection
- providing courses for catechist formation, formation leader training, and mentor training;
- seeking to develop formation courses in and partnerships with colleges, universities and seminaries across the United States;
- offering ongoing formation through retreats, prayer services, liturgies and thematic workshops and conferences;
- providing publications on the work of Sofia Cavalletti, in addition to publications about the child's spiritual capacity by other leaders in CGS;
- encouraging regional groups in every part of the nation;
- providing catechists important materials and updates about materials used in the atrium;
- acting as a resource for members to help educate and inform parents, educators, priests, and others about the child's religious potential using this method;
- creating, distributing, and maintaining communications about the work of CGSUSA to all
- collaborating with other national associations as part of the International Council to advocate on behalf of the child;
- establishing and maintaining links with dioceses and denominations represented by the membership and other formation and educational groups;
- providing assistance and resources to assist catechists in adapting this work, where possible, to the liturgy of their respective denominations;
- establishing and maintaining historical archives of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, making them accessible to members.

OUR GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR 2017

Celebrate the life and wisdom of Sofia Cavalletti in this year of her Centenary

Send representatives to the International Council Meeting (Consiglio)

Formation Goals:

Pilot *Io Sono* Formation training (Mar 13-17, 2017)

Host an Infant/Toddler Formation course (Apr 23-30, 2017 in Menlo Park, CA)

Host National Level 2 and Level 3 Courses (July 16-29, 2017, Seattle, WA)

Collaborate with Aquinas Institute for the Heritage Course and the MAPS Program

Membership Goals:

Institute new membership fee structure

Increase membership by 10%

Participate in at least two regional group gatherings

Participate in the Symposium on Sacred Scripture at Notre Dame

Participate in the Sofia Cavalletti Symposium at Aquinas Institute

Participate in Weaving our Gifts

Publications Goals:

Io Sono Year One Adult Guide

The Child of Many Languages Resource

CGSUSA Journal: The Child as Theologian

A Year with Sofia

Stewardship Goals:

Form a Stewardship Committee

Host HeART of the Child event somewhere outside of Arizona

Raise \$75,000 for the Annual Appeal

Administrative Goals:

Establish a plan for website redesign

Form a Finance committee



FORMATION

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is also concerned with helping adults open their eyes to the hidden riches of the child. #27 Characteristics of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.

CGSUSA is privileged to sustain and advance the legacy of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd in the United States through formation. The Association serves as THE resource to the CGS community by forming both catechists and the formation leaders who lead courses for them, and guiding catechists in creating and maintaining atrium environments that nurture the religious life of children.

Each year in a wide variety of ways, the Office of Formation works to support and assist formation leaders and catechists and other interested persons in “opening the adults’ eyes to the hidden riches of the child.”



In 2016, we coordinated the following national formation events:

1. **Servant Song Retreat** – “The Child of Many Languages”– July 28-31, Scottsdale, AZ
2. **National Level I Part 2 Formation**, July 25-August 3, Scottsdale, AZ
3. **Formation Leaders Training Course I** – October 21-26, Atlanta, GA

Discernment Process to Recognize Formation Leaders

We continue to receive many inquiries throughout the year from catechists who are interested in being recognized as formation leaders with our Association. In 2016 the members of the CGSUSA Discernment Committee recognized 11 Level I Formation Leaders:

Zoraida Villarubia Concepcion, Maria Diaz, Ann Eilermann, Katie Field, Shelley Finkler, Liz Nance, Margaret Schaefer, Kathleen Shea, Catherine Sienkiewicz, Kim Ward, and Anita Vincent.

Registered Courses in Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

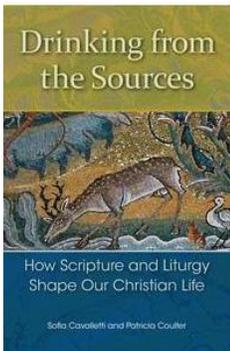
In 2016, we had 135 courses registered around the United States. Of those 96 were Level I courses, 31 were Level II courses and 8 were Level III courses. These courses were led by 68 formation leaders out of a total of 175 formation leaders. We continue to work with the Missionaries of Charity leading courses for them in various places around the world.

Karen Maxwell, Director of Formation

karenmaxwell@cgsusa.org



PUBLICATIONS



Since 1984, when the budding Association published its first newsletter, CGSUSA has published 74 books, journals, and articles. CGSUSA publishes books under an imprint of Liturgical Training Publications (LTP), the publishing arm of the Archdiocese of Chicago. Under that imprint CGSUSA has published English translations of the seminal works of Sofia Cavalletti, including several recently updated volumes. CGSUSA continues to select manuscripts for publication, working with prospective authors on ideas of interest to the CGS community. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Publications issues an average of two new books a year.

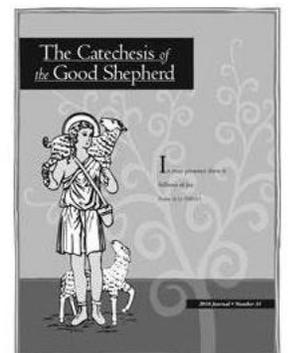
The newsletters that began in 1984 came to be known as the annual *Journal*, a copy of which is mailed to each member. The *Journal's* mission is to provide those concerned with children's theological education a reflective resource for ongoing formation with serious scholarship to support their work with children. Through its articles the *Journal* seeks an understanding of the child, particularly from the point of view of his/her religious potential. This focus on the religious life of the child is the distinguishing feature of the *Journal*. The theological artwork, prayers and observations of children in the atrium are vital. Of particular interest are works of the child that show a synthesis of themes presented in the atrium.

CGSUSA also publishes resources privately that directly help catechists and formation leaders in their work. The Materials Manuals for the Level I and Level II atrium, with the most up-to-date detailed instructions for making materials, are accessible online to members who have completed or are currently in formation for each level. The Level III Materials Manual is available for purchase as a thumb drive to those who have completed or are currently in formation for that level. A Formation Leaders' Manual, available for Levels I and II, guides the formation leader in giving the presentations of those levels, leading adult reflections on pedagogical and theological themes, and assisting participants in writing their own album pages. Work has begun on a Formation Leader's Manual for Level III.

Through its publications, CGSUSA gives the child a voice, passes along the wisdom of Sofia Cavalletti, provides an authoritative resource for catechists on the religious life of children, and educates parents on the life of the atrium and the spiritual life of the child. Of particular value to CGSUSA is its imprint with LTP that gives books on the themes of CGS wide exposure and professional marketing through the resources of LTP.

In 2016 we were pleased to publish *Drinking from the Sources: How Scripture and Liturgy Shape Our Christian Life* by Sofia Cavalletti and Patricia Coulter, and our annual *Journal*.

We welcomed our new *Journal* Committee: Margaret Brennan, Betsy Brown, Mary Heinrich, Cathy Johanni, Barbara Matera, Karen Maxwell, Mary Mirrione, Marty O'Bryan, Jo Ann Padgett, Katy Beedle Rice and Joann Terranova. They began work on the 2017 *Journal* that will celebrate the Centenary of Sofia Cavalletti's birth year, honoring Sofia's work by looking at our master-teacher, the child, as theologian.



MEMBERSHIP



CGSUSA was founded as an association of members who were catechists formed in and devoted to this method of catechesis. The original members, after having spent time together during formation courses led by the founders, returned to their homes in towns and cities across the US. They kept in contact with one another via an annual newsletter, but their desire to share the response of the children in the atrium was so great that they often ran up large long distance telephone bills from calling each other.

Sofia Cavalletti spoke of the natural friendship of catechists who come together – of their feeling that they have already met or have even been friends forever. She believed the same kind of friendship existed between catechists living far away from one another who had never met: still they

would have a deep bond. In honoring their deep desire to connect with one another, CGSUSA seeks to invite all formation course participants to become or remain members of the National Association. Membership dues contribute to the support and development of CGS in this country.

2016 saw the hiring of a part-time Membership Coordinator and the establishment of the Membership Office Working with the Membership Committee, this Office continues to offer exceptional resources for our members. The Membership Committee has been expanded to representation from all seven CGSUSA regions.

The Membership Office reached out to our Organization Members this year, to speak to them about the benefits of an organization membership, including the *In the Meadow* newsletter. The Membership Office is also working with the Membership Committee to expand our resources and communication with regions and regional groups. In 2016, we saw the continued tradition of catechists gathering for CGS national and local events held throughout the seven regions. The regions have assisted and continue to assist in updating the Atrium Locator. The Membership Committee has developed a plan to assist in networking with the regional groups found within in each region.

In 2016 CGSUSA's membership included nearly 2,000 people, most of whom are catechists recognized by CGSUSA, listening to God with children in 1,114 atria spread throughout the US and other countries. Some know each other, usually from having participated in a formation course together; but most do not.

CGSUSA offers support and resources to its membership, including access to online Materials Manuals, regular communication and updates on liturgical and materials changes, the published annual *Journal* mailed to every member, an online Membership Directory, and regional and national events and retreats. Each member has a voice in the Association through the ability to nominate candidates for the Board of Trustees, a vote in elections, and an invitation to the Annual Meeting.

Updated resources include:

- Monthly *All About the Atrium* Parent Newsletters (available on CGSUSA.org)
- Monthly *First Year in the Atrium* Newsletter (12 issues for our newest members)
- Monthly *In the Meadow* online Newsletter for Organization Members
- Quarterly Member Memo Newsletter for all members of CGSUSA (available at CGSUSA.org)

STEWARDSHIP OF THE CGS GIFT

To be true to its purpose of continuing the legacy of CGS, CGSUSA must look to how its founders developed and continued this work. Following the way of Jesus, Cavalletti and Gobbi approached their work in a spirit of poverty, simplicity, and generosity. They prayerfully designed and made simple materials for the children's use. They honored the dignity of the child, and sought no accolades for themselves. Cavalletti called CGS "the greatest gift from God I would ever have thought about." She and Gobbi joyfully received the gift and then passed it along to children, adults, the Church and the world.

CGSUSA holds the gift of CGS as a treasure, passing it along with great love and care through frequent communication with its membership, publications that advance knowledge of the spiritual life of the child, and formation of new catechists in a way that assures their work with children will have the same character and integrity as that of the founders.

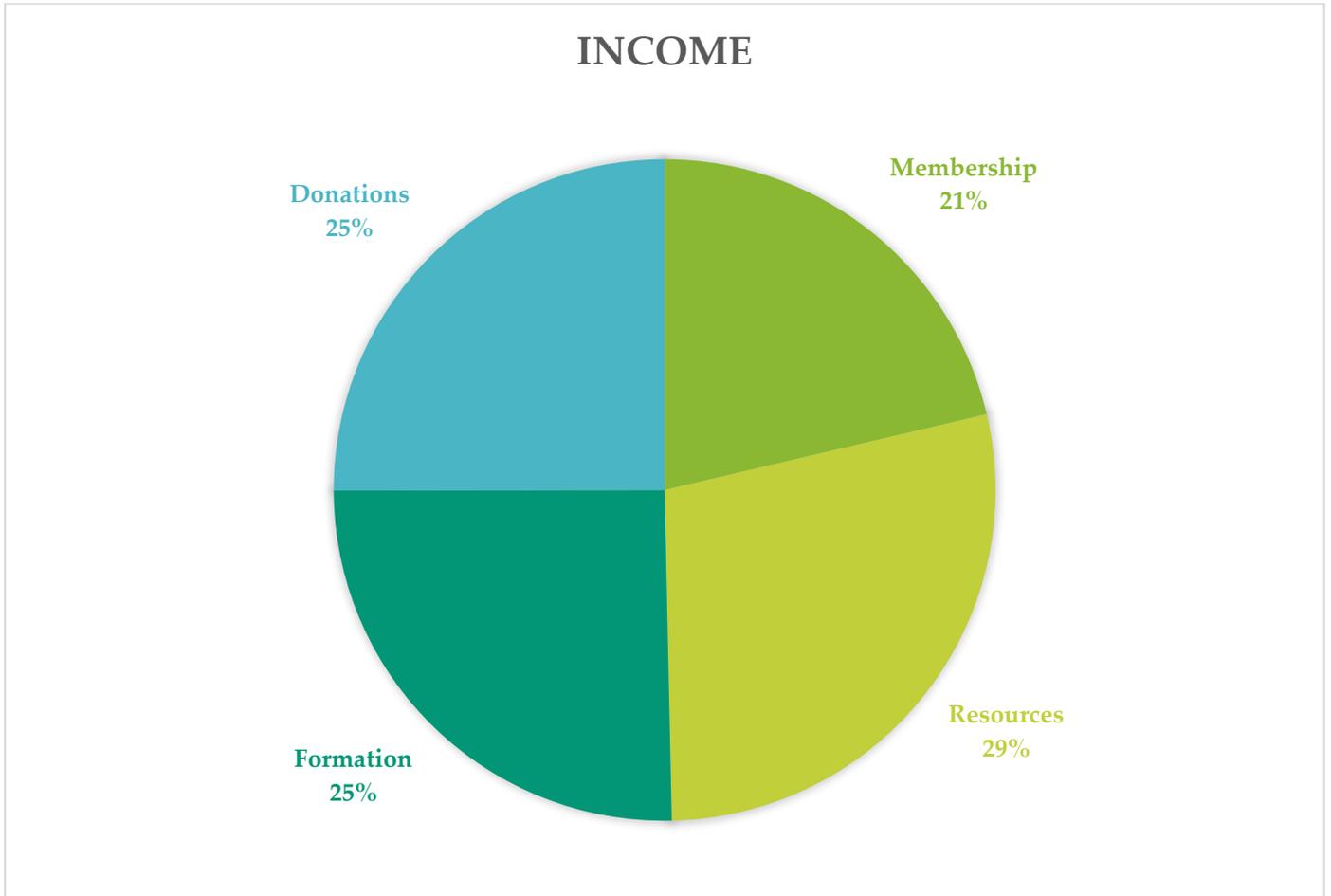
CGSUSA always seeks balance between letting the work continue to spread on its own, that is, not seeking to control it, yet being a responsible steward of the growth. As an association, CGSUSA is charged with caring for the work which necessarily includes both administrative and financial elements.

Today, there are over 1,025 atria operating in this country, serving thousands of children in parishes, homes and schools. All of this has been done with a skeleton staff on a minimal annual budget that has slowly grown to almost \$500,000. Despite the thousands of families whose children have been formed in this method, three quarters of the association's revenue comes from catechists, most of whom are volunteers in parishes or schools around the country.

CLOSING BALANCE SHEET DECEMBER 31, 2016

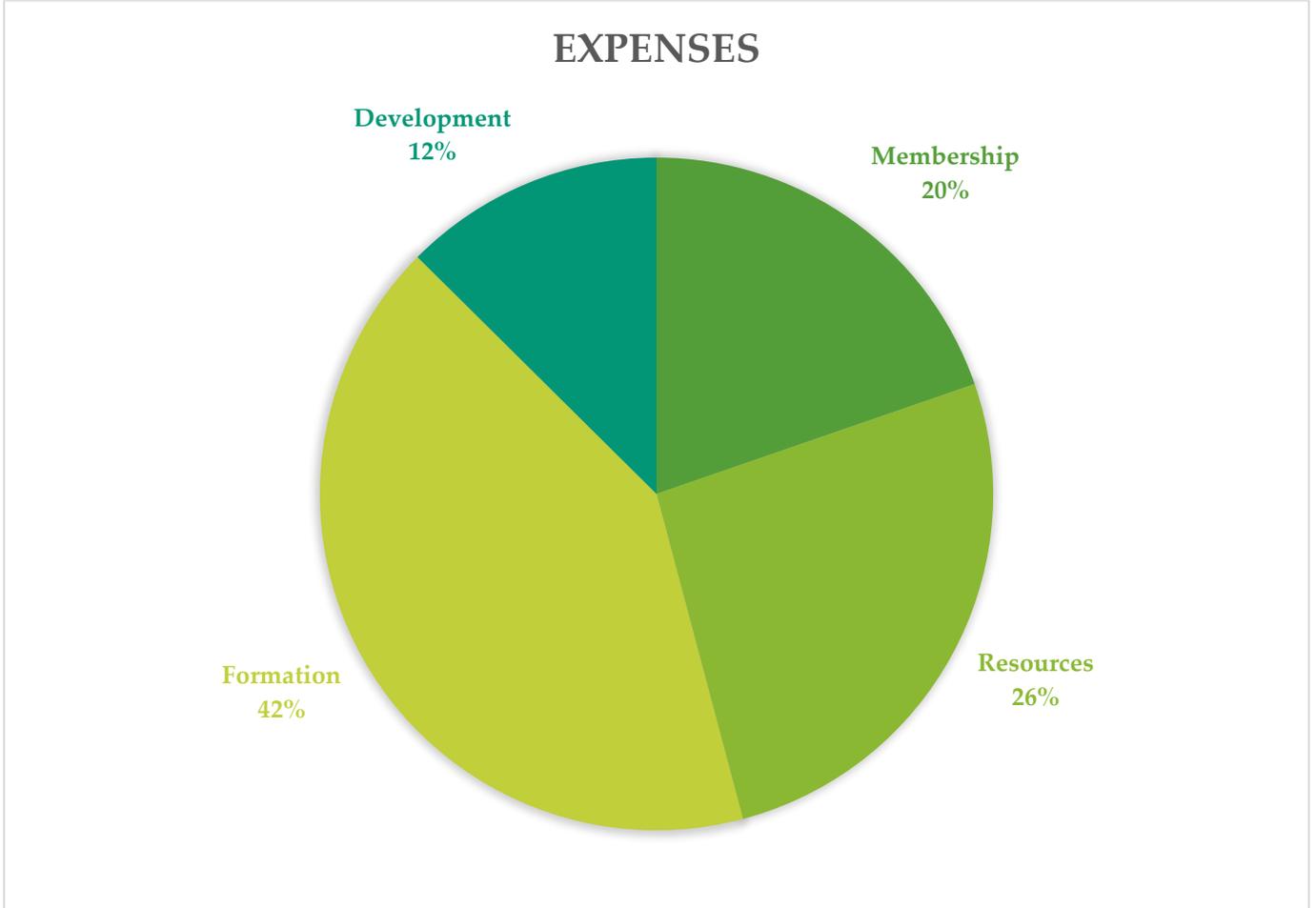
Total Checking/Savings	146,705.64
Total Other Current Assets	72,287.03
Total Current Assets	224,795.62
Total Fixed Assets	5,923.46
TOTAL ASSETS	230,719.08
Opening Bal Equity	552.52
Unrestricted Net Assets	216,179.00
Restricted Net Assets:	
<i>Io Sono</i> Project	2,787.44
TLM Fund	7,467.00
Total Restricted Net Assets	10,254.44
Net Income	3,733.12
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	230,719.08

PROFIT & LOSS JANUARY – DECEMBER 2016 INCOME



Grants	1,348.53
Printing Sales Income	21,325.05
Publications	133,200.42
Shepherd's Closet Sales	52,651.47
Membership Dues	95,900.00
Course Registration Fees	62,780.00
Events Income	68,020.46
Donations	<u>112,582.32</u>
Total Income	568,300.45
Cost of Goods Sold	<u>98,346.61</u>
Gross Profit	469,953.84

PROFIT & LOSS JANUARY – DECEMBER 2016 EXPENSES



Employee Expense	238,235.93
Insurance	5,066.50
Outreach/Public Relations	4,402.60
Operations	95,976.00
Board and Committees Expense	2,118.96
Development Expense	10,993.24
Events Expense	90,278.33
Shepherd's Closet Expense	3,896.73
Technology Expense	<u>15,332.39</u>
Total Expense	466,622.16

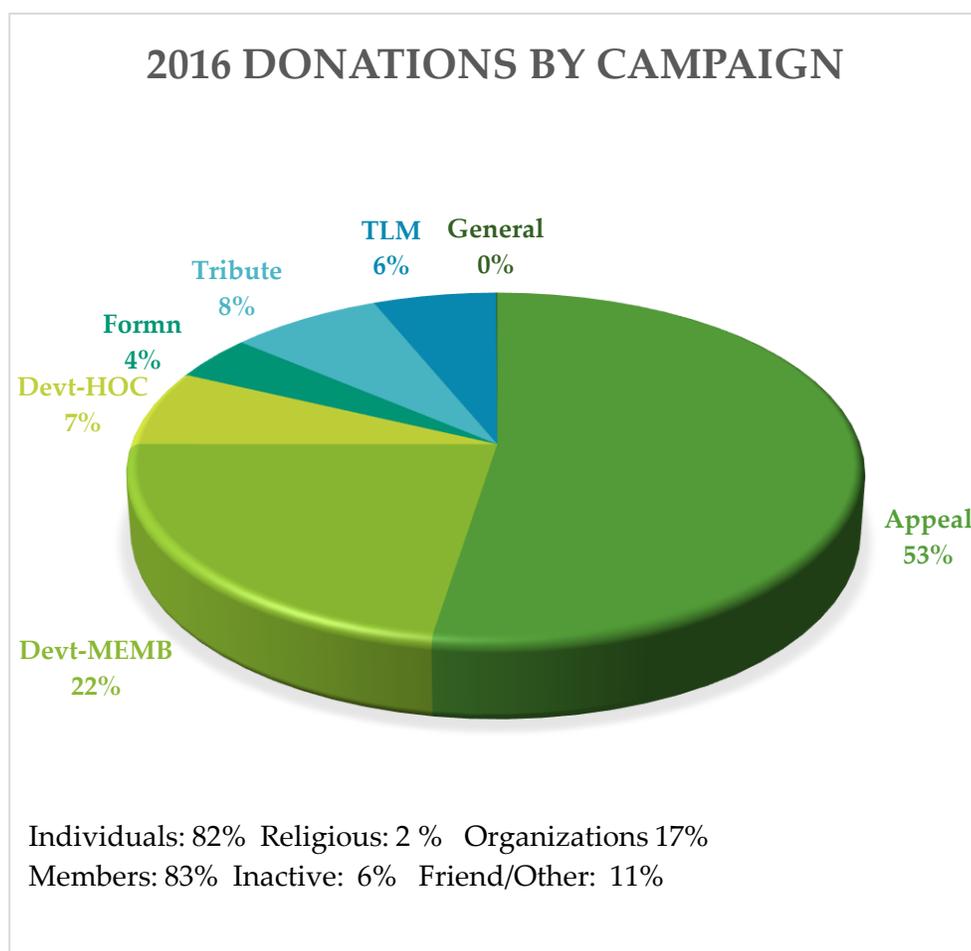
Response to the Gift

Those who have benefited from the gift might ask themselves: “When I consider all that God has given me through the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, I must ask myself: how have I responded to this gift? Have I responded in time, talent, or treasure to those ‘through whose empty hands’ God has given me this precious gift of the Catechesis?”

As already noted, the beneficiaries of CGS are numerous and include ecclesiastical districts such as dioceses; parishes; churches; schools and homeschool coops that offer CGS; catechists who have been formed in this method; formation leaders who pass CGS to a new generation of catechists; parents of children in the atrium; and, of course, the children themselves, who fall in love with the Good Shepherd in an atrium.

CGSUSA could assist beneficiaries by asking them to reflect on and respond to the impact of the gift of CGS in their worlds.

It would be in keeping with the CGS founders’ spirit of poverty, simplicity and generosity for those who enjoy and value the gift of CGS to respond by supporting CGSUSA with their time, talent, and treasure in furtherance of its mission.



DONATIONS

Our discipline each year in setting goals and objectives and working toward accomplishing them has allowed the Association to do what it set out to do: to help people enter the work of CGS and to make CGS accessible to children throughout the country and the world. We have witnessed a great growth in our work around the country. Like the mustard seed, the growth has been abundant and astonishing. We did not set out many years ago, to target growth in numbers as a goal to be achieved. We've simply tried to serve the child and in doing so, have inspired many people to join us in our efforts.

As the Association has grown, so has the number of projects in support of our members. For any nonprofit organization, raising money is a challenge. For us, this is especially true because our way of life is rooted in a spirit of poverty and essentiality. Therefore, how do we best ensure a stable future for the work of CGSUSA? How do we best invite a prayerful response of time, talent and treasure? How can we become more sustainable as a community? While we have a number of possibilities, the three primary ways are through the Annual Appeal, the Tina Lillig Memorial Fund, and Major Gift donations by those with the capacity and heart for the child.

The **Annual Appeal** is a yearly call for support of our mission. Gifts to the Annual Appeal provide vital operating support and help to sustain and grow our Formation and Outreach programs.

The **Tina Lillig Memorial Fund** (TLM) was created to support the growth and development of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd through catechist formation, missionary outreach, and the work of CGSUSA.

Major Gifts: Cash is always appreciated by CGSUSA, since any gift large or small supports the work of nurturing the child's relationship with God. Donations in the form of multi-year pledges help us to plan responsibly. Donors have the option to set up monthly giving schedules or other installment plans.

Appreciated Stock makes an excellent charitable gift. Under current tax laws, when an appreciated asset (such as stock) is sold, a capital gains tax is due. By making a charitable gift of the appreciated stock, you can avoid or delay the capital gains tax. You can also take an immediate income tax deduction for the current fair market value of the stock, no matter what was originally paid for it.

Legacy Gifts, bequests made through your will or trust, are one of the most simple and popular ways to make a gift that will live on after you. You can make a bequest to benefit CGSUSA by providing a dollar amount, specific property, or a percentage of your estate, either designated or undesignated. A Legacy Gift can reduce your estate taxes. In many cases, a simple change to your will can add this bequest and does not require rewriting your most recent will.

Life Insurance is another simple way to make a substantial future gift at a level that might not be possible for a straight cash donation. If you name CGSUSA as the owner and beneficiary to receive the proceeds of an existing life insurance policy, you will receive a tax deduction for the approximate cash surrender value, thereby reducing your tax liability in the year of the gift.

CLARITY OF VISION

20/20 vision is a term used to express normal visual acuity, the clarity of vision measured at a distance of 20 feet. 20/20 does not necessarily mean perfect vision, it indicates the sharpness or clarity of vision at a particular distance, which is considered typical and reasonable for a person to “see.” 20/20 vision helps us to see clearly, to be compelled to see more and to include all involved in what is seen. As we look toward our future with hope, we seek to articulate a clarity of vision that is regular and reasonable for our association and those interested in the religious life of children. A clarity of vision that helps us to “see” our mission and purpose actively impacting the world in which we live and the children and adults we serve.

We are at a moment in our history where we must discern to our members a sustainable future and beyond for our association, in a way that is clear, compelling and inclusive. Clear enough to see what is in our immediate vision, in the palm of our hand. Compelling enough to be meaningful to those who hear it. Inclusive enough that they want to help make it happen and feel they can have an important part to play in moving forward.

Let us prayerfully discern a deep sense of what’s necessary, right, and good for the Association. The Characteristics of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, 32 Points of Reflection and the purpose, mission and vision of the National Association will continue to guide us as we step into the future. Whenever we question our path, we must return to these words which can be our guide, our compass. We need to face the practicalities of being a national nonprofit corporation straight on while holding on to the guiding principles of our mission and purpose. This is a very delicate line to walk but one we are capable of walking with wisdom and knowledge. We must find ways to become more financially sustainable and stable. We must trust that it is in God’s plan that we do so. A clear, compelling and inclusive vision can encourage extraordinary advancement in fulfilling our mission.

In the year 2020, CGSUSA seeks to have a clear, compelling and inclusive vision for the future, a vision that is sustainable and faithful to the spirit of the mustard seed. As we seek such a sustainable vision, we remember that mustard trees are not found in cultivated gardens or yards; they sprout and grow wild out of hillsides, taking hold in the cut-always of freeways or clinging to the walls of cliffs. If cut down, they return somehow, much like a pesky shrub that just will not go away. If this is our model – the spirit of the mustard seed – then the many recommendations that we set forth here can be read, considered, and decided on with an immense sense of peace. It is the Lord who grows this work - “how, we do not know.” We merely need to be the faithful servants, working with grateful hearts in the vineyard of the Lord. The work of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd will be, in the words of the psalmist, “like the trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season; and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.”

CONTACT INFORMATION

For the Board of Trustees of the National Association of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd:

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Lynn Robinson	Secretary lynnrobinson@cgsusa.org
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Lisa Brett-Reeves	Board Member lisabrettreeves@cgsusa.org

For the Staff of the National Association of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd:

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Lisa Kelley	Publications Coordinator
Nancy Hardy	Shepherd's Closet Coordinator
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