



CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
SONFLOWER REGION

The Grapevine

Fall 2019

“Follow The Son”

Vol. 13, Issue 2

Mustard Seed Moments

**SERVING THE
CHILDREN
OF KANSAS AND
NORTHWEST
MISSOURI**

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cgsksmo@gmail.com

In Catechesis of the Good Shepherd we spend a lot of time reflecting on the Kingdom of God. Jesus tells us the Kingdom of God is like the mustard seed, the precious pearl, the growing seed, the hidden treasure, the leaven. What do these things have in common? They are small. They are hidden. They are shrouded in mystery. They have value which grows over time, value that grows when they are uncovered, value that grows when they are acted upon. As we enter into the final weeks of ordinary time before Advent begins, we enter into these mysteries with the children.

We have all spent much time thinking about what Jesus wants us to hear in these parables about the Kingdom of God. Today, let us think about our role in bringing about the Kingdom of God.

In the Second Vatican Council Dogmatic Constitution entitled *Lumen Gentium* (Light of the Nations), the Church teaches that “the Lord also desires that his kingdom be spread by the lay faithful: the kingdom of truth and life, the kingdom of holiness and grace, the kingdom of justice, love and peace. In this kingdom, creation itself will be delivered from the slavery of corruption into the freedom of the glory of the sons of God.” (LG 36) What an invitation this is! What a calling!

Maybe this seems overwhelming to you? Before you throw up your hands and say, “Impossible! I am too little to help bring about such a kingdom!” remember Jesus tells us that the Kingdom begins as the tiniest mustard seed, as the minuscule grain of yeast! God does not

ask us to do great things to bring about the Kingdom of God. Rather, He says to us, “You can do small things for me with great love, and in this way bring about My Kingdom. These small seeds will turn into the great bush which will shelter my flock.”

October began with the feast of a great saint of the Little Way, St. Therese of Lisieux, the Little Flower. She, through her life, teaches us much about spreading the Kingdom in small ways, in, shall I say, mustard seed moments. If you have never met her, I highly recommend becoming her friend through her autobiography, *Story of a Soul*. She will encourage you as you spread the seeds of the Kingdom. I leave you with two quotes from her:

“Miss no single opportunity of making some small sacrifice, here by a smiling look, there by a kindly word; always doing the smallest right and doing it all for love.”

“Our Lord does not so much look at the greatness of our actions, or even at their difficulty, as at the love with which we do them.”

And two questions: What are the mustard seed moments of your life which have allowed the Kingdom to blossom within your own heart? What can be the mustard seed moment through which you spread the Gospel today?

—Alicia Darnell, Newsletter
Chair

2019 Ongoing & Upcoming Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Trainings:

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) adult formation training will not only provide you with the skill you need to lead an atrium, but will also provide an opportunity for you to enrich your own faith and grow in your relationship with the Good Shepherd. Please prayerfully consider how the Lord might be calling you to get involved with CGS!

LEVEL I FORMATION COURSES

LEVEL I, PART I & II

1. Course Number: 1-1601
Location: 37174 St Hwy VV, Conception, MO 64433
Age Level: 3-6
Contact: Maureen Stone, kelandmo@gmail.com or
Mandie DeVries, mandiedevries@gmail.com
Course Level: Level I (parts I & II)
Course Dates: Jul 11-14, Aug 1-4, Nov 7-10, 2019
(Thursdays 1pm-8:30pm, Fridays 8:30am-5:00pm,
Saturdays 8:30am-8:30pm with materials making,
Sundays 9am-4:30pm)
Formation Leader: Mandie DeVries

LEVEL I, PART I

2. Course Number: 1-1696
Age Level: 3-6
Contact: Diane Jones, 913-402-3941,
cgs@stmichaelcp.org
Location: St. Michael the Archangel, Leawood
Course Dates: Sept 21, Oct 26, Nov 23, 2019, Jan 25,
Feb 22, March 28, April 25, 2020
Class time will be 9:00 am to 4:30 pm
Formation Leader: Marilee Quinn & Jeanne Wichman

LEVEL I, PART I

3. Course Number: TBA
Age Level: 3-6
Contact: Diane Olsen, dolsen@htlenexa.org
Location: St. Michael the Archangel, Leawood
Course Dates: Beginning in November 2019 or January
2020 pending enough registrants.
Class time: Tuesdays 11:30 am-2:30 pm
Formation Leader: Diane Olsen

LEVEL I, PART II

4. Course Number: 1-1510
Age Level: 3-6
Contact: Alicia Darnell, darnell.alicia@gmail.com
Location: St Charles Borromeo Academy, 804 NE
Shady Lane Dr, KC, MO 64118
Course Dates: Sep 21, Oct 19, Nov 16, 2019; Jan 18,
Feb 15, Mar 14, Apr 4, 2020; 9:00-4:30
Formation Leader: Jo Thornley-Cox & Diane Olsen

LEVEL II FORMATION COURSES

LEVEL II, PART I

5. Course Number: 2-563
Location: Holy Trinity, Lenexa
Age Level: 6-9
Contact: Pat Domann
Course Dates: Fall 2019 – Sept 28, Oct 19, Nov 16,
2019, Jan 25, Feb 15, March 21, May 2, 2020; Part 2:
TBD
Time: 9:00 am to 4:30 pm
Formation Leader: Marilee Quinn & Jeanne Wichman
(& Karen Schmeer)

LEVEL II, PART II

6. Course Number: 2-546
Location: 411 Pioneer St, Seneca, KS 66538
Age Level: 6-9
Contact: Angie Hammes, 785-294-0442
angiehammes@gmail.com
Course Dates: Part 2: TBD (Part I was summer intensive)
Formation Leader: Marilee Quinn & Jeanne Wichman
7. Course Number: 2-547
Location: Holy Trinity, Lenexa
Age Level: 6-9
Contact: Pam Riordan, priordan@archkck.org
Course Dates: July 17-19 & August 6-9, 2020
Formation Leader: Diane Olsen & Jo Thornley-Cox

LEVEL III FORMATION COURSES

LEVEL III, PART I & II

8. Course Number: 3-252
Location: 9201 Summit, Lenexa, KS 66215
Age Level: ages 9-12
Contact: Julie Baltuska, 913-633-8909
johntentwentyeight@yahoo.com
Course Dates: Part 1: Aug 10, Sep 14, Oct 12, Nov 9,
2019; Jan 11, Feb 8, Mar 14, Apr 18, 2020; Part 2:
Aug 8, Sep 12, Oct 10, Nov 14, 2020; Jan 9, Feb 13,
Mar 13, Apr 10, 2021
Formation Leader: Marilee Quinn & Julie Baltuska

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You are invited to the SonFlower Region Annual Fall Meeting and Enrichment with:

Michelle Werner

***The First Experience: Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
for the Infant and Toddler***

Come learn about the newest CGS class! We know children are already in relationship with Jesus their Good Shepherd. Find out how we, as parents and catechists, can nurture this relationship in our homes and atria. Michelle is a trained catechist in all levels of CGS and leads an infant/toddler atrium in Des Moines, Iowa. She will share her experience in the wonder of this age, giving us the answers to “how it works” and “why you should provide a CGS experience for the youngest of God’s children.”



Saturday, November 2, 2019
9:00 Registration and Refreshments
9:30-11:30 Enrichment
Holy Trinity School Library

Parking is available on the north side of the school behind the old stone chapel.
The library is located on the east side of the school.
Enter through the double glass doors and follow signs to the library.
Address: 13600 W. 92nd St., Lenexa KS 66215

Catechists, assistants and friends all welcome! Free of charge.
RSVP requested but not required to Joni Rundle, Joni.rundle@cureofars.com

Save the Date for the SonFlower Region Lenten Enrichment:
Saturday, February 29, 2020
9:00-11:30 at Curé of Ars in the Fr. Burak room
Enjoy a morning of retreat with trained catechist
Alicia Darnell, M.A. Theology
“Stewarding My Talents: A Personal Look at the Blue Strip and the Parable
of the Talents”

SonFlower Region Annual Meeting

Election of SonFlower Region Board of Directors

The SonFlower Region is dedicated to fostering the growth of and supporting atria in Kansas and the Greater Kansas City area. Its work is overseen by a nine member board with three members rotating on annually.

Existing Board Member Term Ends:

Laura Haeusser, Dec. 2019
Karen Newkirk, Dec. 2019
Cathe Sienkiewicz, Dec. 2019
Kara Litzau, Dec. 2020
Sandy Reynolds, Dec. 2020
Jane Whalen, Dec. 2020
Alicia Darnell, Dec. 2021
Nicki Merfen, Dec. 2021
Joni Rundle, Dec. 2021

We need a minimum of three people to run for a three-year term on the board.

Please consider this work. The board generally meets four times a year. Officers are president, vice president, treasurer, recording secretary, corresponding secretary, and formation leader representative. These positions are determined at the first meeting of the new board to be held Saturday, January 4, 2020. Work of the board includes managing formation courses in the region, offering continuing formation for catechists, supporting the establishment of atria, and fostering education about Catechesis of the Good Shepherd for parents, teachers, pastors, and diocesan officials. Board members must be certified in at least Level I and reside in the SonFlower Region. Submit your name and a brief biography, including atrium experience and why you want to support the region to CGSKsMo@gmail.com. You may nominate others only with their consent. Nominations may be offered from the floor during the general meeting at the Fall Conference.

All catechists certified in at least Level 1 of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and who reside in the SonFlower Region (Kansas or the greater Kansas City, Missouri metro area) are qualified to vote. Only one ballot is allowed per member. The ballot is on the last page of this newsletter.

Ballots may be submitted by one of the 3 following options:

1. Postal delivery to Laura Haeusser, 9701 W 121st Ter, OP, KS 66213
2. Electronic delivery to cgsksmo@gmail.com by midnight, November 1, 2019
3. Deliver to the Registration Table at the November 2, 2019 SonFlower Region Fall Conference at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Father Quigley Formation Center Atrium, 9201 Summit, Lenexa, KS 66215

TODDLER FORMATION

TODDLER, PART II

9. Course Number: T-1010
Location: Holy Trinity, Lenexa
Age Level: birth to toddler
Contact: Maggie Clement,
maggie.clement928@gmail.com, 816-529-4954
Course Level: Toddler Part II
Course Dates: January 27-February 1, 2020
8:30 am- 4:30 pm

*Request applications for financial aid for courses through National CGS at www.CGSUSA.org, the SonFlower Region at CGSKsMo@gmail.com, or the Archdiocese of Kansas City, Kansas at [Archdiocese Grant Application 2018-2019](#). Applications generally are due a month before the registration date. The Archdiocese reviews applications for financial aid quarterly.

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BALLOT FOR SONFLOWER REGION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NOVEMBER 2019

Election will take place at the Fall Retreat on November 2nd

***** PLEASE SUBMIT NOMINEES TO SERVE ON THE BOARD 2020 THROUGH 2022. *****
NOMINATIONS REMAIN OPEN UNTIL THE MEETING ON NOV. 2.
PLEASE SUBMIT AT CGSKsMo@gmail.com.

DENISE RATHMANN

I'm blessed to be married to wonderful my husband Chris for 34 years. We are both from New York but have been mid-westerners throughout our marriage. We've been blessed with our son, Samuel, and our Korean exchange student "sons," Denny & Rex. We enjoy fishing, the ocean and beach, hiking/walking and cooking together. We enjoy traveling throughout this great United States, South Korea, Italy, Mexico, the Caribbean, and have had many adventures with Boy Scouting over the years. We've been 20+ year active members and volunteers at St. Andrew the Apostle Parish Church and School. I have had the pleasure to serve Parish and Priests in many ministries and currently active in choir, social outreach, and Cursillo. I'm full of joy to serve in my 7th year as a Catechist, and I'll be completing Level III Formation 2019/20. I currently enjoy a multi-hat position at St. Andrew School that includes Aide/Tutor K-5, LI Catechist and aide in LII and LIII atria for the school children and parish. I'm blessed to be "Listening to God" with over 160 children and fellow catechists every week! I look forward to the opportunity to serve the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd community to help it continue to grow and thrive. I'm thankful for our faith, the children, our CGS leaders and fellow catechists that have blessed, enriched and clarified the Light of Christ in my life.

JO THORNLEY-COX

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd found me in 2001, and I was drawn into its wonder. A catechist in all three levels and a formation leader for Level I, I'm in discernment for becoming a Level II formation leader. St. Charles Borromeo Parish and Academy in Gladstone, Missouri is where I serve as coordinator. I have a primary Montessori certificate and have worked and taught in Catholic schools and parishes for decades. Having been on the SonFlower Board in the past, this would be the first time I can serve as representative for our region's formation leaders. My husband, Jody, makes it possible for me to follow my passion, so I'm especially blessed.

NAME

For more information about the purpose, mission and vision of the SonFlower Region board, visit us at our *newly remodeled* website!

<http://cgsksmo.org>

Or on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/cgsksmo/>

Catechists join our [Catechist Support Page](#)