



The Found Coin

May 2026

CGSUSA Philanthropy News

Banner artwork by Dana, age 9

Dear Friends,

As we come to the close of our Fiscal Year on June 30, we are grateful for all YOU have done to advance the work of CGS in the United States.

Whether through your philanthropic gifts, your volunteer leadership roles, your work with children, or your generosity with adults seeking catechist formation, our work building the Kingdom of God in the spirit of the mustard seed is only possible because of you.

In this newsletter, you can learn more about the impact of your philanthropy, especially on our formation efforts. We are also pleased to update you on how your gifts to the TLM fund benefited catechists and communities across the US and the world.

Finally, we wanted to offer you some ideas on how to maximize your philanthropic impact on CGSUSA. Thank you for offering children the time and space to grow in friendship with God.

*In this newsletter
you can expect:*

Celebrating this
Fiscal Year

Your Impact on
Formation

Welcoming our
New Board
Members

TLM Impact

How to maximize
your giving to
CGSUSA



THE IMPACT OF FORMATION IN THE UNITED STATES

375

Formation Courses Scheduled or In Progress

Level I, II, III, and Infant Toddler Formation courses across our seven regions in the U.S., and internationally.

164

Active Formation Leaders

Active CGSUSA Formation Leaders serving these courses. In 2025, 63 formation leaders traveled outside their home state to give 147 courses.

163

Candidates in Discernment

Candidates in the CGSUSA Formation Leader Discernment Process, many receiving mentorship from experienced formation leaders.

22

Bilingual Courses

Courses offered bilingually (English and Spanish or another language), or only in Spanish. Includes a Spanish-only Level III Formation with approximately 15 attendees from 10 communities.

2

National Infant-Toddler Formations

National Infant-Toddler Catechist Formations planned this year – one in Atlanta, GA and one in Scottsdale, AZ.

TAX BENEFITS OF STOCK GIFTS

A gift of stock may provide more benefits than a cash gift. When you make a gift of stock to CGSUSA, by eliminating the capital gains tax, you receive tangible tax-savings while nurturing the spiritual lives of children.



HIGHLY APPRECIATED STOCKS

If your stocks have risen in value, you may face a hefty tax bill when selling. By gifting these securities, you avoid capital gains tax on any paper profit.



MAXIMIZE DEDUCTION, KEEP LIQUIDITY

You retain cash assets while receiving a charitable tax deduction for the full fair market value of stock held over one year.



Donating appreciated stock remains one of the most tax-efficient giving methods, allowing donors to avoid capital gains tax while receiving a deduction.



YOUR IMPACT



Your gift helps ensure children encounter God in developmentally appropriate ways, that catechist formation efforts grow across the US, and that CGSUSA remains faithful to the gift given to us by Sofia Cavalletti and Gianna Gobbi.

Contact Erin Miller at erinmiller@cgsusa.org for more information

Our Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees governs the United States Association of The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. The Board of CGSUSA has nine trustees, each of whom is elected for a three-year term. A board member acts as a sponsor, ambassador, fundraiser, and consultant for the Association.

Each Board member represents and stewards a region of members/donors. If you have questions or comments, you can always reach out to the Board member covering that region.

Please visit our [Annual Meeting page](#) on the website to read the 2024-25 Annual Report and watch the Year in Review video.



Susan Stuhlsatz-Reese,
Board Chair (Missouri)



Matthew Irwin,
Vice Chair (Florida)



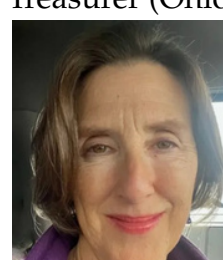
Jenny Pleiman,
Treasurer (Ohio)



Hannah Marconeri,
Secretary (Michigan)



Margaret Schaefer, Board
Member (Nebraska)



Rev. Kelly Jennings
Member (Texas)



Erica Dunning
Member (Texas)



Zachary Krueger
Member (Idaho)



Maris Wimberly
Member (Alabama)

Welcome to the Board!

Since November 2025, we have welcomed three new Board members to the Board of Trustees. Zach Krueger and Erica Dunning were elected by our members and began their terms at the Annual Meeting in November 2025.

In April 2026, Kelly Jennings was appointed to complete Davette Hime's term when Davette resigned from the Board. We are grateful for Davette's generous service, and we welcome our new Board members with prayers for their time of service to the Association.



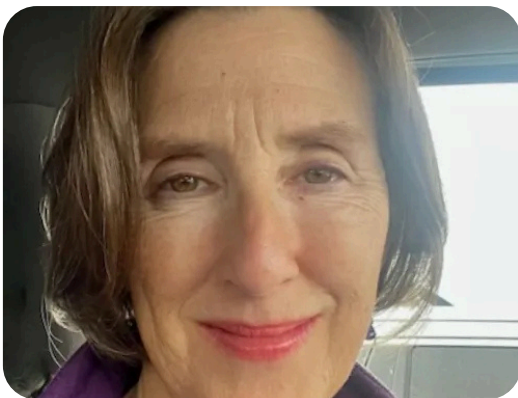
ERICA DUNNING

San Antonio, TX
Level 1, 2, and 3 catechist
Has held communication positions related to her BBA in Marketing
Co-creator and primary contributor to a faith formation craft and reflection blog.



ZACHARY KRUEGER

Sioux Falls, SD
Level 1, 2, and 3 catechist
Missionary, team director, and regional director with FOCUS from 2012-2017
Experience serving on leadership teams and is passionate about education - both the content and methodology



KELLY JENNINGS

Austin, TX
Level 1, 2, and 3 catechist and Level 1 Formation Leader
Ordained a priest in 2004, with the majority of time focused on children's ministry & building atria wherever the Good Shepherd calls.

The Board of Trustees will be meeting from June 2-4, 2026, in Scottsdale, AZ. Please keep them in your prayers as they work together to discern God's call for our Association.

Is the Good Shepherd calling you to join our Board of Trustees or one of our Committees?
Contact Erin Miller to learn more.

The Tina Lillig Memorial Fund

The Tina Lillig Memorial Fund

Fund Inception

2002; established in cooperation with Tina's husband, John.

Total Scholarships and Grants

Over \$235,000 Distributed to support adult faith formation for catechists, formation leaders, courses, materials, & missionary outreach.

Impact

600+ Catechists & Formation Leaders Supported through scholarships and grants

Communities Supported

100+ Communities Received grants for courses, materials, and missionary outreach

Want to help?

Give generously to the TLM fund in honor of Tina's legacy and in solidarity with catechists across the US!

<https://www.cgsusa.org/learn/courses-for-adults/scholarships->

This year, CGSUSA was able to support more than 40 applicants for grants and scholarships, distributing over \$14,000 to help catechists and communities realize their dreams of CGS formation.

Thank you for your generosity.

TLM Impact

Our Mater Christi Atrium has been quite busy this school year! Since September we have served four level I groups each week with about 70 children among the classes. We were very lucky to start the year with many borrowed items from closed atria but knew we needed to also start accumulating our own material...

We are so grateful for the ability to expand our work in CGS thanks to the Tina Lillig Memorial Fund grant.

Emily, Mater Christi Atrium,
Albany, NY
December 2025 TLM Grant Recipient

Growing Seeds: A Sustainable Giving Initiative for CGSUSA Members



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

In honor of our 40 years of remaining with children, we launched a new sustainable giving program for CGSUSA members: Growing Seeds.

As part of Growing Seeds, your regular, automatic gift is simple and convenient, allowing you to spread your philanthropy over time. It also provides CGSUSA with a more predictable source of income so we can focus on sustaining and supporting the religious life of children and those who serve them.

To select your contribution frequency and amount click [HERE](#) or visit <https://www.cgsusa.org/connect/cgsusa/growing-seeds/> to complete the online giving form. For a minimum gift amount of \$15 per month (\$180 per year), you will automatically be recognized as a CGSUSA Growing Seeds donor, giving you one year of access to the recordings from Between Memory and Hope: 40th Anniversary Celebration as our way of thanking you for your generosity.



Hannah, Age 11



Jocelyn, Age 8, Richmond, VA

CGSUSA Annual Appeal: 2025-2026

Philanthropic support enhances our impact in the following areas:

- Catechist Formation
- Technology
- Formation Leader Discernment, Training and Continuing Education
- Outreach and Atrium Development
- Infant/Toddler Formation
- International Resources and Support for Religious Communities
- Publications, Events and Educational Resources
- Mustard Seed Growth (support to dioceses, regional groups, etc)

We invite you to reach out if you are interested in learning more about these areas and how you can make a personal impact most meaningful to your philanthropic goals and legacy.

ERIN MILLER, PHILANTHROPY
COORDINATOR

ERINMILLER@CGSUSA.ORG

www.cgsusa.org/donate

7655 E Main St
Scottsdale, AZ 85251