



The United States Association of

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd®

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level I Catechist Formation - #1-02542

Sponsored by CGSUSA

Nashotah House, Wisconsin

Part 1: June 16-25, 2025; Part 2: June 15-24, 2026



If we want to help the child draw nearer to God, we should with patience and courage, seek to go always closer to the vital nucleus of things.

This requires study and prayer.

The children will be our teachers if we know how to observe them.

-Sofia Cavalletti

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD FORMATION

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd offers a method of catechesis for children ages three through twelve through which children are helped in forming an authentic, faithful relationship with God. The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is grounded in Maria Montessori's discoveries of the developmental needs of children and subsequent principles of education that she proposed. It is also grounded in the observations of children's religious needs and capacities through presentations of scripture and liturgy, as discovered by Sofia Cavalletti, a Catholic theologian, and her colleague, Gianna Gobbi, a Catholic Montessori educator.

The themes that comprise Level I catechist formation and the atrium serving three to six-year-old children include "Introduction to the Atrium and the Life of the Church," "Prayer," "The Mystery of the Incarnation," "The Mystery of the Kingdom of God: Kingdom Parables," "The Mystery of Christ as the Good Shepherd," "The Paschal Mystery," "the Gestures of the Mass/Holy Eucharist," and "Baptism." Also offered to children of this age are Practical Life Activities in the atrium, which aid the children in developing their concentration and fine motor skills and prepare them to receive the scripture and liturgical presentations.

OBJECTIVES OF CGS CATECHIST FORMATION

Level I Catechist Formation is foundational for all three levels of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. The objectives of Level I Formation include:

1. To present the guiding principles of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.
2. To explore the vital religious needs and capacities of the three to six year old child.
3. To offer the adult time to prayerfully reflect and personally consider the Biblical and liturgical themes presented to the three- to six-year-old child.
4. To broaden the adult's ability to observe and learn from children's spirituality.
5. To cultivate the capacity to deeply listen to and enjoy the Word of God with children.
6. To offer guidelines and assistance in preparing the atrium, writing the catechist's album and making materials.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd catechist formation is a prayerful, retreat-like experience for adults. It also includes seeing all the presentations as they are given to three- to six-year-olds, reading the core CGS texts, reflecting deeply on the theology of the scripture and liturgical themes, and writing album pages for the presentations. This is a shared task with all course participants so that at the conclusion of the course, participants may have a group Level I album. In addition, time is allocated for practicum and making a few materials needed for atrium.

Successful participation in this formation will result in a certificate from the United States Association of The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.

FORMATION TEAM

CGSUSA is happy to have the **Formation Team of Lynda Catalano and Sue Jett as well as our Hosting Site Coordinator Shelly Buchan.** Please read Formation Team bios below.

Registration is open until May 1, 2025.

The Registration Fee of \$550.00 covers tuition and most meals.

Partial Scholarship: A limited number of partial scholarships are available by application. Before registering for the course please to go to the CGSUSA website Scholarships & Grants page here: <https://www.cgsusa.org/learn/courses-for-adults/scholarships-grant-information/> to apply. Make sure to refer to Course 1-02542.

There are also a limited number of places for auditors who have already completed and received CGSUSA Level I Catechist Formation.

This national catechist formation is partially subsidized by the Oak Park River Forest Endowment Fund and the Tina Lillig Memorial Fund. **Register today by clicking the button below!**

Register

Special Note: The foundation and principles of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) are deeply rooted in more than 55 years of work with children by Sofia Cavalletti and Gianna Gobbi. Catechist formation is given to us by the co-founders in the Roman Catholic tradition. CGS also reflects the most essential proclamations of the Christian faith; therefore, a formation course in Catechesis of the Good Shepherd includes discussion, as needed, for liturgical adaptations to other denominations. Membership in the United States Association of The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, www.cgsusa.org, is highly recommended for each participant and will also include access to the online Level I Materials Manual.

THE FORMATION TEAM



Lynda Catalano has been the catechist at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Fillmore, California, for 34 years. She took her first Level I Formation at St. Mary's University in South Bend, IN, in 1991 and has completed all CGS catechist formations over the years. She has worked weekly in the atrium with groups of three to six-year-olds, six to nine-year-olds, and nine to twelve-year-olds.

As a recognized CGSUSA formation leader, Lynda has led Levels I, II, and III catechist formation for adults throughout the United States and internationally (including in China) for many years. She has been on several formation teams for CGSUSA-sponsored courses. Lynda is also bi-lingual and has led CGS catechist formation in Spanish. She serves on the CGSUSA Formation Leader Discernment Team and has served on teams for CGSUSA sponsored Formation Leader Discernment Seminars. Lynda is retired from teaching art, science, and Spanish to kindergarten and first-grade children in a public-school setting. She has four married children and five beautiful grandchildren.



Sue Jett first began implementing the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd in 2003 while teaching at St. Peter's Catholic School in Beaufort, South Carolina. She was recognized as a Level I Formation Leader in 2010. She also received her Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies (MAPS-CGS) with an emphasis on Catechesis of the Good Shepherd from the Aquinas Institute of Theology in Saint Louis, Missouri, in 2010.

Sue has facilitated the development of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd in several parishes throughout the Midwest after her move to Hammond, Indiana. Over the past ten years, she has been actively leading Level I Catechist Formation. She is currently developing an atrium for infants and toddlers at St. James the Less in Highland, IN where she also serves as a Level I catechist. In addition to serving the youngest children in the atrium, Sue works with lower elementary children at the Montessori Children's Schoolhouse in Hammond, IN. Sue is a wife, mother, and grandmother, and she looks forward to sharing the gift of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and getting to know others who have been called to participate in CGS catechist formation.

CGSUSA Sponsored Level I Catechist Formation #1-02542

Part 1 June 16-25, 2025, Part 2 June 15-24, 2026

Hosted by Nashotah House Seminary, Nashotah, Wisconsin
Formation will be located in the DeKoven Commons

Information about the Location and Housing

The Nashotah House Seminary is located about 30 miles from the Milwaukee Mitchell International Airport (MKE) and about a 40–50-minute drive from the airport.

Housing will need to be reserved separately as there are no options for housing on campus. Please review the options below.

Transportation is not available for daily driving to/from the Nashotah House from any of these retreat centers or hotels. It is highly recommended to rent a car or to secure carpooling with other participants.

The Conference Room and Level I Atrium are located in the basement of DeKoven Commons on the Nashotah House campus. Certain meals will be served at the Breck Refectory which is also in DeKoven Commons, on the main floor.

[Link for Nashotah House Map](#)

Out-of-town participants will have the opportunity for housing at any one of the following options. Participants will need to make their own arrangements:

1. [Local Hotels](#)

- a. Hilton Garden Inn - Oconomowoc (3 miles) \$119 for double queen
- b. Holiday Inn - Delafield (4.5 miles) \$111 per night
- c. La Quinta - Delafield (4.5 miles) \$95 per night

2. [Schoenstatt Retreat Center](#) (W284n698 Cherry Lane, Waukesha WI; located 8.5 miles from Nashotah House, about a 20-minute drive)

- a. 262-522-4300, intlcenter@schsrsmary.org
- b. No meals are provided.
- c. Please call to find out if rooms are available and for pricing.

3. [Holy Hill - Basilica and National Shrine of Mary Help of Christians at Holy Hill](#) (1525 Carmel Rd, Hubertus, WI, 53033; located about 16 miles from Nashotah House, 28-30 minute drive)

- **Holy Hill Guesthouse** offers simple, overnight accommodation. Retreat rooms are quiet and comfortable, conducive to silence and peace necessary for a time of spiritual renewal. The guest house facilities are located in two buildings, The "Old Monastery Inn" and the recently remodeled "New Guest House."
- **Old Monastery Inn** was built in 1919 and converted into retreat rooms after the new monastery was built in 1935. Twelve of the fifteen retreat rooms have two twin beds each and all rooms are located on the third and fourth floors. There is one large, common bathroom per floor. A conference room, lounge, retreat kitchen and chapel are also available for guests to use.
- **Old Monastery Inn Rates:** Single Occupancy: \$40.00+tax; Double Occupancy: \$50.00 + tax.
- **New Guest House** was built in 1962 and renovated in the spring of 2017. It is located above the Gift Store. Each of the fourteen rooms has two single beds and a private bath with shower. A communal kitchenette is available for use by all guests.

- **New Guest House Rates:** Single Occupancy: \$50.00 + tax; Double Occupancy: \$60.00 + tax.
- **Holy Hill Guest House** since it is a center for spiritual retreats, maintains a strict no drugs, no alcohol, no smoking policy. No alcohol should be brought into the retreat house.
- **The New Guest House and Old Monastery Inn overnight facilities are not handicapped accessible.** Access for anyone with a disability can be quite a challenge, as there is a full flight of stairs to the New Guest House rooms, and the four levels in the Old Monastery Inn are connected only by stairs.
- No meals are available for guests staying at Holy Hill Retreat Center.
- **Download a Guesthouse/Retreat Center Brochure [here](#)**
- For more information or to make reservations, please call 262-628-5286 or contact: guesthouse@holychill.com.

4. **Redemptorist Retreat Center** (1800 N Timber Trail Ln, Oconomowoc, WI; located about 5 miles from Nashotah House, a 12-minute drive)
- a. \$95 per night, based on a two-night stay
 - b. Meals are not included.
 - c. **Hermitages are available – see below for details**
Included in all hermitages are bed linens, towels, bar soap and paper products (toilet paper, Kleenex). There is a **minimum two-night stay. The fee is \$95.00 per night.** Non-refundable Deposit for 1 night is required (\$90.00). **Please note that meals are not provided for hermitage guests.** Each Hermitage has a kitchenette. All of the Hermitages have A/C.

Description of the Hermitages:

Casa Redeemer is a house which has been remodeled into two hermitage units, one upstairs (Casa 2) which has an outside entrance and approx. 12 steps up to landing the other is on the first floor (Casa1). Each unit has a separate entrance and bathroom, a double/standard sized bed and a step in tub/shower. Kitchens are equipped with a microwave oven, coffee pot (and filter), pots, pans, dishes, etc. **Casa 1**- first floor is larger and has a larger sized kitchen with an electric stove/oven but a smaller sized refrigerator/freezer. **Casa 2** –The upstairs unit has a kitchen/sitting room with a full-sized refrigerator, gas stove/ oven.

St. Gerard and **St Joseph** hermitages are identical. They include a small kitchenette with a two-burner stove, dorm size refrigerator, microwave, toaster and coffee maker. Pots and frying pan, tableware, dishes, and cooking utensils are also included. They have a queen-sized bed, small dining table with two chairs and a recliner. There is a full bath with a walk-in shower. They have a screened in porch with a view that overlooks a marsh and is quite beautiful with the different seasons. Both also have Wi-Fi.

St. Alphonsus hermitage has an open living area with large windows to admit natural light, a bedroom with a twin bed and a full bath with a step-in tub/shower. The kitchenette is equipped with countertop electric burners, microwave oven, dorm size refrigerator/freezer, coffee maker, and toaster oven. The cookware and table settings are kept in the drawers and cupboards. This hermitage faces Crooked Lake.

Contact: hermitages@redemptoristretreat.org or Debbie Olla, Office Manager, 262.567.6900 x10; rrc@redemptoristretreat.org

Meals

For all participants the following meals are included with the Registration Fee. Meals will be in the DeKoven Commons Refectory:

Dinner, Monday June 16 (catered by CGSUSA)

Lunch, Tuesday June 17 – Friday June 20 and Monday – Wednesday June 23-25.

Dinner, Thursday June 19

Dinner, Friday June 20

Lunch, Saturday, June 21 (catered by CGSUSA)

Dinner, Tuesday, June 24 (catered by CGSUSA)

All participants will be on their own for breakfast from Tuesday June 17 to Wednesday June 25.
Sunday June 22 - No meals will be provided.

Meal Times:

Lunch: 12:30 – 1:00 pm

Dinner: 5:30 – 6:00 pm

There will be snacks and drinks provided near the conference room every day of the course.