The United States Association of
The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

2021 Nominee to the Board of Trustees

Matthew Irwin

I serve as the Director of Children, Youth, & Family Ministry at the Newman Catholic Student Center Parish. In recent years, I've been serving children in Level I and those in sacramental preparation (Baptism, Reconciliation, & First Communion). I also create Parent Small Faith Groups each year and work to incorporate CGS into our prayer together with the Scriptures. In the upcoming 2021-2022 year, I will continue to serve those preparing for Sacraments, offer Level III in our parish, and begin a multi-year experimental journey with a group of adolescents preparing for Confirmation. I am also participating in the seminal Infant-Toddler formation course in hopes that we can better minister to our families from the very beginning of their faith journey.

I first discovered the CGS in the pages of a magazine article just months before the birth of our first son. I was so intrigued, but it wasn't like anything else I had experienced, and I didn't know where to find it at that time. Two years later, while living and serving in Comayagua, Honduras we found this precious pearl and fell instantly in love! It has changed me, my wife Camila, and our five children: Eoghan (12), Josiah (10), Maristella (7), Gianna (4), & Luca (2).

I worked with a wonderful team of catechists in Florida to begin CGS in our parish there, before moving to Chapel Hill. One of my great joys here in North Carolina is involving college students in our work. We are a mustard seed parish sending future parents, priests, and religious out into the world! I greatly enjoy my (staff) role because it gives me a unique opportunity to welcome new families to our parish and atrium, encourage fellow catechists as we learn to follow the child and more abundantly live out the 32 Characteristics, and build regional CGS community by hosting lunch or a retreat with catechists from across the state to build community. The Good Shepherd is calling me to serve our beautiful community in a deeper way. Thank you for helping me to know if it's by serving on the Board or in some other capacity.

Siler City, NC
Level I and Sacramental Preparation at Newman Catholic Student Center Parish
Roman Catholic

Catechist Formation
Infant-Toddler – 2021-2022 – Phoenix, AZ
Level I – 2015-2016 – Largo, FL
Level II – 2016-2017 – Largo, FL
Level III – 2018-2019 – Largo, FL