



# In the Meadow

*Where the sheep gather*

*A newsletter for the Organization Members of CGSUSA*



## Greetings!

This month we offer you the framework for a [Catechist In-Service on the topic of OBSERVATION](#). All catechists are asked to observe in an Atrium environment and a Montessori classroom as a part of their CGS formation. Observation is an art, a skill to be developed. It is important that catechists practice this skill, and we hope that this in-service will be beneficial to the catechists in your community.

Please take note of several new resources in our online store, including [Keeping the Seasons, Advent and Christmas for families](#) and the Green Introductory Booklet, our eight-page introductory booklet with color photographs, is now available in Spanish. This booklet is helpful when sharing about CGS with diocesan or parish staffs, parish committees and parents. Many parishes and schools keep a supply of these booklets available in the gathering space/narthax or entry of the school.

In Christ,  
Mary Heinrich,  
CGSUSA Membership Coordinator

## *Observation Catechist In-Service*

**This two hour In-Service can be adapted to the needs of your own community. Our Observation Catechist In-Service includes the following elements:**

- **Opening Prayer: Be Still and Know**
- **Community Builder: The Observation Tray**
- **Practicing the Art of Observation**
- **Reflection**
- **Record Keeping and Observation Templates/Expectations**



"She observes in order to recognize the child who has attained the power to concentrate and to admire the glorious rebirth of his spirit."

- Maria Montessori, *The Absorbent Mind*

[Click here to download the In-Service](#)

## Shepherd's Closet Materials and Resources NOW available on CGSUSA website!

The National Association of the  
*Catechesis of the Good Shepherd*  
United States

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*...that you, rooted and grounded in love, ... may be filled with all the fullness of God.*  
Ephesians 3:17-18

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### Shepherds Closet

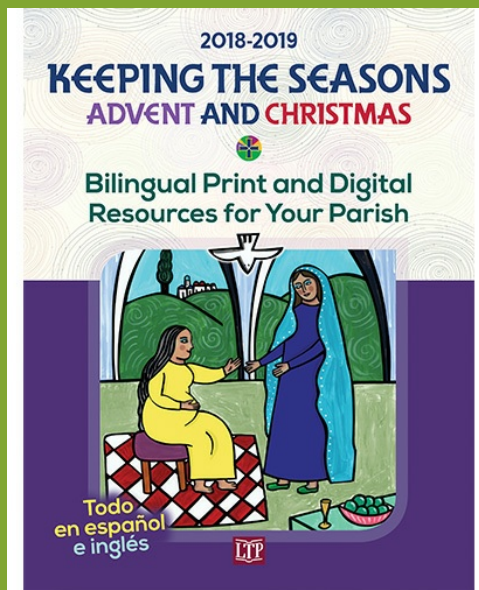
- Level I Materials
- Level II Materials
- Level III Materials
- Brass, Silver, Wood & Glass Articles
- Practical Life
- Art & Gifts

Level I Materials    Level II Materials    Level III Materials    Brass, Silver, Wood & Glass Articles

Welcome to the new home of Shepherd's Closet! We have combined the original Shepherd's Closet website with our CGS Publications store on CGSUSA.org, bringing the two stores into one platform. This change will allow you to shop all the books and materials at one time and to make all your purchases in a single transaction. It will also allow us to serve your needs more efficiently.

[Click here to visit our expanded Resources page!](#)

**Keeping the Seasons: Advent and Christmas**



A wonderful resource for your families this Advent and Christmas Season, written by catechist, formation leader, our own CGSUSA board chair, Barbara Matera. Order through CGSUSA today!

The core of the resource is the seven handouts, in English and in Spanish, one for each week of Advent and Christmas Time. On the front of each handout is a prayer, illustration, and a reflection on the Sunday Scripture. On the back is catechesis for each weekday--about the day's Scripture, saint, or Catholic practices, along with a smaller illustration. Citations for Scripture readings are included with each day.

The handouts may be printed in color or in black and white as PDF files. But even more helpful, the individual illustrations and sections of text are provided as separate JPG and Word files that may be reproduced as you wish--placed on your website, added to your parish bulletin, to worship aids, or to handouts of your own making.

### **Be Still and Know**

We offered this song last fall, but since we refer to this song in the Prayer Service for the Catechist In-Service, we thought we would share it again with you.



Be Still And Know

## Listening Session Kit

In the year 2020, CGSUSA seeks to have a clear, compelling and inclusive vision for the future, a vision that is both sustainable and faithful to the spirit of the mustard seed. With this goal in mind, the Board of Trustees and staff of CGSUSA have begun a very large work: analyzing our present conditions (our mission, fiscal health, immediate needs, the unfolding environment before us) and identifying and articulating near-future and long-term needs, goals and commitments. Our association is built on the friendship of catechists. It is important for all of us to be part of this vision. We are seeking opportunities for dialog and feedback with our friends and members regarding the core questions we might ask that will help open our awareness and focus our effort.

CGSUSA has begun to hold a number of Listening Sessions around the country. If your regional group would like to hold such a session please download the Kit [here](#). If you have questions about the Listening Session, please contact [Mary Mirrione](#).



- [Listening Session Kit](#)
- [Listening Session Flyer](#)
- [32 Points of Reflection](#)
- [Membership Forms](#)

