



# Gratitude Report

2024-2025

*Rooted and Growing*

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever." — Psalm 136:1

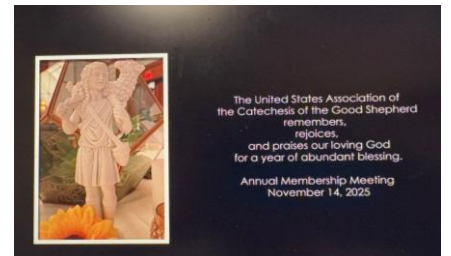


*"And whatever you do, in word or deed,  
do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus,  
giving thanks to God the father through him."  
Colossians 3:17*

## ABOUT CGSUSA



To accompany this report with a visual reflection, scan the QR code to the left to view our Year in Review video.



THIS REPORT REFLECTS THE LIVING OUT OF OUR VISION DURING THE FISCAL YEAR THAT ENDED JUNE 30, 2024. 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.

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 NINO 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.

## 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

We 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, we will avail itself of written, voice and visual electronic media to maintain contact with catechists and others.

We 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.

We 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.

We 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.

We 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.

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

## OUR GOALS FOR 2025/26

Attend FORMA

Attend LA Congress

Attend USCCB Institute on the Catechism Convocation

Attend the International Council Meeting (Consiglio)

### Formation

Infant-Toddler Formation Leader Discernment Seminar (Part 2)

Infant Toddler Catechist Formation Courses in Atlanta and Scottsdale

Annual Infant-Toddler Conference

Level I Formation Leader Discernment Seminar

Formation Leader Mentor Seminar

Spanish language Level III course

### Membership

Membership 101 Zoom Gatherings

Prayer for Christian Unity Zoom Gathering

Refresh In the Beginning Newsletters for first year catechists

New Parent Pages and Catechist Notes

### Publications

**The 2026 CGSUSA Journal: Collaboration**

**I Am art book for children**

**Publish A de altar, B de Biblia (A is for Altar B is for Bible in Spanish)**

### Philanthropy Goals

**Raise \$175,000 for the Annual Appeal**

**Raise \$16,000 for the Tina Lillig Memorial Fund**

**Launch Endowment Fund Project**

### Technology Goals

**Improve website usability**

**Improve user experience for Shepherd's closet**

## MESSAGE OF GRATITUDE

What does rooted and growing mean? The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is rooted in scripture, in liturgy, and in the collaborative work of Sofia Cavalletti and Gianna Gobbi. In churches, schools, and homes where the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is experienced, children are rooted in relationship with Jesus — falling in love with the image of the Good Shepherd and the True Vine. Together, children and the adults who serve them grow in relationship, falling more deeply in love with God.

These encounters happen through the generosity of people who care tenderly for the religious life of children. We celebrate those who are generous with their time; taking formation courses to serve the children, those who are generous with their talent; leading courses to form catechists; those who are generous with their treasure sharing their resources; and those who support and sustain us by prayer. Time, talent, treasure, and prayer all come together to nurture the religious life of children.

We are so grateful to our friends and supporters who are helping us to grow in our capacity to form catechists to reach more children. Last year we estimate more than 350,000 children were served in more than 7,000 atria. Imagine how many more children will be served in the years to come as new catechists are formed. Our capacity is growing with 372 courses in progress at the end of the fiscal year, which are expected to yield 2,400 catechists and 20% more capacity.

Our hearts warm to the thought of ever more children coming closer to God in a place prepared to nurture their religious life. And not only the children are refreshed by this encounter — adults are refreshed through working in the atrium with children, through taking a formation course, and through continuing formation. Truly the gift that is the



Catechesis of the Good Shepherd yields abundant fruit.

This year we will refresh many of the resources we offer — from parent pages to handbooks for Formation Leaders, we're taking a look at what needs to be updated. We are committed to holding fast to our roots and staying relevant for generations to come.

We hold you all — friends, members, collaborators — in our hearts. May our gracious Good Shepherd refresh our souls and lead us all to more abundant life.

With grateful hearts,

**Mary Mirrione**  
National Director

**Susan Stuhlsatz-Reese**  
Board President

## FORMATION & FAITH

*"Participating in formation this year has deepened both my faith and my vocation. The Formation Leader team's accompaniment has been truly pastoral — patient, thoughtful, and rooted in prayer. Every session felt like an encounter with the Good Shepherd, inviting us to listen more closely to His voice through the children. The attention to detail, the hospitality, and the encouragement offered by Karen and her team reminded me that we are part of something sacred and enduring. This work not only forms catechists; it renews our hearts for ministry." — Level II Formation Leader in Discernment*

This year, the Formation Office under the leadership of Karen Maxwell, supported by Beth Enz and Nancy Kujawski, witnessed the abundant grace of the Good Shepherd working through every aspect of our mission. We are deeply grateful for the catechists, Formation Leaders, staff, and volunteers whose steadfast dedication allowed formation to flourish in communities across the country. With course activity growing each quarter, we give thanks for the renewed systems, improved communication tools, and the patient, faithful work that supported each course from registration to completion.

Our heartfelt gratitude extends to all who engaged in the Formation Leader Discernment Process. Through updated applications, organized cohorts, and personal accompaniment, we saw the beautiful unfolding of vocations—each one a gift to the Church and to the children we serve. The many new Formation Leaders recognized this year remind us how generously God continues to call laborers to this ministry.

We are especially thankful for the growing international collaboration that strengthened communities in Europe, Africa, and Asia. These partnerships reflect our shared devotion to helping children encounter the loving presence of the Good Shepherd.

Even in moments of challenge and change, we are grateful for the resilience, compassion, and prayerfulness that guided every decision. Above all, we thank God for the privilege of serving this mission together, united in the hope and joy at the heart of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.



*382 active formation courses across all levels*

*76 new courses launched marking record growth.*

*Formation Leader Discernment Process expanded to 138 applications, including 22 at the Infant/Toddler level.*

*28 newly recognized Formation Leaders across the U.S. and internationally.*

*Infant-Toddler Formation Leader Seminar launched*

*International collaboration expanded to Europe, Africa, Asia, and North America.*

*Hundreds of catechists supported*

*"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever." — Psalm 136:1*

## COMMUNITY & CONNECTION

*"I cannot express my gratitude for the assistance with my membership. Some days there are so many obstacles, but through this community, I feel the Lord calling me to keep going. Your kindness has allowed me to continue my formation and deepen my love for the Good Shepherd. When I was struggling financially, CGSUSA's generosity reminded me that this work truly belongs to God. Thank you for your compassion and for encouraging me to stay faithful. The support and prayers I've received here have strengthened both my ministry and my heart." Bridget, CGS Catechist Member*

This year, under the warm and attentive leadership of Mary Heinrich, and with faithful support from the Membership Advisory Council, our Membership community grew in both number and spirit which we celebrate not only growth, but the deepened engagement of thousands who share in the mission of the Good Shepherd.

Hundreds of members gathered through our Zoom offerings: Catechist Study Days, CGS in the School Setting, Prayer for Christian Unity, Membership 101, and seasonal retreats all revealing a vibrant community eager for connection, reflection, and spiritual nourishment.

We give heartfelt thanks for the dedicated volunteers who serve through the Membership Council, our Writing Team, and the expanding Card Club. Their generosity strengthens communion across all regions.

This year brought impactful new resources, including bilingual newsletters, the refreshed "In the Beginning..." welcome series, expanded Spanish materials, and widely embraced Advent and Lent pages for families. These offerings supported both home and parish life with beauty, clarity, and joy. Pastoral care remained at the heart of our mission. Because of the generosity of members, we provided complimentary and mission memberships to catechists in need. With gratitude, we celebrate a year marked by generosity, deeper connection, and a community united in the love of the Good Shepherd.



*Over 1,000 new members welcomed across four quarters.*

*691 recurring auto-renewals*

*Expanded bilingual resources, uploading Spanish materials monthly.*

*Introduced Lent and Advent Family Resource Pages for parish and home use.*

*Engaged over 400 catechists through Zoom sessions and digital formation events.*

*Enhanced vendor collaboration, with six active vendors supporting member formation.*

*Hundreds assisted through complimentary or extended memberships.*

*Member communication: 12 newsletters + 12 parent pages (bilingual) sent to all members.*



*"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever." — Psalm 136:1*

## RESOURCES & INNOVATION

*I wanted to send a note of thanks for your support of our recent group meeting held on March 10, 2025. We had over 35 catechists in attendance and your door prizes and magnets and published materials helped to "wow" the attendees. This was the first meeting of CGS catechists in the Arlington diocese here in Virginia and it was so well received. The catechists in attendance have already asked when the next session will be. We enjoyed a spiritual reflection by our parochial vicar and after breakout sessions, we all learned how to make roman missals for our atrium space. I appreciate your support of this endeavor. Thank you so much for all the goodies you sent!*

*Jill*

Rooted in faith and growing in service, this year at Shepherd's Closet was a season of abundance and grace. Guided by the theme *"Rooted & Growing,"* the store deepened its mission to support catechists, families, and communities who nurture the spiritual lives of children through the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.

Behind the scenes, a devoted team led by Lisa Kelley and supported by Christine, Ernie, Megan, and generous volunteers—embodied the mission through every task, from crafting materials to carefully preparing each order. Their joy in service made the eStore not just a workplace but a reflection of the Good Shepherd's tender care.

Two milestone events defined the year. First, the National Eucharistic Congress, where the Shepherd's Closet team coordinated 70 volunteers, supplied materials, and offered spiritual support to thousands of participants. Then, the 40th Anniversary Celebration of CGSUSA, where the team organized logistics, gifts, transportation, and a special booth featuring anniversary resources and Rebekah Rojcewicz's new book. They even ensured remote participation by shipping livestream kits across the country.

Each effort—from a single shipment to nationwide events—was an offering of gratitude and faith. Notes of thanks poured in from catechists and customers, praising the team's kindness and care. We are deeply grateful to everyone who supported us this year—customers, volunteers, and the entire CGSUSA community. Your trust allows us to continue nurturing the seeds of formation, service, and faith.

Together, we remain rooted in our mission and growing in grace.



*108 publications*

*248 unique materials offered*

*21,000 books/materials distributed*

*3,500 packages shipped nationwide*

*Supported the National Eucharistic Congress with 70 volunteers in 8 rooms*

*Key role in CGSUSA's 40th Anniversary Celebration*

*Heartfelt gratitude shared by catechists nationwide*



*"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever." — Psalm 136:1*

## STEWARDSHIP & SUSTAINABILITY

*The privilege of coming along side the children in wonder of our Good Shepherd is humbling. I can't say enough how much I have grown in love of the Lord through this formation and working with the children. I want this program to continue growing and reaching more parents, children, priests, and religious so I'm trying to do my part supporting it with a recurring donation. Thank you for all you have done and continue to do!*  
Julia

This year in Stewardship was marked by deep gratitude, renewed relationships, and the beautiful generosity that continues to sustain the mission of CGSUSA. Under the thoughtful guidance of Erin Miller, and supported faithfully by our friends at Synergy Philanthropy, Michele Rebeor, Alan Knobloch, and the Board of Trustees and the Philanthropy Committee, our efforts blossomed into a year of meaningful connection and shared purpose.

Throughout all four quarters, the ministry of stewardship centered on one essential truth: generosity grows in relationship. Nearly four hundred personal donor interactions allowed us to express gratitude, listen deeply, and accompany supporters who believe in the spiritual work of the Good Shepherd with children. We witnessed former donors returning, new donors joining us, and recurring donors anchoring the long-term sustainability of our programs. Each gift—large or small—became another seed planted in the soil of our mission.

Our core appeals and funds remained strong, reflecting a community that continues to respond with love, trust, and hope. A major grant award further affirmed the strength of our vision and the faith others place in this ministry.

Through newsletters, calls, handwritten notes, and heartfelt outreach, this year reminded us that stewardship is not merely financial support—it is a joyful collaboration in the Kingdom work entrusted to us. For every expression of generosity, we offer our deepest thanks!



*396 personal donor interactions throughout the year*

*384 total donors gave this year*

*30 new donors joined CGSUSA*

*63 recurring donors in the Growing Seeds program*

*\$36,768 in annual recurring giving through Growing Seeds*

*Significant increase in long-term donor retention and reactivation*

*Annual Appeal reached 78% of its goal*

*TLM Fund surpassed expectations at 109% of goal*

*Honor Gifts reached 107% of goal*

*Memorial Gifts reached 93% of goal*

*Awarded \$768,900 from the Lilly Endowment to advance the Formation Leader Discernment Process*



*"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever." — Psalm 136:1*

## FAITHFUL CONNECTIVITY

*I love Kerri's story and in so many ways, I have experienced exactly the same things. I listened to the podcast even when I took a 2-year break from the Atrium. It's so good to hear from seasoned Catechists and to know we're all experiencing similar blessings and challenges. I love the podcast and I have been so blessed by CGS. We will be making a monthly donation.*

*We love the CGS! - Pia*

This year, the Technology Office, guided with clarity and quiet strength by Elizabeth Warfield and faithfully supported by Jennifer Waggoner, continued to uphold the digital heartbeat of CGSUSA. Their ministry ensured that every member, catechist, and visitor encountered a welcoming, accessible, and reliable online presence. From website updates to membership troubleshooting, from data integrity to improved user experience, Elizabeth and Jennifer worked with patience, pastoral care, and the steady dedication that allows our mission to flourish in the digital space. Together, they enhanced systems that support thousands: refining website performance, improving store functionality, strengthening membership access, and safeguarding the tools that connect our community. Their behind-the-scenes work, merging accounts, solving technical challenges, organizing analytics, and preparing for future upgrades, embodied a spirit of service rooted in love for the Good Shepherd and those who seek Him.

This year's podcast, *The Good Shepherd and the Child*, produced by Elizabeth and hosted by Kerri Mecke-Lozano, continued to reach listeners worldwide. Through rich reflections, storytelling, and formation conversations, the podcast offered spiritual nourishment across borders and languages. Its growing audience reflects a deep hunger for beauty, theology, and connection—one that Kerri, Elizabeth, and the team met with creativity, professionalism, and heartfelt care.

Throughout the year, the Technology Office worked to make our digital spaces reflect the beauty and welcome of the atrium. With clearer navigation, improved communication, and responsive support, the website became a reliable place for catechists, families, and visitors to find resources and feel connected to the mission. Every update and enhancement helped ensure that anyone seeking guidance, formation, or community could encounter the Good Shepherd's presence with ease and peace.

Together, this technology ministry expanded the reach of the Good Shepherd's voice—quietly, faithfully, beautifully. .



*Website visitors from 100+ countries*

*Content accessible in 10 high-traffic non-English languages*

*Expanded Spanish resources for families & catechists*

*Podcast 67,300+ downloads this year*

*376,000 all-time downloads*

*Improved Atrium Locator accuracy*

*Better navigation and user-friendly pathways*

*Full technology coordination for 40th Anniversary Celebration*



*"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever." — Psalm 136:1*

## GRATITUD VIVA

*"Recibir el apoyo del Premio Visionario Tina Lillig cambió mi camino como catequista. Me permitió continuar mi formación en español, crecer en confianza y servir a mi comunidad con una alegría más profunda. Llevo este regalo conmigo con gratitud cada día." ...Theresa*

*"Receiving support through the Tina Lillig Vision Award changed my path as a catechist. It allowed me to continue my formation in Spanish, grow in confidence, and serve my community with deeper joy. I carry this gift with gratitude every day....Theresa*

This year brought many moments of grace for our Spanish-speaking catechists and families through the dedicated coordination of Lourdes Santiago, whose leadership and pastoral care guided this work with wisdom and love. During the 40th Anniversary celebration, twelve catechists received scholarships and housing, allowing them to participate fully while serving through hospitality and translation—an extraordinary gift to our whole community.

Through gatherings and dialogue, we listened deeply to the joys and challenges present in Spanish-speaking communities. Catechists shared the beauty and complexity of bilingual family life and the longing to hear the Word in Spanish. In response, we offered CGS letters in Spanish, short workshops, and personal invitations—*vengan y vean*—that nurture connection and strengthen faith at home.

The Spanish Advisory Council (SAC) met quarterly in prayer and community, offering resources and workshops that support families in living the faith more fully. Looking ahead, preparations are underway for a National Level III Course in Spanish in May 2026, with hopes of offering multiple scholarships. The Tina Lillig Memorial Fund Vision Awards continue to support and form Spanish-speaking Formation Leaders who will shape our future

This year also revealed the extraordinary strength and resilience of our Spanish-speaking catechists, who continue to serve their communities with deep faith and generous hearts. Whether offering formation in humble parish rooms, gathering families around the Word, or creating spaces of peace for children navigating two cultures and two languages, their ministry reflects the gentle light of the Good Shepherd. We are profoundly grateful for their dedication, their witness, and the rich cultural gifts they bring to the CGSUSA community. Their presence expands our vision, enriches our national work, and reminds us that the Kingdom grows most beautifully when every voice and every language is welcomed at the table.



*New Spanish-language workshops + parent resources*

*Expanded support for bilingual families*

*Spanish Advisory Council met quarterly*

*Tina Lillig Memorial Vision Awards strengthened future Formation Leaders*

*Hospitality + translation services offered at national gatherings*

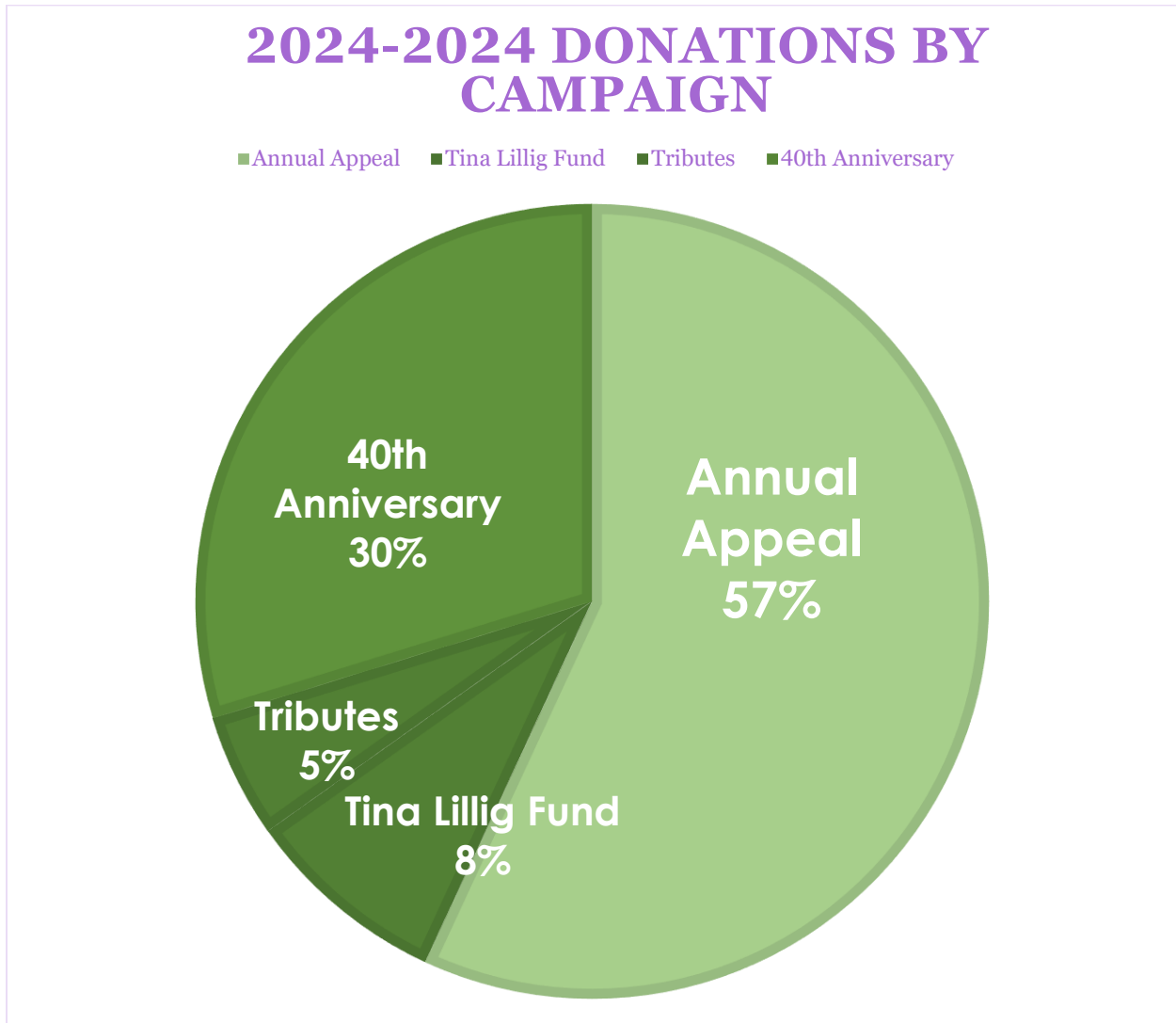
*New Spanish-language podcasts + digital resources underway*

*Tools to help parents live the faith at home*



"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever." — Psalm 136:1

## GIFTS GENEROUSLY GIVEN, GRATEFULLY RECEIVED



**384 DONORS**

**753 TOTAL GIFTS**

**\$356 AVERAGE GIFT**

**\$ 268,425 GIFTS THAT SUSTAINED OUR MISSION**

## GRATITUDE IN ACTION

*The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd found me in 2005. There was an open house for a "Montessori based religious education program," as it was described in our Parish bulletin. Inspired by my mother's love for Montessori education (and having grown up attending public schools), I had to find out what this "CGS" religious education was all about.*



*Like the feeling I experienced when I started my lifelong piloting career, from the moment I stepped into the Atrium open house, my soul was set afire with a desire to listen, wonder, and take action. The Good Shepherd was clearly calling me by name. What was going to happen next?*

*I can say now, 19 years later, having been formed in all three levels of CGS and active as a Level II catechist, it continues to feel like I have just scratched the surface of the vastness of the Kingdom of God. It is only through my experiences in the Atrium, listening to scripture with the children, then getting out of the way, that Jesus' words resonate: "unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 18:3)*

*Today, I am still listening, wondering, and taking action by supporting CGSUSA. I was fortunate to attend our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, Between Memory and Hope, in Phoenix last year. That experience confirmed the value of having a national organization to bring us together as a community and that reaches out to catechists all over the world, offering on-going support for formation, publications, and weekly podcasts to help enhance all our work in the Atrium.*

*I will continue to donate and support CGSUSA's Annual Appeal and the Tina Lillig Memorial Fund to celebrate all our collective efforts and ministries with children. CGSUSA and the assistance it provides, is like the found coin: after searching carefully, we can rejoice for we have found such a gift - working with children in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.*



*Marty Torres*

*Park Ridge, Illinois*

*"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever." — Psalm 136:1*

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW (FISCAL YEAR 2024–2025)

Rooted in God’s goodness and growing through your generosity, we share this financial summary with deep gratitude. CGSUSA remains committed to transparency and faithful stewardship, ensuring that every gift strengthens our mission and serves the children entrusted to our care.

This year has been one of deepening faith, expanding formation, and heartfelt service. Across every aspect of our mission—formation, membership, resources, stewardship, and outreach—we witnessed abundant growth as catechists, families, and supporters united in nurturing the religious life of children. With more than 382 active formation courses, over 1,000 new members, strengthened bilingual resources, and continued generosity from donors and foundations, CGSUSA flourished in both spirit and capacity. Our financial foundation also strengthened through steady contributions, increased recurring gifts, and meaningful grants, all stewarded with transparency and care. As we look ahead with hope, we give thanks for every prayer offered, every gift shared, and every act of service that allows this work to take root and bear fruit in the lives of children and the adults who accompany them.

For a complete report, our 990 and Annual Audit may be accessed through the QR codes provided.



Our 990 Public Disclosure

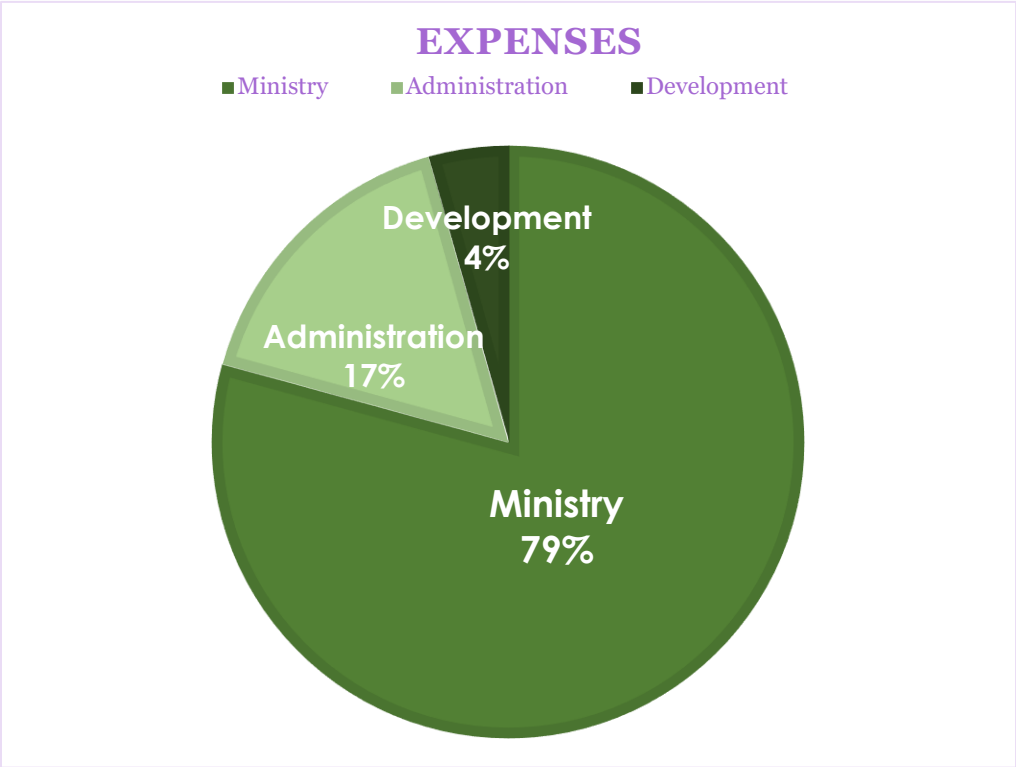
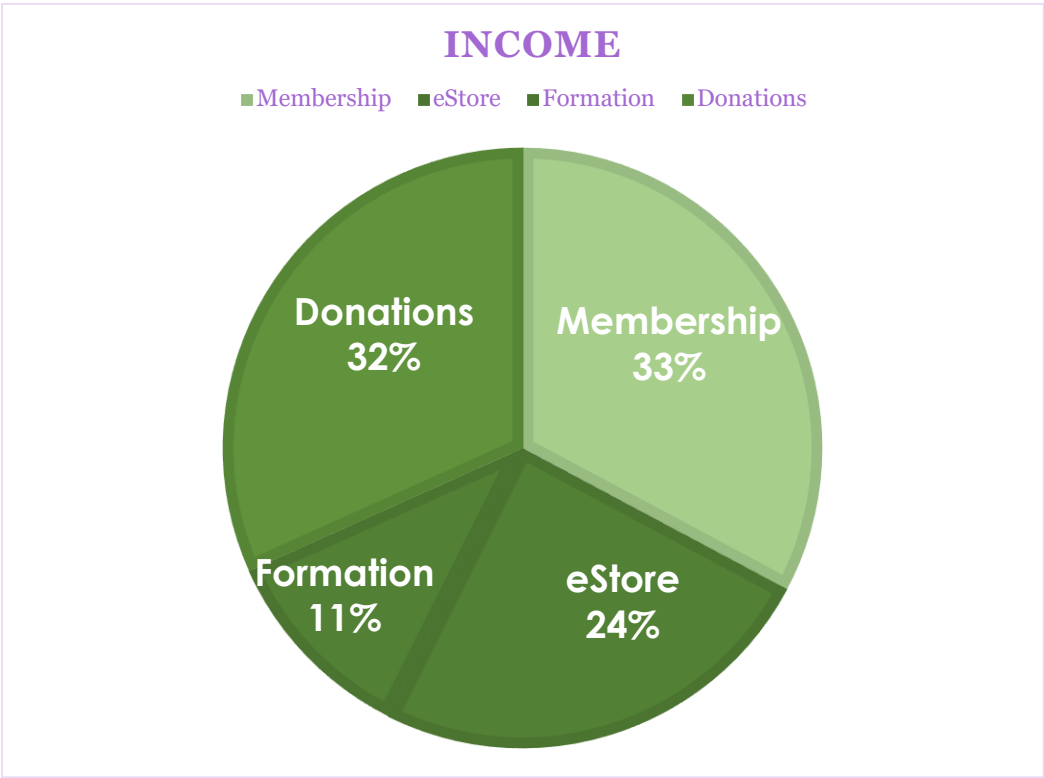


Audit Letter



2025 Financial Statements

**Income**  
**July 2024 – June 2025**  
**Total Revenue**  
**\$1,151,743**



**Expense**  
**July 2024 – June 2025**  
**Total Expenses**  
**\$1,537,233**

## TINA LILLIG MEMORIAL FUND



The mission of the Tina Lillig Memorial Fund is to nurture the growth and development of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd through catechist formation, missionary outreach, and the ongoing work of the United States Association of The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGSUSA). In every effort, the Fund actively supports and advances the Vision of CGSUSA—making this work accessible to all and ensuring that children and adults alike encounter the Good Shepherd in a prepared and prayerful environment. We hold deep gratitude for the life and legacy of Tina Lillig, whose faithful love for children and catechists continues to shape and inspire this ministry.

To further this vision, the Fund provides partial scholarships to catechists and Formation Leaders for whom the full cost of formation would be a hardship, ensuring that financial limitations never hinder one's call to serve. It also extends grants for missionary outreach, helping communities establish atria in underserved regions across the United States.

The Tina Lillig Memorial Fund strengthens the mission, purpose, and vision of CGSUSA through direct support to the National Association. All scholarships and grants are made possible through the generous donations of members, friends, and all who seek to carry Tina's work forward with the same love and devotion she embodied.

Since its inception in 2002, more than \$235,000 has been distributed through the Fund, supporting over 600 catechists and Formation Leaders and providing grants to more than 100 communities for courses, materials, and missionary outreach. In recent years, the Fund's Vision Awards have played a pivotal role in expanding Spanish-language formation and strengthening support for bilingual catechists and communities. This year, the Fund continued to advance the CGSUSA Vision by equipping Spanish-speaking Formation Leaders, supporting bilingual courses, and enabling broader participation in national gatherings.

Do you or your community need financial support? Apply to the TLM Fund!

When you make a gift to the Tina Lillig Memorial Fund, you join us in gratitude and in love for Tina's legacy—affirming with us that the greatest gift we can offer children is the time and sacred space to grow in relationship with the Good Shepherd.

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever." — Psalm 136:1

## LOVING 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. 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 Honor of"

40th Celebration 2024 Ann Eilermann Barbara Furdek 80th birthday  
Barbara Matera Cathy & Jerry Muehlberger Claudia Petursson  
Erin Miller Gemmer family and friends Hannah Turchi Marconeri  
Maggie Radzik Marie Harrer Marriage of Mary Gray Reeves & Tom Switzler  
Mary Heinrich Maryanne and Dan Rusinak Molly Murphy Sharrid Girard  
Sister Christiana Marie, SMMC Sister Maria Teresita Rodkey, OP  
Susan Stuhlsalz-Reese Traci DeBeer The Childen

This year the following tributes were made "in Memory of"

Anna L. Lang Anna Mae Guida Betsy Brown Eileen Puma  
Joan Hatcher McCaskil Josephine Patricia McCliggott Julie Winkler  
Matthew Rheume Millile Dosh Nancy Kujawski's brother, Patrick  
Nicholas Murphy Patrick Murphy Pauline Anne Schadt Polly Schadt  
Robert Gunderson Rosie Persyn Aelvoet

*"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever." — Psalm 136:1*

## OUR PATRONS

As a nonprofit organization, CGSUSA is sustained by the generosity of patrons and partner organizations whose shared commitment makes this mission possible. We are deeply grateful for those institutions, foundations, parishes, and communities who recognize the profound impact of nurturing the child's relationship with God and choose to invest in this work. Your partnership strengthens every aspect of our mission—from formation and publications to outreach and support for catechists and families.

CGSUSA does not seek growth for its own sake; rather, we grow in response to the natural, Spirit-led expansion of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd in communities across the country. Your support allows us to meet this organic growth with faithfulness, excellence, and care. Even for organizations not called to serve as catechists themselves, your investment ensures that this work continues to flourish, forming new catechists, supporting atria, and enriching the spiritual lives of countless children and adults. Your generosity makes you true partners in the Good Shepherd's mission

Atrium at Holy Rosary Aquinas Institute of Theology

Be A Heart The Catechist's Husband Dorsey & Whitney LLP

Espiritu Loci, Inc Faith Expressions

The Foley and Fredendall Charitable Fund Good Shepherd Center-Memphis

Heartland CGS Ignatius House Retreat Center

Lilly Endowment Inc. Liturgy Training Publications....

Magnificat Notre Dame Federal Credit Union

Oak Park Community Fund

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish Sacred Heart Parish

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School St John the Evangelist

St Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church St. Joseph Church

Synergy Philanthropy Trinity By-the-Cove Episcopal Church

Your Part-Time Controller

## OUR BELOVED DONORS

As a nonprofit organization, CGSUSA relies on the generosity of donors whose hearts and resources allow them to support this mission. Historically, many of our most faithful supporters have been catechists and Formation Leaders themselves. Having fallen in love with the work, they invest in their own formation, purchase books, create materials, open atria, and then—out of deep commitment—become members and contribute to the Annual Appeal as well.

CGSUSA does not seek growth for its own sake; rather, we seek to grow only as the Good Shepherd's work grows, responding to the organic expansion of CGS across communities. Many who share our passion for nurturing the child's relationship with God may not be called to serve as catechists, yet they remain essential partners in sustaining and cultivating this mission. Their generosity helps ensure that the spiritual life of the child continues to flourish in every place where the Good Shepherd is calling

Aaronette Kutny Aletta Nefdt Alison Harris Allison Schoonover Amy Donahue  
Amy Porter Amy Schneider Angie Bielefeld Ann Sodaro Anne McCausland Anonymous  
Arthur & Diane Mees Barb Ortega Barbara Boltz Barbara Bonella Barbara R. Waterkotte  
Barbara Ramian Beth Armour Carol C. Harrell Carol M. Donahue Carol Spindler  
Caroline Otte Carolyn A. Wright Carolyn Kohlhaas Carrie Carlson Cecilia Borja  
Cecilia Burke Chris Platko Christine Farner Christine Foster Christine Woods  
Christy Longo Cindy Mock Clarissa Troop Constance Chapin Dan Teller Davette Himes  
David Haley Deb Esayian Debbie Dobson Debbie Stenovec Debbie Ziegler  
Deborah L. Pokos Deborah Roush Akers Debra Gabrielson Dee Anna Garland  
Demetra Schwieger Dolores Kosco Don & Laurie Kayler Donna Hoying Donna Macia  
Edith Huseman Elena Heil Elizabet Warfield Elizabeth Blanke Show Elizabeth Hansen  
Elizabeth Riordan Elizabeth Sobczyk Emily Burkey Emily DiStefano Emily EB Meyer  
Erin Campbell Erin Simmons Eva Swiontkowski-Denardis Gerald Doty Gerald Muehlberger  
Geraldine Porteous Gloria Pohl Greg Aldrich Jackie Winchester James Considine  
Jan Stermin Jana Bennett Janet Angus Janice Mulvenon Jean M. Randolph Jean Vecchiet  
Jenni Nieman Jessica Haas Jessica Hoskinson Jill Sanchez Jo Ann G. Padgett Joan DeCleene  
Joan Ponzurick Joan Underwood Jodie Clark Joe Van Parys JoEllen Campos John Lillig  
Juanita Coleman Judith Main Julie Ngo Julie Ristow Justine Olawsky Karen Heinrich  
Karen S. Maxwell Katarzyna Wita Katherine Menzies Kathleen A. Willis  
Kathleen Bellefeuille-Rice Kathleen Koecher Kathleen McDonald Tong Kathy Schmitt

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever." — Psalm 136:1

Katie Field Katinka Ritz Katushka Olave Kelsy Audet Kimberly Lally Kitty Hanz  
Kristi Mulchahey-Johnson Kylie Rogers Lada Stankovic Lale Virostek Laura Bastulli-Parran  
Laura Vandervaart Lauren Ewing Leeann Smith Lesli Allsup Leslie Ambrosia Libby Willis  
Linda & Tom Gemmer Linda Cohen Linda Kaiel Linda L. Cook Lisa Kelley Liz Brockhaus  
Lora Terry Loretta & Louis Cuoco Lourdes M. Santiago Lucille Gibbs Lucy Chua  
Lynn Philip Lynn Robinson Marc Tan Mardy Byrnes Margaret Thompson  
Marguerite Trent Maria Angelina Carrasco Maria Resutikova Marie Claire Roderick  
Marie Fessenbecker Marilyn Woitel Marilyn Wright Mark Manno Martha A. Foley  
Marti Craighead Martina A. Crum Martin Marty O'Bryan Mary Anne Caponegro  
Mary Good Mary H. Alford Mary Lisa Carezza-Keenan Mary & Don Mirrione....  
Mary Pott Mary Susan Wise Mary Trotter Mary Watson Mary Wedeking Maryanne  
Modafferi Maureen Stone Meagen Farrell Howe Megan Bassage-Glock Melanie R. Beyers  
Michael Hale Michael Nagle Michael Tine Michele Turner Michelle A. Bryk  
Micie E. Delosreyes Mildred May Mitsu Chobanian Molly Murphy Monica Miller  
Natalie Gunawan Nicole Wizorek Pamela Record Patricia Dodge Patricia Gaitan  
Patricia M. Johnson Patricia Pecoraro Patrick Muehlberger Patti Franz Polly Tangora  
Rachel Barden Rebecca Romitti Rebekah Rojcewicz Rev. Bain White Rita Hayes  
Robert Eikel Ronald Weleski Rose Stegman Rosemary Hokamp Ruth & John Scheef  
Ruth Lacz Ruth Stanley Sandra Abler Sandra Cramer Sandra Dunleavy Sarah L. Winslow  
Sharon A. Anderson Sharon Febo Sharon Hutchinson (Fleischut) Sharon Irwin  
Sharon Robinson Sheila Gramling Shelby Cramer Sr Francine Mary Sousa  
Stephen Humowiecki Stuart & Marcia Murray Sue Hert Sue Taddie Sue Wagner  
Susan Chacon Susan Erdman Susan Ng Tami Lingor Taylor Behr Tess Naval  
Theresa Gorman Tom & Maggie Burba Tracy & Chris Houston Trevor & Benjamine Barger  
Trinka Hamel Vanessa Lopez Vanessa Osborne Veronique Couprie Vicki M. Kelley  
Vincent & Connie Moretti Virginia Dill Virginia Johnson Wendy-Marie Teichert  
William Woods Yvette Hinojosa Ramos



## OUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMMITTEE

### 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

### 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

### Extraordinary Form Committee

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

- adapting formation content to meet the needs of the Extraordinary Form communities while staying true to CGS methodology and guiding principles
- adapting materials to meet the needs of Extraordinary Form communities while staying true to CGS methodology and guiding principles

### 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

### 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

*"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever." — Psalm 136:1*

- 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

#### 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

#### Philanthropy Committee

*"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever." — Psalm 136:1*

Philanthropy 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

Tina Lillig Memorial

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

## OUR STAFF ADVISORY COUNCILS

### Formation Advisory Council

The Formation Advisory Council 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 Advisory Council 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)

### Membership Advisory Council

The Membership Advisory Council supports, advises, and collaborates with the Membership Coordinator 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 Advisory Council 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.)
- 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

### Spanish Advisory Council

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 atria
- evangelizing within and across Spanish-speaking communities.

## CGSUSA CONTACT INFORMATION

### For the CGSUSA Board of Trustees

Susan Stuhlsatz-Reese	President <a href="mailto:susansr@cgsusa.org">susansr@cgsusa.org</a>
Matthew Irwin	Vice President <a href="mailto:matthewirwin@cgsusa.org">matthewirwin@cgsusa.org</a>
Claudia Pétursson	Treasurer <a href="mailto:claudiapetursson@cgsusa.org">claudiapetursson@cgsusa.org</a>
Hanah Marconeri	Secretary <a href="mailto:hannahturchi@cgsusa.org">hannahturchi@cgsusa.org</a>
Katushka Olave	Board Member <a href="mailto:katushkaolave@cgsusa.org">katushkaolave@cgsusa.org</a>
Davette Himes	Board Member <a href="mailto:davettehimes@cgsusa.org">davettehimes@cgsusa.org</a>
Margaret Schaefer	Board Member <a href="mailto:margaretschaefer@cgsusa.org">margaretschaefer@cgsusa.org</a>

### For the CGSUSA Staff

Mary Mirrione	National Director <a href="mailto:marymirrione@cgsusa.org">marymirrione@cgsusa.org</a>
Karen Maxwell	Director of Formation <a href="mailto:karenmaxwell@cgsusa.org">karenmaxwell@cgsusa.org</a>
Molly Murphy	Business Manager <a href="mailto:mollymurphy@cgsusa.org">mollymurphy@cgsusa.org</a>
Lisa Kelley	eStore Manager <a href="mailto:lisakelley@cgsusa.org">lisakelley@cgsusa.org</a>
Mary Heinrich	Membership Coordinator <a href="mailto:maryheinrich@cgsusa.org">maryheinrich@cgsusa.org</a>
Lourdes Santiago	Spanish Language Coordinator <a href="mailto:lourdesvazquez@cgsusa.org">lourdesvazquez@cgsusa.org</a>
Elizabeth Warfield	Media Team <a href="mailto:_cgs@cgsusa.org">_cgs@cgsusa.org</a>
Kerri Mecke-Lozano	Media Team <a href="mailto:_cgs@cgsusa.org">_cgs@cgsusa.org</a>
Jennifer Waggoner	Media Team <a href="mailto:_cgs@cgsusa.org">_cgs@cgsusa.org</a>
Nancy Kujawski	Course Registrar <a href="mailto:cgsusaformation@cgsusa.org">cgsusaformation@cgsusa.org</a>
Beth Enz	Assistant to the Director of Formation <a href="mailto:bethenz@cgsusa.org">bethenz@cgsusa.org</a>
Megan Kelley	eStore Assistant Manager <a href="mailto:_cgs@cgsusa.org">_cgs@cgsusa.org</a>
Ernie Mc Cormack	eStore Team <a href="mailto:_cgs@cgsusa.org">_cgs@cgsusa.org</a>

### For the CGSUSA Consultant

<u>Rebekah Rojcewicz</u>	<a href="mailto:_cgs@cgsusa.org">_cgs@cgsusa.org</a>
<u>Claudia Margarita Schmitt</u>	<a href="mailto:_cgs@cgsusa.org">_cgs@cgsusa.org</a>

## CLOSING PRAYER

Good Shepherd, You call us each by name and lead us gently into the pasture of Your love. You entrust us with the care of this work — a gift born of silence, listening, and deep joy in Your presence.

As we serve through CGSUSA, a body made visible in the world, help us to be faithful stewards of this mission. Let our decisions be rooted in Your peace, our structures shaped by humility, and our actions guided by the quiet wisdom of the child.

May this association be a vessel, not of power, but of service; not of noise, but of invitation; not of ambition, but of love. May we reflect your truth, O Lord, and our deeds express your love and grace.

Bless our planning, our speaking, our listening. Make us attentive to Your voice, present in the Scriptures, in the children, in one another, and in the silence.

We entrust CGSUSA to You, knowing that all is gift, and all is grace.

Amen.

Thank you for being part of this journey of gratitude and faith. For more information or to support our mission, visit [www.cgsusa.org](http://www.cgsusa.org).

© 2025 The United States Association of The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

• [cgsusa.org](http://cgsusa.org)

---