

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (or CGS) was developed more than 60 years ago as an approach to Christian formation based on Montessori principles. The Catechesis creates a sacred learning environment where young children, ages 3-6, work with tactile materials about Scripture and Liturgy. This work allows the child's natural religious and spiritual impulses to develop. Initially created for use in Roman Catholic contexts, I have often included references to CGS as an approach that is consistent with Orthodox Christian teaching, albeit with an Orthodox adaptation to our liturgical and sacramental theology and practices. Thus, I was gladdened to see that a pan-Orthodox group of trained and recognized catechists have been working with the National Association of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, which recognizes and certifies teachers and programs, to create an Orthodox Christian Adaptation. This group has offered courses in CGS at Orthodox seminaries and many Orthodox parishes. Their use of social media has broadened awareness among other Orthodox Christian religious educators. Parishes looking for new ways to hand forward the Orthodox Christian Faith and Way of Life should explore the work of this group and what they offer.

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