



The United States Association of

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd



*Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart.
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.*

2020 CGSUSA Annual Report



This report reflects the living out of our vision during the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2020.

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.

Cover artwork donated and copyrighted by Kim Hovell <http://kimhovell.com>

Cover quote is from "Be Thou My Vision" (Old Irish: Rop tú mo baile), a traditional Christian hymn of Irish origin.



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR

The Lord said, “[t]he vision is a witness for the appointed time, a testimony to the end; it will not disappoint. If it delays, wait for it, it will surely come, it will not be late.” Habakkuk 2:3



Our year started with a vision. We called it the “2020 Clarity of Vision – A Purposeful Plan.” The staff and board were excited to share this plan with our members, some of whom had contributed to its development through listening sessions at events around the country.

When we released our plan in early February, we had a record number of formation leaders and formation courses, booming sales in our e-Store, and more members than ever before. Building on CGSUSA’s original Vision Statements, the Purposeful Plan envisioned a way forward for the next five years.

By the middle of March, the country was closed down, atria were shuttered, and most formation courses were put on hold. However, the staff, board, and membership have continued to work together in unity to support one another and to attain the purpose of CGSUSA – 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.

This Annual Report summarizes the work of CGSUSA from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020. CGSUSA continues to work on its vision, while we wait patiently for His vision to be revealed. We know it will not disappoint.

A ti catequista hispana, te saludamos y te damos las mas expresivas gracias por tu apoyo a la Asociacion Nacional de la Catequesis del Buen Pastor en los EU. El grupo etnico de mas crecimiento en los EU es el nuestro y agradecemos tu gran colaboracion 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,

Barbara Matera
President CGSUSA Board of Trustees
barbaramatera@cgsusa.org

Mary Mirrione
National Director
marymirrione@cgsusa.org



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

The National Association will work to make the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and the writings of Sofia Cavalletti and Gianna Gobbi accessible to all. Recognizing the need for clear and available communications, the National Association will avail itself of written, voice and visual electronic media to maintain contact with catechists and others.

The National Association will provide formation in accordance 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 leaders' handbooks. In addition to current sites, courses in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd will be held in colleges, universities, and seminaries across the United States.

The National Association will support the work of the International Council and work in harmony with it.

Material changes and new materials as recommended by the International Council will be translated and distributed to formation leaders and catechists through the National Association. The Association will provide a manual at each level with accurate and most excellent plans and schematics for constructing atrium materials.

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. The National Association will provide help and resources to assist catechists in adapting this work to the liturgy of their denominations.

The National Association will establish and maintain historical archives of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, making them accessible to members.



2020 Vision – Be Thou Our Vision

More than fifteen hundred years ago, “Be Thou My Vision,” was written by the sixth century Irish poet and saint, St. Dallán Forgaill. It is said that the Monks chanted his poetry and that St. Dallán lost his sight, which inspired the first line, “Be Thou my vision.” Legend has it that he recovered his sight after writing a poem praising St. Colomba, a patron saint of poets; and it is said that he was the one to banish the Loch Ness monster! The hymn is a prayer—a prayer that Christ will be our vision—our best thought—our presence—our light. We should have been singing this song all along!

We spent more than two years writing our 2020 Vision, five if you count the Sustainability Plan! 20/20 Vision! We were so clever to use a term that expresses normal visual acuity, the clarity of vision measured at twenty feet. We knew it could not be perfect vision. We just wanted a clarity of vision, to look to our future with hope, to 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” how our mission and purpose actively impact the world in which we live and the children and adults we serve. We thought we were at a moment in our history where we could, must, discern a sustainable future for our association that was clear, compelling, and inclusive. As we addressed the practicalities of being a national nonprofit corporation, we held to our guiding principles. We sought to find ways to become more financially sustainable and stable, trusting that we were following God’s plan for our Association. We wanted a clear, compelling, and inclusive vision that could encourage extraordinary development in fulfilling our mission.

And then COVID-19 hit. We found what was truly needed for our Vision was simply, profoundly, Him! What would it mean if Christ were truly our vision? It would simply mean this—instead of seeing the world through human eyes, we would see the world through Christ’s eyes. How would we then see? Michael Lentz states something to remember: “The word vision is a noun that has two meanings: it can be a thing seen and it can also be the sense or faculty by which a thing is seen. It is a thing we see, and it is the way we see a thing. The opening line of the hymn becomes more complex when both definitions of vision are considered. In one sense, we are asking God to become the thing seen, asking for God to appear before us to be observed and worshipped. We pray that God might become the thing most desired and dreamed for. This is evident in the final line of the stanza: “waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.” May this vision to be real when awake and vivid in sleep. Waking or sleeping, eyes opened or closed, God is who we desire to see.

Perhaps it can also mean that we are asking God to become our capacity for sight. Perhaps our sight can be so transformed that we would become capable of seeing only through Him, able to see only because of Him. This is a worldview, this way of seeing fundamentally changes the orientation of our sight and influences our perceptions of the surrounding world. In the opening line of the hymn, with the poet and saint we too can ask for God, Himself, to become our vision, our way of seeing, our sight.”

We continue to work through our 20/20 Vision Plan, and we do so singing: “Be Thou our Vision...”



THE WEBSITE

Recognizing the need for clear and available communications, the United States Association will avail itself of written, voice and visual electronic media to maintain contact with catechists and others.



June 27th, 2020 marked the first anniversary of our new website. Over this time, our CGSUSA community – visitors, members, formation leaders, and CGSUSA staff – have learned much about this new platform, and it is now our home. Our site lets us communicate, share, and build community dynamically and flexibly. Our website is easily navigable on smartphones and tablets, and CGSUSA staff can add new pages and menu links with ease as the need arises. And 2020 has offered many such opportunities! Certainly, no one foresaw the challenges 2020 has brought. Our new platform has allowed us to respond quickly and to continue to adjust our proffered resources as our shared situation evolves.

Kerri Mecke-Lozano’s new podcast, *The Good Shepherd, and the Child*, has been a gift to our association! This represents the utilization of new-to-CGSUSA technology to share the CGSUSA story and to build community in a new way; it arrives just when we need new ways of connecting. CGSUSA will continue to leverage technology in ways that augment and expand the legacy of our founders while remaining faithful to the 32 Points of Reflection that have always guided our path.

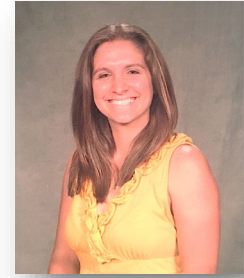


Elizabeth Warfield

2020-2021 will be a year of uncertainty, that much is certain! We are all united in our inability to predict what comes next. Will children return to school? Will atria open? Will formation courses resume? How will CGSUSA respond? What role will emerging technologies – and the ubiquity of these resources – play in the CGSUSA response? For my part, I hope to continue to find ways to offer technical support, automation, and creative solutions to the challenges we will undoubtedly face in the 2020-2021 year. I have faith that we will, as always, balance the needs of children, families, catechists, members, and formation leaders while preserving the legacy of our founders.

Elizabeth Warfield

elizabethwarfield@cgsusa.org



Kerri Mecke-Lozano



FORMATION

The 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.

CGSUSA is privileged to sustain and advance the legacy of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd in the United States through catechist formation. The Association serves as THE resource to the CGS community by forming both catechists and formation leaders in this method. We also offer guidance to catechists and church and school leadership in creating and maintaining atrium environments that nurture the religious life of children.



Formation Leaders at the Formation Leaders Conference

This past year we:

Sponsored the Formation Leaders Conference in Nashville, TN for 100 formation leaders (pictured) who represent our country as well as those from six other countries. We were also able to record these proceedings to provide ongoing formation for those who could not attend. In February 2020, 17 formation leaders gathered in Atlanta as a pilot group to deepen an understanding of Level I content and build consistency for catechist formation. In response to the COVID-19 crisis, this office offered assistance and resources to formation leaders and hosting site coordinators looking at how to continue CGS formation. In addition, we embarked on a new adventure to serve all formation leaders with an 8-week summer virtual

Level I Study Group with 99 formation leaders attending. For Fiscal Year 2019-2020 we registered 157 courses at all levels and have given 1,172 certificates. Overall, we have 250 CGS courses either registered to begin or in process. These are being served by approximately 164 of our 200 CGSUSA formation leaders and this office. While most of our formation leaders lead courses in the United States, we also work with formation leaders serving courses internationally and provide CGSUSA certificates in languages of those countries where CGSUSA Formation Leaders are serving where there is not an existing CGS Association. The Formation Leader Discernment Process prayerfully seeks to determine a catechist's readiness to serve the role as formation leader. In Fiscal Year 2019-2020, the Formation Leader Discernment Committee recognized 14 Formation Leaders. We continually and happily respond to a wide range of inquiries and concerns regarding CGS catechist formation.

-Karen Maxwell, Director of Formation



Karen Maxwell,
karenmaxwell@cgsusa.org



Debbie Dobson, Course Registrar,
debbiedobson@cgsusa.org



MEMBERSHIP

Regional groups will be encouraged in every part of the nation. The United States Association will establish and maintain links with dioceses and denominations represented by the membership and other formation and educational groups.

As we look toward the future and reflect upon this past year, it is simple to see nearly all the efforts of membership have resulted in advancement and growth. While the pandemic has interrupted some of the endeavors that began in 2019 and early 2020, we have seen and experienced the Lord's presence in many unforeseen ways since then; and are grateful for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The Membership Committee has grown and now includes members from each of the seven regions of CGSUSA.

In early March 2020, CGSUSA created a catechist support Facebook page which partners with our official Facebook page as a place for catechists to discuss resources for the child, the family, and the parish in response to coronavirus. The membership office assisted with the resources for our members during the Covid-19 pandemic, having written most of the 20+ Parent Pages, procured videos, and loaded the content to the Covid-19 webpage from March through June. In April and May, the membership office, along with other staff, created a template of resources to offer to our members during the summer months. I assisted with the Summer Seminars, in the development of the framework for the event and by presenting during the two Zoom meetings. Additional resources will be created to serve the child, the family, the catechist, the parish, and the diocese for the fall. Membership count grew this year to over 2,950 members, a four percent growth over the previous year. This seems to be our average for the last several years. We continue to work toward the creation of new members as well as member retention. On a national level, the median increase is 5% overall, with nearly sixty percent of associations reporting a 1% to 5% increase in the past several years.



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

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

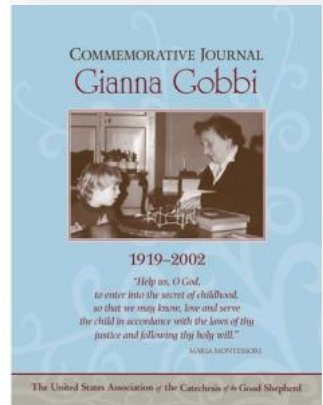
Mary Heinrich

maryheinrich@cgsusa.org



RESOURCES FROM OUR eSTORE

The United States Association will work to make the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and the writings of Sofia Cavalletti and Gianna Gobbi accessible to all.



Our eStore provides publications, raw materials and unfinished resources for the Atrium, as well as those items that seem to be more challenging to find or not as readily available, such as practical life sets, brass items for the Altar work, and Good Shepherd statues from Rome. In 2019 the store grew to offer more than 250 items and expanded to include Orthodox materials, a History of the Gifts starter kit, and many beautiful gifts for catechists.

To assist in catechist formation and to disseminate the wisdom of the founders as widely as possible in the English-speaking world, CGSUSA has overseen the translation and publication of 72 books, beginning with the founders' seminal works. This past year we published five new books including the 3rd edition of *The Religious Potential of the Child* and the 2nd edition of the companion book *The Religious Potential of Child 6 to 12 Years Old*. CGSUSA continues to publish authors who illuminate the spiritual life of the child.

This year we celebrated Gianna Gobbi's Centenary. The 2019 Journal explores what we have discovered about the child in the life of the atrium and the particular gifts Gianna brought to understanding the child through the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. We also collected Gianna's past articles into a Commemorative Journal celebrating her life.

My pastoral response for the past year was not only assisting customers with the website, orders, and questions but also being supportive of the CGSUSA staff. The staff has gone through so much this past year and we could not have done it alone. I hope I was a helpful ear to listen to each one and provide support. I was the cheering squad to push the smiles on the phone, video chats and at meetings to all. The team has done so much to provide for the association and its constituents that I wish I could do a "shout out" to the world. There is much work at the national level with all the gears that need to be oiled constantly to keep things running full speed. I hope that I was able to keep oiling most of the gears and do the little things that assist everyone else with their work. Please remember, your purchase has purpose!



Lisa Kelley
lisakelley@cgsusa.org



STEWARDSHIP OF THE CGS GIFT

Sustaining and advancing the legacy in a financially sustainable way.

I have been at CGS two years, now entering my third year here as business manager and friend. In the past two years, we have moved from a heavy paper process to a more automated regimen. With that comes a new form of documenting and accountability. Mary and I have discussed the audit preparation for some time and are pleased to be able to add some preliminary comments to the 2020 Vision goal.

We began interviews with auditors and controllers, and both agreed that YTPC (Your Part-Time Controller, LLC) was the best fit for what we wanted to accomplish. We knew the audit would be the final goal; however, we needed contemporary expertise to help us with the detail needed to get there.



We had to quickly pivot with changing needs and information in light of the Covid-19 pandemic. We applied for relief under the CARES Act Payroll Protection Program on April 3, the first day applications were accepted. After waiting for weeks, our application was approved on May 13. We are so grateful that these funds allowed CGSUSA to keep staff working in the short term. The monies we spent are in compliance with the legislation and so we are expecting the loan to be forgiven. Of course, we are also so grateful for the support of our members and patrons who stepped in with their support.

I am so humbled to be a part of this ministry. I am amazed at the quick and creative response the staff and board have had during this pandemic. The reaction has been with Christ at the center and the children and families in focus. The podcasts and resources provided were pearls for all who gleaned from them. As the courses across the nation were cancelled, I saw such a hunger in the Tina Lillig Memorial Fund scholarship recipients to do what they could to acquire the training they so desired. All but two of them were able to reschedule and find a course that would work for them.

The biggest accomplishment has been working through the multiple workflows with eTapestry, which is now our main repository for record keeping and inventory. Assisting the team in managing the integrity of the data and ensuring that the financials are matching the data has been a successful team effort. I have been blessed to read and hear the stories of our team, our members, and those who are interested in the religious life of children. I am honored to support and communicate with so many who see the fruit of this ministry.

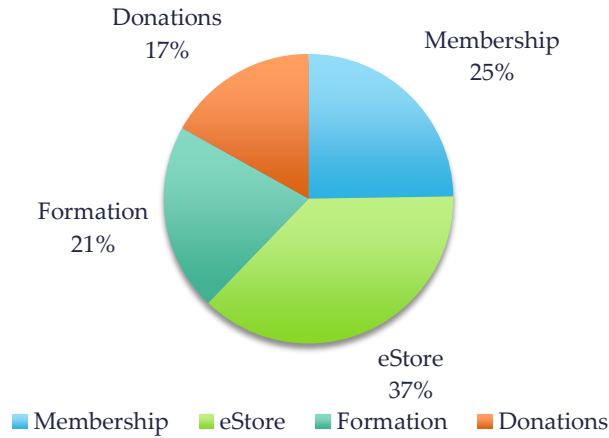
Molly Murphy

mollymurphy@cgsusa.org



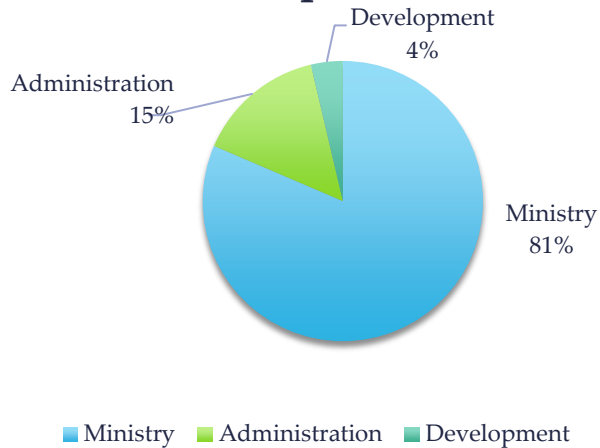
Profit & Loss July 2019 – June 2020 Total Revenue \$589,890.00

Income



Profit & Loss July 2018 – June 2019 Total Expenses \$581,944.00

Expenses



CLOSING BALANCE SHEET June 30, 2020

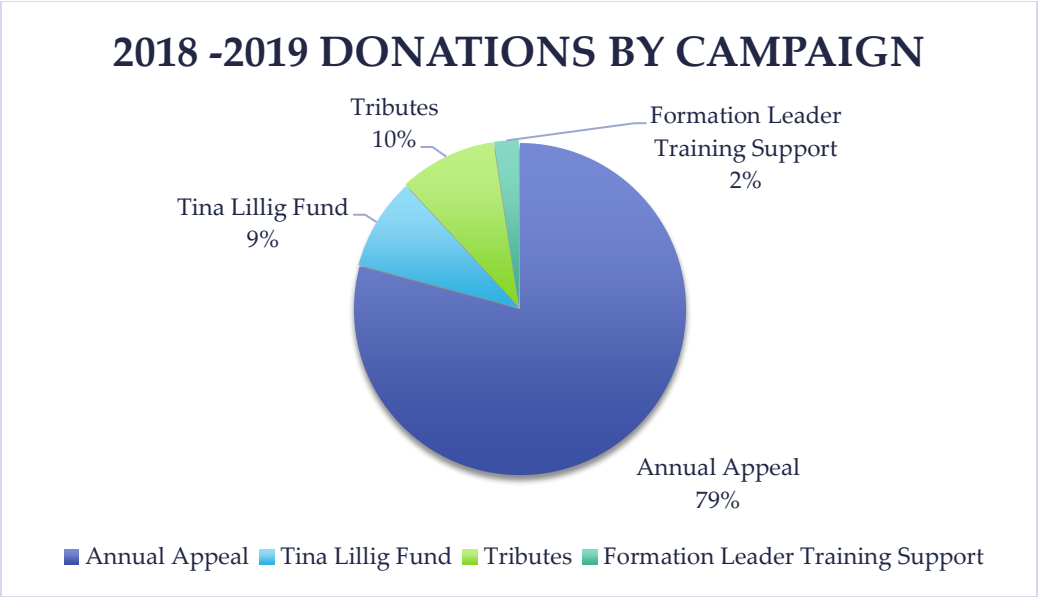
ASSETS

Total Checking/Savings	\$ 234,303.00
Total Other Current Assets	\$ 87,327.00
Total Current Assets	\$322,260.00
Total Fixed Assets	\$108,711.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$430,971.00

LIABILITES & EQUITY

Total Accounts Payable	\$ 3,226.00
Total Other Current Liabilities (PPP Loan)	\$ 61,090.00
Total Liabilities	\$ 64,316.00
Total Equity	\$366,655.00
TOTAL LIABILITES & EQUITY	\$430,971.00

With grateful thanks to our members, donors, store customers and those who share their time, talent, and treasure with us, helping us to continue to live out our mission and purpose.



635 Donors
 932 Total Gifts
 \$138,900.00 Donations Raised
 \$150 Average Gift

GIFTS GENEROUSLY GIVEN, GRATEFULLY RECIEVED

Our discipline each year in setting mission 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 development 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 have simply tried to serve the child and, in doing so, have inspired many people to join us in our efforts.

RESPONSE TO THE GIFT

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 by Major Gift donations by those with the capacity and heart for the child.

Annual Appeal Each year we send out a call for support of our mission. Gifts to the Annual Appeal provide vital operating support and help to sustain and grow our Formation, Publications and Membership plans.

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: CGSUSA is grateful for any gift, large or small, that supports the work of nurturing the child's relationship with God. Donations in the form of recurring gifts or multi-year pledges help us to plan responsibly. Donors have the option to create monthly, quarterly, or annual giving schedules.

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: A bequest through your will or trust is one of the most simple and popular ways to make a gift that will live on after you. You can make a gift 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. 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.



TRIBUTES OFFERED

Tribute gifts are a unique way to celebrate, honor, and remember those people who make a difference as well as the occasions that matter. This year, *in memory* of those who have died, many gave gifts to their lasting legacy. And many recognized and offered gifts *in honor* of their family, special friends, catechists or formation leaders, a wedding, anniversary, birthday, or retirement. These personalized tribute gifts sustain CGSUSA and our mission to support catechists, parents, and others in the Church and beyond, as they grow in their understanding of the religious potential of children. Your gift is a thoughtful and essential way to show you care while making a difference in the religious life of children, their families, and communities. We send a personalized card acknowledging your thoughtful donation to the recipient of your choice. Each card features artwork by a child in CGS. These cards make wonderful holiday, birthday, baby shower, or celebration gifts. Unlike traditional gifts, a tribute card has a profound impact. It shows not only that you care about your recipients but also that you are actively participating in CGSUSA's mission.

This year the following tributes were offered "In Memory of"

<i>Katherine Aridas</i>	<i>Rev. Stephen Adrian</i>	<i>Alphonse Ambrosia</i>	<i>Robert Anderson</i>	<i>Jean Mary Benware</i>
<i>Marilyn Birkenfield</i>	<i>John Bogumill</i>	<i>Branden Bougher</i>	<i>James Gregory Brett</i>	<i>Tim Carr</i>
<i>Sofia Cavalletti</i>	<i>Maria Christlieb</i>	<i>Margery Crotty</i>	<i>John Galante</i>	<i>Bob Greer</i>
<i>Jim Georgie</i>	<i>Vincent Gerber</i>	<i>Gianna Gobbi</i>	<i>Nancy C Hardy</i>	<i>Anna Lee Huseman</i>
<i>Willie Faye Huseman</i>	<i>Garret Martin Ihler</i>	<i>Stephanie Jenner</i>	<i>William Dean Kohn</i>	<i>Jeanne Marie Kuhl</i>
<i>Rebecca Lamb</i>	<i>Rosie Lannon</i>	<i>Tina Lillig</i>	<i>Fr. Doug Lorig</i>	<i>Steve Maroney</i>
<i>Betty Mattas</i>	<i>Linda Arne Gasch Machmeier</i>	<i>Mary McDonald</i>	<i>Rev. Fr. Joseph McGaffin</i>	<i>Amy McQuaide</i>
<i>Diane Mees</i>	<i>Roma Miller</i>	<i>Mary Mitchell</i>	<i>Cyndy Mulhern</i>	<i>Jennifer Munoz</i>
<i>Margit L Murphy</i>	<i>Chuck Pilon</i>	<i>Nolan Francis Porteous</i>	<i>Mr. & Mrs. William Shepstone</i>	<i>Dwayne Schulte</i>
<i>Dan Schumucker</i>	<i>Celia Margaret Gonzales Torres</i>	<i>Evangeline Sobczyk</i>	<i>Sandie Sylvester</i>	<i>Chris Venha</i>
<i>Mildred Warren</i>	<i>Alexander Weis</i>	<i>Stephen Weiss</i>	<i>Joshua Welsh</i>	<i>Maria Winter</i>



This year the following tributes were offered "In Honor of"

<i>Fr. Chris Aridas</i>	<i>Rachel Barden</i>	<i>Carlos Beltran</i>	<i>Keith Boehme</i>	<i>Mary "Beb" Calvetti</i>
<i>Kathy Cummings</i>	<i>Debbie Dobson</i>	<i>Leo Ernestes</i>	<i>Annette Eyrich</i>	<i>Patti Franz</i>
<i>Anna Guida</i>	<i>Trinka Hamel</i>	<i>Christina Hansen</i>	<i>Mary Heinrich</i>	<i>Micki Hill</i>
<i>Ray S House</i>	<i>Dawn Howe</i>	<i>Kate Kappes</i>	<i>Lisa Kelley</i>	<i>Julie & Kevin Kilian</i>
<i>Amanda Kramer</i>	<i>Margaret Klinkhammer</i>	<i>Sr Lilia, MC</i>	<i>John Lillig</i>	<i>Sr Yvette Mallow, OSB</i>
<i>Barbara Matera</i>	<i>Karen Maxwell</i>	<i>Ernie McCormack</i>	<i>Angela Miller</i>	<i>Celine Mitchell</i>
<i>Don & Mary Mirrione</i>	<i>Monsignor Brendan Muldoon</i>	<i>Molly Murphy</i>	<i>Katushka Olave</i>	<i>Mary Beth Palko</i>
<i>Claire Paglia</i>	<i>Claudia Petursson</i>	<i>Lynn Robinson</i>	<i>Becky Rochford</i>	<i>Kathy Rock</i>
<i>Rebekah Rojcewicz</i>	<i>Michael Joseph Ruli</i>	<i>Joanie Rymysza</i>	<i>Susan Stuhlsatz-Reese</i>	<i>Beverly Sanders</i>
<i>Jean and Ralph Schlueter</i>	<i>Donna Turner</i>	<i>Lourdes Vazquez</i>	<i>Elizabeth Warfield</i>	<i>The Children</i>

Make a donation today and dedicate it to a friend, loved one, or even to a parish doing good work in the world today. These cards make wonderful holiday, birthday, baby shower, or celebration gifts. Unlike traditional gifts, a tribute card has a profound impact. It not only shows that you care about your recipients but that you are actively participating in our mission to assist the involvement of children and adults in a common religious.



OUR DONORS

As a nonprofit organization, CGSUSA relies on the generosity of donors who have both the heart and capacity to support its mission. Historically, most of our donors have been the catechists and formation leaders themselves. In falling in love with the work, they finance their formation, the purchase of books, the making of materials, and opening atria, and then additionally, they join as a member and support the Annual Appeal. CGSUSA does not seek growth for growth's sake. It seeks growth in its community to respond to the organic growth for CGS. Those who share CGSUSA's passion for nurturing the child's relationship with God but who do not feel called to serve as catechists top a long list of beneficiaries of the work that CGSUSA seeks to cultivate.

Anonymous Friend	Jana Bennett	Lisa Brown	Anna Clark	Julie Curry	Neil C. Duprey
Ruth Abrahams	Emilia Benyo	Clare Browne	Carla Cloninger	Pam Daily	Diane DuTeil
Ruby Adaya	Danka Berg	Becky Brummett	Sarah Cobb	Alexandra Daley	Irene Dyer
Jennifer Alcorn	Dr. James Berkenbaugh, Jr	Nora Bucy	Danuta Coble	Alexis Daley	Victoria Ebell
Rosamaria Alvarez	Stephen Bernier	Thomas & Margaret	Alice Coke	Leslie Davey	Sharon Egan
Lois C. Amador	Eileen Betley	Burba	Ginger (Virginia M)	Luisa de Lannoy	Sharon Eggenberger
Dr. Alphonse and Leslie	Geri Biersbach	Mary Beth Burgoyne	Cole	Denise DeCapria	Robert Eikel
Ambrosia	Kristen Bina	Cecilia Burke	Juanita Coleman	Claudine Delin	Pia Elsesser
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					Andrea Frank



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	Edith Huseman	Kristen Korneliussen		Janine Moore	



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*Each of you
should give
what you have
decided in your
heart to give,
not reluctantly
or under
compulsion,
for God loves a
cheerful giver.*

2 Corinthians 9:7



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The Catechist's Husband	The Montgomery Family Foundation
The Foley and Fredendall Charitable Fund	The Good Shepherd Center of Memphis
Vision of Glory Lutheran Church	



OUR 2019 ANNUAL APPEAL

Thanks to you, Rachel continues to “rejoice in the Lord, always!”

We are so grateful to all who have donated to the Annual Appeal. We know these are challenging times in so many ways and we appreciate your generosity. CGSUSA, like many nonprofits, has been challenged by loss of revenue as the major focus of our work – offering formation for adults – has happened far less often during this time of social distancing. Most summer courses were postponed or canceled to protect the health of participants and formation leaders.

With the postponement of courses also came a loss in the sales of books and materials!

We are so grateful that your donations to the Annual Appeal allowed CGSUSA to keep staff working and resources available! We rely on our donors to keep us going in good times and bad, and you never let us down!



LITTLE LAM

Rachel depicts the Pearl Merchant gazing at his pearl, yet thinking of the Nativity. She writes the meaning of her name “Little Lam(b)” instead of Rachel

Rachel, Age 5
The Good Shepherd Catholic
Montessori School, Cincinnati, OH

What a gift we have been given – to witness and to be fed by the fruit of Rachel’s contemplation! As a catechist and board member of CGSUSA, I am continually honored to receive these expressions from children that reveal the reality and profundity of their relationship with God. What a glorious work joins us together! As advocates for the spiritual lives of children, it is my prayer that this image will enkindle in you an abundance of joy!

Claudia Pétursson

CGSUSA Board of Trustees – 2019 Annual Appeal Chair



OUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMMITTEES

Development Committee

The Development Committee advises, supports, and collaborates with the Board of Trustees and the staff of CGSUSA. The responsibilities of the Development Committee include:

-
- working with board and staff to recommend realistic fundraising goals and creating appropriate action plans to achieve goals
- reviewing donations history on an ongoing basis and making recommendations for appropriate actions
- providing recommendations and monitor plans and goals for routine communication with donors, cultivating Major Gifts (\$1000 or more), increasing member donations, expanding constituency base (within the limits of available human and technology resources)
- helping generate creative content and realistic methods for the above.

Engagement Committee

The Engagement Committee collaborates with the Formation Director and Membership Coordinator to establish rapport with all communities for the purpose of making CGS accessible to all, honoring the spiritual values of childhood and nurturing the formation of a consciousness which is oriented to the construction of the history of salvation in justice and solidarity. The responsibilities of the Engagement Committee may include:

- Assessing CGSUSA's website, written publicity, and social media presence for representation of diversity and inclusion.
- Identifying and engaging faith communities in social or cultural settings that are not currently served by CGS.
- Attending worship and/or other events to experience the culture of the faith community, especially as it pertains to children.
- Approaching leaders to listen to their experiences of faith formation for young people and to share basic information on CGS.
- Inviting interested people in these communities to visit an atrium.
- Offering to do a seed-planting event for CGS in their community.
- Inviting interested people to a formation course, listening for any obstacles, and attempting to overcome them.
- Supporting their efforts to establish an atrium in their community to the extent possible.
- Encouraging formation at higher levels of CGS.

Episcopal Committee

The Episcopal Committee supports, advises, and collaborates with the National Director and the Director of Formation on CGSUSA issues as they relate to the Episcopal community. The responsibilities of the Episcopal Committee may include:

- adapting formation content to meet the needs of Episcopal communities while staying true to CGS methodology and guiding principles
- adapting materials to meet the needs of Episcopal communities while staying true to CGS methodology and guiding principles
- evangelizing within and across Episcopal communities
- encouraging, supporting, and engaging Episcopalians in the work of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
- developing Episcopalians' sponsorship for special events and financial support for the work of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd



Executive Committee

The Executive Committee serves the entire Board by providing preliminary review and clarity of items to be considered for future Board meetings. The responsibilities of the Executive Committee include:

- providing orientation and education to the Board in areas that include (but are not limited to) governance, human resources, development, and legal issues
- initiating a Strategic Plan
- establishing and overseeing working groups, as needed
- monitoring Board action items

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee advises, supports, and collaborates with the Board of Trustees and staff of CGSUSA in developing and maintaining effective financial practices. The responsibilities of the Finance Committee include:

- developing and maintaining sound financial and bookkeeping procedures
- monitoring the financial status of the association
- reviewing and making recommendations in consultation with hired, professional accountants on decisions that have a financial impact to CGSUSA

Formation Committee

The Formation Committee supports, advises, and collaborates with the Director of Formation in discerning the direction and content of the CGS Catechist Formation. The responsibilities of the Formation Committee include:

- supporting the development of, and collaborating in catechist formation and formation leader courses and resources
- clarifying current materials including updates, on an ongoing basis
- identifying and advising areas of ongoing catechist and formation leader formation
- supporting, advising, and collaborating on international work that surrounds formation, the CGS method, materials, catechist observations, and publications (including translations)

Formation Leader Discernment Committee

The Formation Leader Discernment Committee supports, advises, and collaborates with the Director of Formation in recognizing new formation leaders. The responsibilities of the Formation Leader Discernment Committee include:

- identifying the criteria desired in and the process to become a formation leader
- prayerfully discerning, evaluating and determining a catechist's readiness to become a formation leader
- recognizing those who have met and completed these steps

Governance and Nominating Committee



The Governance and Nominating Committee is a Board Committee that develops, oversees, and performs ongoing evaluation of the Association's policies. The committee monitors compliance of the Board, staff, members, and committees with CGSUSA bylaws. This committee also prepares a slate of candidates selected from nominations submitted by the membership for open positions on the Board of Trustees. The election is held at the Annual Meeting of CGSUSA members. The responsibilities of the Governance and Nominating Committee include:

- developing, overseeing, and performing ongoing evaluation of CGSUSA policies and bylaws every three years and recommending any needed changes
- recommending procedures for evaluating the Board and the Chairperson
- recommending ways to orient and educate Board members
- reviewing the job descriptions of responsibilities and expectations for Board members and the Board Chairperson
- recommending nominees for election and reelection to the Board, by utilizing a competency matrix that profiles the Board's current makeup compared to its list of needed competencies as a means of analyzing areas to emphasize in recruiting new Board members
- developing and implementing succession planning for the Board, including nominations, reelections, and elections of board members
- overseeing and reviewing the board's self-assessment and improvement process every one or two years
- engaging in ongoing consultation with legal counsel regarding legal and regulatory issues that affect governance

Journal Committee

The Journal Committee collaborates with the National Director and Liturgy Training Publications (LTP) to prepare, edit, and produce the annual CGSUSA Journal. The specific responsibilities of the Journal Committee include:

- consider theme for Journal beyond current year
- identify authors and solicit articles
- send releases to authors
- assign editors for articles
- complete edits and style to submit to LTP editor
- write letter from the Editors, back page
- determine art, prayers, and pearls for Journal
- receive and proof galleys

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee supports, advises, and collaborates with the Board of Trustees and staff of CGSUSA to invite and welcome people from a broad spectrum of Christian denominations and geographic regions to become members of CGSUSA. The specific responsibilities of the Membership Committee include:

- inspiring members to remain and respond through their service in both the atrium and in the national association
- planning and cultivating membership drives (such as highlighting member benefits, utilizing social media for announcements, etc.)
- determining and securing mustard seeds or other appropriate annual membership gifts



- providing resources that support current members (up-to-date Membership Welcome Kits, regular communication with members, new member newsletters, etc.)
- providing resources to serve the children and their families in the atrium community (monthly parent newsletters)
- supporting the Membership Coordinator in implementing a Membership Marketing Plan that includes contacting and re-inviting “lapsed” CGS members
- providing updated information to the Membership Coordinator for the CGSUSA website, including the Atrium Locator
- cultivating ongoing fellowship and connection to the national and international community of CGS catechists
- strengthening and supporting regional work
- acquiring new members and retain and support existing members by responding to their needs as individuals, parishes, and regions
- encouraging active engagement of current members

Methodist Committee

The Methodist Committee supports, advises, and collaborates with the National Director and the Director of Formation on CGSUSA issues as they relate to the Methodist community. The responsibilities of the Methodist Committee may include:

- adapting formation content to meet the needs of Methodist communities while staying true to CGS methodology and guiding principles
- adapting materials to meet the needs of Methodists communities while staying true to CGS methodology and guiding principles
- evangelizing within and across Methodist communities
- encouraging, supporting, and engaging Methodists in the work of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
- developing Methodist sponsorship for special events and financial support for the work of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Orthodox Committee

The Orthodox Committee supports, advises, and collaborates with the National Director and the Director of Formation on CGSUSA issues as they relate to Orthodox communities. The responsibilities of the Orthodox Committee include:

- adapting formation content and materials to meet the needs of Orthodox communities, staying true to CGS methodology and principles
- evangelizing within and across Orthodox communities
- encouraging, supporting, and engaging Orthodox Christians in the work of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
- developing Orthodox sponsorship for special events and financial support for the work of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

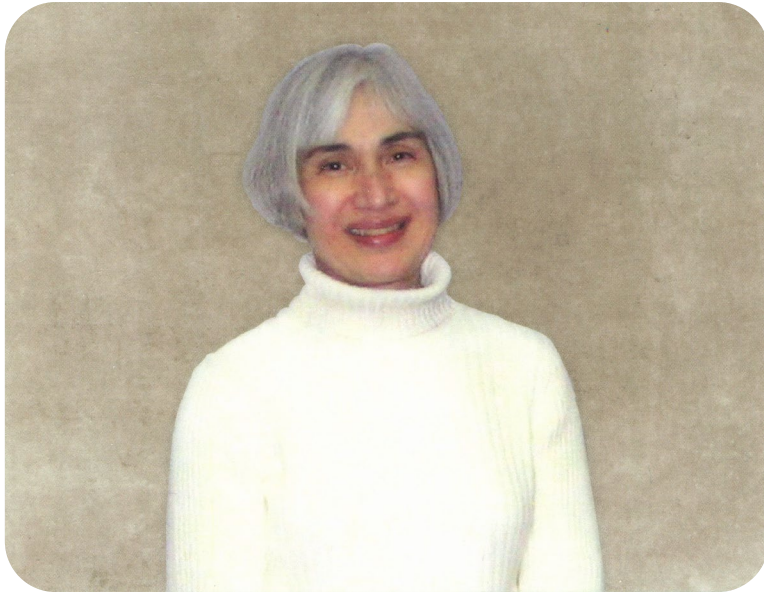
Spanish Speaking Committee

The Spanish Speaking Committee supports, advises, and collaborates with the National Director, the Spanish Speaking Coordinator, and the Director of Formation on CGSUSA issues as they relate to Spanish-speaking communities. The responsibilities of the Spanish Speaking Committee include:

- assisting with material manual translation
- assisting in prioritizing CGSUSA documents that need to be translated into Spanish
- assisting in identifying translators



- communicating the needs of Spanish-speaking communities in developing more bi-lingual atriea
- evangelizing within and across Spanish-speaking communities.



Tina Lillig Memorial Fund Committee

The Tina Lillig Memorial Fund (TLM) Committee accepts and reviews applications for scholarships and grants, and recommends the disbursement of financial aid for scholarships, grants and missionary outreach that support the mission and vision of CGSUSA. The Tina Lillig Memorial Fund was created to support the growth and development of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd through catechist formation, missionary outreach, and the work of the United States Association of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGSUSA). The responsibilities of the TLM Fund Committee include:

- compiling requests twice a year, verifying membership and course registration of applicants
- verifying course attendance of scholarship recipients
- discerning and recommending support/award amounts for National Director's final approval
- following up as needed with applicants and recipients
- collecting testimonials from recipients for impact report

Over \$145,000 has been distributed since the inception of this fund in 2002. Fifty catechists have been supported in their formation with the average award of \$250. More than 75 communities have been supported with grants for courses and materials. When you make a gift to the Tina Lillig Memorial Fund, you affirm with us that the greatest gift we can offer children is the time and space to enjoy a relationship with God.



CONTACT INFORMATION

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