



In the Meadow

Where the sheep gather

A newsletter for the Organization Members of CGSUSA



Greetings!

He is Risen! This month we are delighted to share a lovely song from Rebekah Rojcewicz for the Easter Season. May it foster the child's participation in the Paschal Mystery.

We will also lift up select quote from the JOURNALS of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. One of the treasures you receive as a member of CGSUSA is the Annual Journal, this Publication contains an array of articles pertinent to our work along with children's artwork, prayers, and anecdotes, to nourish us in the spirit of CGS.

Journals from 1984 through 2017 are available on the Publications page of the CGSUSA website.

You will find at the conclusion of our newsletter, a Word document (in black and white) so that you can more easily print and share with your bulletin editor, or copy and paste to your own newsletter or email.

In Christ,

Mary Heinrich,

CGSUSA Membership Coordinator

For the Parish Bulletin or Parent Newsletter or Catechist Note

To print in the parish bulletin, parish or parent newsletter or a weekly catechist note.

The Characteristics of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd The 32 Points of Reflection

What are the principal points which distinguish this catechesis and because of which it is called the "Catechesis of the Good Shepherd?" The following characteristics are intended to represent the principal aspects of the catechesis as they have emerged after more than fifty years of work with children of different countries, cultures and socio-economic backgrounds. These characteristics are reflective of the constants which have presented themselves in this work and are presented here with the invitation to go deeper into them for further reflection.

7. The catechist of the Good Shepherd does not incorporate into the catechesis themes other than those which emerge from the essentiality and specificity of the vital needs of the children and our work with them.

For the Parishioner: The spiritual needs of the child include the need to be in relationship, which is realized in the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd is met in the most beautiful and concrete way in the celebration of Bible and Liturgy. How do you understand the connection between the Bible and Liturgy?

For the Parent: Sofia Cavalletti said, "There is not a Bible that we read and a Liturgy that we live, but a Bible that we live with the whole of our lives, and we do so especially in the Liturgy." How have you experienced the Bible or the Liturgy in a new way since your child has been in the Atrium?

For the Catechist: Prior to sharing a presentation with a child, do you review the Doctrinal Content and Direct Aim of your album page, do you reread your sources, to better understand the theme, the method and the child?

If the answer is yes, how has that impacted the presentation or your stance before the material and the child?

or

For the Catechist: Sofia writes in the article *The Objectivity of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd*, "However, how can the catechist remain in the role of "useless servant" even in the first moment of catechesis, in which she needs to be present and active in the transmission of the deposit of faith? I believe that a way she may do so is by transmitting that which she has received in the most objective manner possible, without personal additions." How have you experienced this objectivity in the Atrium this year? Do you need to grow in your ability to be objective in the Atrium?

For Parents

This information may be included in your communication with parents.

This month our focus is the [WHITE GARMENT](#)



All About the Atrium

CGSUSA Parent Newsletter

The White Garment

As parents, we know that the celebration of a Sacrament is a time of great joy for our family as well as the parish community. Through the

It is a language that is accessible to all. It is a language used by the Church Fathers, who spoke in concrete images. It is also the

For the Catechist

Share with your catechists via email or at your next Catechist gathering.

This month, we return to a handout received in your formation course, click [here](#) to download a copy of this article:



Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
**The Objectivity of the
Catechesis of the Good Shepherd**
SOFIA CAVALLETTI

In the Apostolic Exhortation *Catechesi Tradendae* (On Catechesis in Our Time), we read that the catechist “will not seek to keep directed towards himself and his personal opinions and attitudes, the attention and the consent of the mind and heart of the person he is

Sofia writes in the article, *The Objectivity of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd*, "However, how can the catechist remain in the role of "useless servant" even in the first moment of catechesis, in which she needs to be present and active in the transmission of the deposit of faith? I believe that a way she may do so is by transmitting that which she has received in the most objective manner possible, without personal additions."

She goes on to say, "Faithfulness to the objectivity of the catechesis, without indulging personal interests and tastes, is also an optional training in the spirit of poverty that should belong to the catechist; it is a school that trains in the "detachment" emphasized by the cited document. More, the catechist will find in this very faithfulness to objectivity the source of her greatest joy, because it will become continuously more apparent to her that her hands are empty, and then so much more marvelous will the "pearl" appear within her hands."

- How has your objectivity impacted your work with the children?
- How have you thought about the catechist's role as the useless servant? What does this mean for you? How do you understand the poverty of the catechist?
- Reflect upon: "...faithfulness to objectivity the source of her greatest joy, because it will become continuously more apparent to her that her hands are empty, and then so much more marvelous will the "pearl" appear within her hands." How have you realized the pearl within your hands?

For the Catechist and the Children

Share this video with your catechists via email or at your next gathering.

This month Rebekah Rojcewicz, board member of the Consiglio, shares the song and gestures for "He Is Alive!"



He is Alive!

For Reflection...for the Catechist in the Atrium

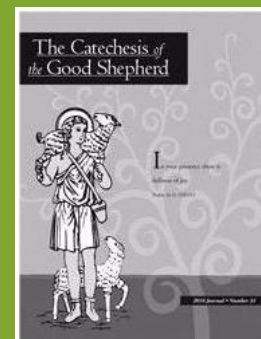
Share this with your catechists via email or at your next gathering.

The Sources: *from Sofia and Gianna*

From the Journal of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

In the 1986 Journal, Sofia writes about the *The Characteristics of the Catechist of the Good Shepherd*. The two page article is so rich, but we lift up one small suggestion for catechists:

"I think, moreover, about the importance of meditating on the biblical and liturgical texts concerning Eucharist. Of course it is not possible to give a list of the texts that should be read, however, basic texts are certainly the account of the Last Supper in the synoptic Gospels, Ch. 13 of John, Ch. 11 of the First Letter to the Corinthians, and how many others? I would also like to recommend to you the meditation on the liturgical texts. We now have several Eucharistic Prayers; let us read them over and over again, meditating upon them also outside the celebrations. Let us compare the one with the other, looking for common points, the difference. It would be very good to go to the celebration being already familiar with the texts. Hearing the celebrant repeat the them could make our listening just mechanical, without a previous meditation."



- Do you have a favorite Scripture regarding the Eucharist?
- What other Scripture readings would you add to the list that Sofia mentions in this Journal article?
- Do you have a favorite Eucharistic Prayer or a phrase from the prayer that is especially meaningful to you?

The black and white version of some of the elements that you would like to copy and

paste to your parish bulletin or catechist communication can be found [here](#).
We look forward to **hearing from you**. Please let us know what resources may be helpful to you as an Organization Member.

In the Shepherd's Care,

Mary Heinrich
Membership Coordinator,
The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
cgsusa.org

