



The United States Association of

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd®

CGSUSA Case Study

Linda has been coordinating The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd at a small suburban parish, St. Monica's Catholic Church, for twelve years. St. Monica's is a parish with 900 families and less than 200 children in the faith formation. Early in her ministry, she had discovered The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, which led to her participation in CGS formation. With her pastor, Fr. Bob's support, she built a Level One atrium. Now all these years later, many in the parish had grown to delight in the relationship between God and the child, and the community had developed another Level One atrium, two Level Two atria, and finally this fall, they would open their first Level Three atrium. Linda served the children of the parish, along with a group of eight dedicated catechists.

Several members of the parish staff had grumbled about the amount of parish space and resources used by CGS and one even deemed it "ridiculous to have dedicated space for the child to use for only a few hours a week". Linda tried to ignore their comments, knowing that the staff members did not fully understand the gift of CGS for the children and the parish community. Besides, she had the full support of her pastor, Fr. Bob, and he would not be swayed by the grumblings of a few staff members. Fr. Bob had hired and supported Linda in her ministry. Over the years they had worked well together and had a common vision for the parish community, especially for parents and the young child.

On Tuesday morning, Fr. Bob asked to meet with the entire staff. He had an announcement to share: due to a medical emergency of the priest at a nearby parish, the Bishop had reassigned Fr. Bob to another parish. Their new pastor, Fr. Philips, would be joining them later in the week. Linda was sad to be losing such a good mentor, Pastor, and support for her ministry. She had heard that Fr. Philips did not enjoy working with children, especially young children. His area of focus was adult faith formation. How could Linda convince him that CGS was a worthwhile endeavor for the parish?

- What questions does this case study raise for you?
- What questions would you ask the characters in this study?
- What suggestions would you have for Linda regarding communication with fellow staff members, parents, and the new pastor?
- How could Linda convince the pastor that CGS was a worthwhile endeavor for the parish?