



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

2020 Summer Seminar 2: The Child, The Adult, The Environment

**1. Why did you attend this seminar? Select all that apply**

Column 1	Column 2
Intrerrst in Seminar topic	85.40%
Essential for your job	47.20%
Networking opportunity	38.10%
Concern for return	83.60%
Other	14.50%
<b>1a. Why did you attend this seminar? Select all that apply. - Comments</b>	
It was a great seminar!	
Thank you so much for this opportunity. We have been put into our 2nd hard lockdown ...Melbourne (in Southern Australia - State of Victoria) has been without mass since St Joseph's Feast day (with the exception of about 6 weeks May/June when things started opening and then July numbers started climbing. We were closed in the Atrium all of Term 2 and anticipating opening, but now schools have been locked down again as well - even the Seniors (who had been back at school 3 wks.	
The seminar was extremely well prepared and organized. I appreciate very much all the time that was put in to make this very informative and worth while.	
Input from fellow catechists to help me plan a blend for reopening. Share experiences so far and I was also fortunate to be in a small breakout session with Catechists who also served Special Needs children.	

Overwhelming support and grace received!!!	
Meeting other catechists was a comfort and release from many concerns I had. Once I felt lonely after my coworker left, but now I have many! Thank you for the strong connection that support my spirit. The meeting was truly spiritual. Special thanks for Mary and her core team.	
Interest in how others were responding across the program	
I serve in a school atrium. I might have to travel to classrooms with a rolling cart as a prayer table/materials transporter. I've been praying about ways to help the children ponder & pray even without the atrium environment and personal use of materials. Their work time could certainly include free art; I'm wondering whether I might also invite them to make their own dioramas of cardstock if they so choose (and Level 1 children might benefit from a premade template).	
In seeking to serve the Lord, I am looking for ways to serve His children the way He intends me to do so. CGS provides His hand holding mine in order to do His will.	
Hear challenges faced by others and how they are dealing w/ the challenges. Hear latest recommendations from Natonak.	
I wanted to find out the most current information on how best to return to the atrium.	
Trying to figure out what to do this year.	
While I know the time will come when we do return in person, I sense we will have a much longer time doing Formation online. How do we serve our children and families remotely?	
Looking for ideas	
I need to understand and gather as much information as possible to keep the children, families and catechists safe when we do return. We will be sending reflections electronically, so the August 26th webinar will be much	
Gathering thoughts and ideas for best practices for safe return to the atria.	
<b>2. How relevant was this seminar topic?</b>	
Very relevant	87.2%
Somewhat relevant	10.9%
Neutral	1.8%
Somewhat irrelevant	0.0%

Very irrelevant	0.0%
No Responses	0.0%
<b>3. How satisfied were you with this seminar?</b>	
Very satisfied	69.0%
Somewhat satisfied	23.6%
Neutral	3.6%
Somewhat dissatisfied	1.8%
Very dissatisfied	1.8%
No Responses	0.0%
<b>4. Did this seminiar offer you a moment to refresh and restore yourself through prayer and reflection? How satisfied were you?</b>	
Very satisfied	61.8%
Somewhat satisfied	25.4%
Neutral	9.0%
Somewhat dissatisfied	1.8%
Very dissatisfied	0.0%
No Responses	1.8%
<b>4a. Did this seminiar offer you a moment to refresh and restore yourself through prayer and reflection? How satisfied were you? Comments</b>	
Gave me a new found hope and trust that Jesus is in control and only He can bring LIGHT to these unprecedented times!!	
The spiritual movement from the first meeting in June to this time gives me a positive attitude/energy. Once I was disappointed for not having a regular session with children, but now I have a hope that God is leading us to something deeper and meaningful reality. Our work is a grass root movement. People do not realize, but it is certainly moving toward God's will. I am truly grateful to be a part of that. We are serving children who lead future. We won't see the fruits now but will grow. Love.	

appreciated last seminar where we were allowed to gather back to the main group once more... however the last seminar was "slightly frustrating" in that the group we participated in seemed to lean toward "PSR/Rel Ed" activities as back up for extension activities... and were still providing online recordings despite regular requests contrary, and the explanations offered behind the decisions for this request. This discussion group was more on subject, and more on target with CGS goals	
Other catechists really edified me with their faith-filled disposition and trust in the Holy Spirit's guidance! (My poor internet connection made the seminar challenging.)	
As my pastor Vicar said in his homily, "in order to have a contemplative prayer life like the one Mary chose for herself by the grace of God, we must do the Martha's work for our own soul, for our own salvation and for those who have been entrusted under our care" Fr. Kevin Chalifoux (1 year ordained) please keep him in your prayers. This young priest is holy. A gem to our parish	
The prayer from Sofia in the power point speaks to so many of our needs...thank you for sharing this.  I plan to give handwritten copies to the catechists and parents to continue their personal journey with the Shepherd during this time...	
I thought this was more informational. It didn't relax my brain or feel prayerful. In fact, it causes me anxiety to try to figure this out.	
It was excellent, and so helpful!!! I'm looking forward to the Aug 26 Session. What time is that?	
These seminars offer a chance for us to remember our ministry call and place our trust in the Lord.	
I was not actually able to attend the seminar, so I am grateful for the followup email with the comments.	
The reflection was very good; I'm just not good at reflecting virtually yet. I'm still new to Zooming	
<b>5. Who will you be serving as we look to returning in the fall? Please check all that apply. - Comments</b>	
Toddlers	9.0%
3 -6 Year olds	83.6%
6-9 Year Olds	74.5%

9-12 Year olds	54.5%
The Adolescent	14.5%
The catechists	47.2%
<b>5a. Who will you be serving as we look to returning in the fall? Comments.</b>	
At this time we have no start date in mind as the State of Ohio is a hotbed for the virus.	
Currently doing this in Australia now which is why I was so excited and felt so blessed to be a part of this. Thank you for putting on a 2nd opportunity so I was able to participate. There is really so many more things to think about when we are allowed.....and ways to modify that I wasn't sure if it was allowed, but it was the only way we thought we could start back (like the individual 'named' pencils and stationary items.	
We in South Africa will not be physically returning to our Atrium until, at the earliest, February 2021. Our parish church will be closed until Advent, at the earliest and then only for 50 people at each mass. When we do return we shall serve our children as far as possible outside or in a different larger space than our Atrium.	
At this point, I am unable to enter the building that houses the two Atria where I work. I am still trying to discern as to what I can offer via zoom.	
Remembering to focus on the needs of the child at ALL times. Thanks for reiterating this in our conversation!☺	
I will serve 191 students at ECLC and will 206 students at ES. ECLC students will spend 15 minutes/week and ES ones will 30 minutes/ every other week this coming school year from 8/18. Since sanitizing material by myself is impossible, I am planning w/out-material sessions. This seminar gave me some ideas. I shared with a principle and received a positive feedback. Cannot wait seminar #3 on Aug. 26! Thank you for presenting a rich context with a such prayerful manner, a fruit of your prayers.	
and the domestic Church-We will be "working off our porches" solely through extension works provided for the child, individualized by what they have previously experienced in presentations within the atrium. We have feverishly been "creating" these works (ensuring copyrights are attached) for the families to pick up as "no contact" from the "closest catechist" for each level child-including practical life ideas and works, atrium works, and current event works. Notes can be left here by the child	

Our pastor Vicar will provide a big portion of the Catechist in service with Mass, Adoration, Reconciliation and a little "Retreat". He will also give us time for us catechist to reflect. Especially now that CGS is offering a link to Catechists in Service option. Thank you so much!	
and the parents	
This will be a real challenge as there is no level 11 Catechist with any exposure to Level 2 materials, therefore, I must split myself between 2 atria, OR try to find a level 1 Catechist willing to learn some of the presentations from my Level 2 Certification notes and lessons plans	
We are still undecided regarding the return of the 3-6 year olds.	
In one atrium it is a part of a Catholic Montessori School in NY. We are waiting to hear what the governor is going to announce about the schools.	
In my parish atrium, so far no one has enrolled. This is a concern.	
I would add parents. They are in tremendous trouble.	
Parish & school	
Family Guides are catechists that will each have several families that they contact 2-3 times a month via Zoom/phone. They are offering domestic church support...and curated resources that the guide can recommend based on experience level and age of children. Families will also have the capacity, through their family guide, to check out selected Atrium materials a child has already experienced. Also, Level II and III children can sign up for monthly Atrium sessions.	
We are not meeting in person but we hope to provide all the children and families with formation while staying true to CGS.	
DRE at a mid-sized suburban parish; approx. 1900 families.	
I am the DRE for religious ed at our parish. I serve the parents too, answering questions and providing support as we return in whichever capacity they choose. In-person, family catechesis at home or hybrid.	
Not completely sure yet if we'll have enough catechists to reopen Level 1; plans still in progress	
<b>6. Do you have concerns about the child that we at CGS may help and support? Or wisdom to offer? - Responses</b>	

<p>Best exercises to give to the parents to do at home to help the young child with their concentration and contemplation. From my short experience with parents, we are willing to allow the child to use and manipulate materials which parents are not as comfortable having their child attempt. So, which skills and how to introduce them so that parents might be willing to take them on and not shrink away from them: pasting, bean pouring, cutting, plant care, tracing as a precursor to writing. As we distance learn this fall, it will again be the parents that take on the lion share of the burden. I want to setup the parent as well as the child to be successful in this adventure.</p>	
<p>Our concerns is for the lack of ability to know how our families are doing. We have been making phone calls and sharing emails to stay in contact. I think we can get more creative in our outreach to our families and do more to help. Just need some ideas and that will come in time through prayerful discernment and and sharing resources together.</p>	
<p>All retail will be closed this Wed for 6 weeks, we have a curfew 8pm-5am (I know Chicago was 6 to 6), but we have never had a curfew on our streets ever!</p> <p>I am running 8 zoom sessions- each is only for 30 minutes and the sessions are back to back on a Tuesday for example which allows me to do Level I from 4-425, L II 430-455, and then L III 5-530pm.</p> <p>The women that lead the other sessions are so exhausted from homeschooling/distance education, sometimes they are on and sometimes they are not - but at least we are offering this. Monday Li, Thursday Li and Sat Morning (all 3 levels) are well attended. Tues after school - about 50% because families are tired. We zoom to say hi, sing, pray/reflect, sing again, say goodbye. Li moms sit with children, Lii and Liii are independent.</p> <p>I would love guidance regarding a way to reflect with the different ages .....leading questions - just so I know if what I am doing is leading in the right directions.</p>	
<p>We are focussing on involving parents to establish with their children a domestic church.</p> <p>Encouraging the children to have their own small secluded space in which to contemplate and pray where they can gather their own significant materials.</p> <p>We are seeing children who are feeling overwhelmed.</p> <p>Our families are compliant with the acceptance of almost 5 months of lockdown, no school or church. The wearing of masks and all other precautions respectfully observed.</p> <p>However this has added a subtle strain on the child and their families.</p>	

<p>The children I work with are home schooling children and they, for the most part, come from strong Catholic families. I don't have too much of a concern for them at this point. However, I was to begin working with a very small group of children at an impoverished inner city parish. I am not sure as of yet if we can meet live. We are waiting to hear from our diocese.</p>	
<p>I wonder how it will impact children to become so acutely aware of the danger of germs and to grow up during these formative years with social distancing, masks, "quaranteams," and disinfecting things after they have been touched. It all is very necessary. I will be curious to learn about the psychological impacts.</p>	
<p>The child can be given independence and observed by catechist and/or parent. Ways to do that at home.</p>	
<p>Children are so resilient and flexible!!! I think that they will adapt to changes in the atrium along with the Holy Spirit's guidance in amazing ways!!! I feel as though they will actually be the humble catechists in our atria bringing us closer to Jesus!!</p>	
<p>I concern about their transition from a long break at home to a school life. Each child had a unique and various ways of activities and mind setting, especially about the pandemic. I must be careful how to get start this school year. I believe that slower the better and learned that observation is the key to know their needs.</p>	
<p>Our level 1 group includes some not quite 3 year olds. Parents frequently stay in the atrium with them and are observing the children's engagement in the materials. What are some ways we can keep materials in their hands when we are virtual?</p>	
<p>I have been in some communication with my latest trainer about the extension works I have been putting together, ensuring I am on the right path, not crossing boundaries of propriety, nor CGS limitations... it may be a good idea if certain people were made available in each region "field these works" that are being put out in the name of CGS as extension works at this time of COVID... and stay at home environments... my concern is that many families will take these works in and "pinterest" or envelop them into a homeschool program under the CGS name when in reality they have been born of necessity and desperation instead of the decades of research this program has behind it. Our children will have an opportunity to leave a note and receive notes/letters from catechists in our porch boxes... emails will be going out to parents on regular basis.. and phone calls where they have indicated they are open to this communication.</p>	



<p>Due to guidelines our school has in place for reopening, we will need to push into the classrooms for CGS. I am concerned about providing consumable work for the children to do at their desks that meets their need of reflection and prayer.</p>	
<p>Perhaps we can wonder with the children about how to seek God in this situation. We're preoccupied with exterior cleanliness; "I wonder how we can keep the inside of us clean...." We are asked to keep distance from people to stay physically healthy; "I wonder what else we can stay away from to keep our souls healthy...."</p>	
<p>My only concern is my lack of wisdom to answer or explain the following:  3-6 y/o asks, Why did Jesus send us a virus?  6-9 y/o asks, Why does God or Jesus makes evil things happen. And if he doesn't do evil, why does he let it happen? Why does he let bad things happen to good people? Why does he let the virus happen?  9-12 y/o asks, If God is good and the Good Shepherd is always taking care of us, how so many people have died with this virus? Why is God letting evil or bad things happen?Is God making this evil things happen?  In a way I know what I would answer. But I think it would be helpful to have a CGS standard answer so we are all on the same page in what are we feeding His children.</p>	
<p>We are only able to offer 45 minutes for "Sunday School Atrium" and for level 2 &amp; 3 the students are reduced to 30 minutes or less as these children make up the bulk of the Acolytes. I would love to see the Atrium offered on a Monday night while the EYC meets Trying to get the Christian Education Minister on board with that is an uphill battle, even though my level 3 students are the younger siblings of EYC participants.</p>	
<p>The concern that I voiced with my group is due to the possible death of a father of one of the families that I work with. The suggestion was to present the mystery of life and death.  I know I will need to listen and be sensitive to those children who may be mourning, or even if their father survives, for their concern for their dad.</p>	
<p>The session addressed most of our concerns and has given us lots of positive information that will be helpful in our discernment.</p>	
<p>If we are not able to return. Will the directive of no on line lessons using dioramas still apply? Also I am an assistant formation leader in a level 1 formation class. We were told not to zoom. The students were 4 classes away from completion. I realize that several people have to give the go ahead: the Archdiocese of NY, CGS, and the parish pastor where we have our model atrium.</p>	

<p>Yes. I don't know that our beautiful program translates well on the computer. It is a lived experience. And yet I don't want to be a daycare for those needing a break because they are homeschooling. I fear spending too much time on lessons with the children about how to deal with things in the Atrium. I fear that all plans will fall apart when/if we meet. I'm sorry. I don't really have any wisdom. I am just trying to adjust and fill the needs of the families the best way possible under the circumstances.</p>	
<p>It will be very helpful to receive from CGS more resources to share with our families. What we received has been great!</p>	
<p>The idea of supporting the domestic church is daunting. It is revealing that we do not have enough knowledge and awareness of our families needs. My sense is that many families are overwhelmed with the changes in the last five months, and more work from us is not welcome. I could be mistaken, but that is my impression.</p>	
<p>How do we reach children whose parents may not be consistent in attending? How do we build an online community, vital for the 9-12 year old child?</p>	
<p>I would like to send parents well vetted information regarding the mental, emotional, and physical health. More links would be appreciated. I am concerned about the child being engaged in electronics. I really would like to see more extension activities and follow up work that encourage children to use their outdoor environment to strengthen their understanding when appropriate. Perhaps, when appropriate, asking children to reach out to parishioners and the community to strengthen the words they are experiencing in the readings.</p>	
<p>More Homeschooling information as our church will have no open sessions. More Info for parents to lead their child.</p>	
<p>To be addressed in the next seminar; concerned about ways to support/share CGS with families to strengthen and build the domestic Church.</p>	
<p>I'm concerned that the children's in-person atrium experience is not drastically removed from what they have experienced in the past.</p>	
<p><b>7. Do you have concerns about the adult that we at CGS may help and support? Or wisdom to offer? - Responses</b></p>	

<p>Very short (3 mins or less) videos that we can use with the parents to demonstrate how to do a CGS type prayer service in the home. Recommend we chunk it up: 1 short video on setting up a prayer table. 1 short video on the importance of "enthroning" the bible on the prayer table. 1 short video on reading scripture that shows how we lay a "hook" for the child, but a very short one and then light the candle and read the scripture, and then perhaps enjoy it with them by re-telling it together with a scripture card.</p>	
<p>Concerns have been voiced over safety of Catechist who are older and have pre-existing conditions that put them at higher risk. How do we in good faith and using good judgement include them if they are not comfortable in returning to working directly with the families?</p>	
<p>I began gathering with our Catechist Team on Zoom the last week of June. We hadn't seen each other except for some emails from me and prayer emails - and I wanted us to get in touch. Covid has been a blessed time of doing the Montessori Orientation/Asst Course in a blended format - it was an intensive offered in June. And I enjoyed it so much I am currently in the 6-12 course (although writing an essay on Cosmic Education is taking a while).I had been feeling I needed to gather our team, and also share links with some of the course and refresh our team with reflections. Everyone always talks about revisiting the 32 Characteristics of CGS - so this has been woven into our gatherings as well - and of course we have a time of prayer.The week we don't meet on zoom (75 min only) I send a point of reflection.....just a few lines or a story to read - just to keep in touch.We've met 3 times and have had as many as 20 and as few as 9. Everyone is feeling connected.</p>	
<p>We are in weekly phone and email contact with parents, supporting in whatever way we can. A monthly Zoom meeting to check in how they are doing . Most feel overwhelmed as our country is economically brought to its knees.The health crisis here is huge and is impacting on many levels. Support, prayer, faith sharing groups are what we are offering.Not overburdening parents with too much but meeting them where they are.</p>	
<p>How to remain reflective and scared without being too concerned with today's situation.</p>	

<p>The adults I work with are anxious to have their children return to Atrium. However, being strong home schoolers, they do not like the idea of children wearing masks or social distancing. This is a conflict between the diocese regulations and the beliefs of the families. I am concerned with ongoing conflict in that matter.</p>	
<p>I think we will need more adult volunteers to clean and disinfect. It feels like too much for the catechist.</p>	
<p>I now realize that we must INVITE the families back with a dedicated plan for the reopening. Not just a few words but a comprehensive plan. The parents in NYC have been traumatized. To make matters worse, the NYC school system does not yet have specific plans for each school and or district. This impacts our families greatly. Our families with multiple children in different schools do not know yet what the plans are. Part of the teacher's union is threatening to strike unless concrete safety plans will be implemented. The NYC mayor stated yesterday that he will make a decision at the beginning of September. And we await word from the Governor. I am hoping to have my first session with the children in person. And then move to remote learning with in person sessions as well. Our families will not register with Good Shepherd until the City and State, schools and principals are united. The Seminars so far have given me incredible help and ideas.</p>	
<p>Concerned about being over 65 with the children...</p>	
<p>I feel as though a peace-filled, humble adult having spent time in silence and prayer will be a perfect instrument for God's plan this coming year!! Thank you Jesus for Your amazing trust in all of us!!!</p>	
<p>I like to introduce grace and courtesy manner to children. We must become a role model, for they will learn from what we do but not what we say. To distinguish from cold and lack of friendliness, I like to introduce a mindfulness practice, a way to respect silence.</p>	
<p>Our training was truncated at the halfway point due to the "new environment" We have had the opportunity to see the works, walk the atrium as it were, and create materials. We had a Zoom for working materials this summer, but the second half of our training has been put off at least until next year... Considering that we have been able to complete the first half in person, could there be special consideration offered to complete our training through an online meeting place? The Parents are listening to our podcasts, and this is wonderful... the Good Shepherd podcast, though amazing with RR, was a presentation of sorts... and some responses to meditations...some of our parents still "teach the test" unfortunately and where their child doesn't often listen to the casts with them, they listened to this one multiple times evidently so that they would know "how to respond in circle well" ... I offer this information just so you will know how some things are used.</p>	

<p>I would especially like to support parents: (1) as persons, who may be under a great deal of stress and who may need spiritual support &amp; renewal; (2) as primary formators of their children, so they will be confident in their role as catechists of their children.</p>	
<p>Our catechists are in different poles of the spectrum. I have some that are worry warriors that are coming back because it is "The right thing to do, or feel strong about CGS". But, deep down if they had their choice they would not be back at all. Other catechists are very relax, unafraid of the virus and ready to live without worries who are coming back to "Teach" but are rather worried about the "pesky masks" and all the "new arrangements". In trying to keep the atrium open, I am catering more toward the sight of caution and wearing masks and following guidelines while explaining to the other catechists that we do these out of love and respect for the ones that are afraid. We need to help them in their conviction of serving the Lord where they are at even if that means "pesky mask" and all the guidelines and changes to our Atrium. Hopefully only for this year.</p>	
<p>I have concerns about CGS programs in our schools and the lack of flexibility in regard to how CGS takes place this year. For instance, if a catechist is required to present in a classroom to a full class, how does that honor our CGS principles? How can CGS retain its model of prayer and not become purely academic?</p>	
<p>Until we can convince the adults who do not send their children to Atrium, that CGS is the greatest Christian Formation curriculum and the best curriculum for the child, we are a stalemate.</p>	
<p>I have not had much luck getting trained assistants or mothers to pursue training . The two mothers who have been trained are homeschooling and have little ones, so are not able to help. Problem with assistants with children in the Atrium is that they need to leave right after Atrium time, which leaves the cleaning up in my hands.</p>	
<p>Now more than ever it is so important that the catechist be spiritually prepared. Eucharistic Adoration is a great preparation.</p>	
<p>If we are trying to support the domestic church how can we do that without spending some time with parents? In fact, maybe we aren't supposed to be working with the children this year. Maybe we are to be focusing on working with parents so that they can work with their children?</p>	
<p>Is there on-line training available for prospective Level I catechists? It has been difficult for us to recruit catechists due to travel and time requirements.</p>	

Not being able to do CGS as we knew it feels like we are trying to fill time rather than a faith forming offering.	
The parent pages are very helpful. Also important Is your ongoing communication with us - some of my catechists are very stressed about returning.	
Many of our parents are unfamiliar with CGS and how to listen, observe, and share/guide with the child. CGS provides pages on these issues. I find it a delicate balance to provide information while not sending too much that parents close down.	
Yes, Due to Covid alot of parents no only have job they maybe doing at home they will have their child learning and faith too. How can they do all this and deal. We need to strengthen their faith so they can give to their children.	
Parents in my area (near Buffalo NY) are more than 50% professionals; doctors, surgeons, lawyers, and university professors. stressed and overwhelmed trying to oversee their children's schooling while managing their careers.	
I'm concerned that the catechists discern clearly if they are ready to return to the atrium, particularly if they are overly fearful or hyper-sensitive about social distancing. I'm concerned that they don't pass these attitudes on to the children, or become upset with the children while they are adjusting to the new protocols. Any suggestions for approaching this topic at a catechists' meeting?	
<b>8. Do you have concerns about the environment that we at CGS may help and support? Or wisdom to offer? - Responses</b>	
I won't be in the atrium. I must bring materials to the classrooms. I'm afraid so much will be lost. I'm trying to change my paradigm to the triangle representing child->adult->materials (instead of environment.)	
I was very pleased with the thoroughness of the slides you have prepared for Part 1 on what to think through before returning to the Atrium. I am also looking forward to the slides from Part 2 of the details on how to appropriately clean and sanitize the various materials we have in the atrium. I do want to make that a part of my tear-down routine, even once we have a vaccine for this current virus. I probably should have already been more vigilant in keeping materials germ free between sessions.	

<p>I think that we can collectively come to a creative way to make the success of the program come to fruition. It is through prayerful discernment that we are guided by the Holy Spirit to find a solution to what works best for our individual situations depending on the state local health department guidelines and the Diocesan guidelines state. Currently in Northeast Ohio we are advised to wear masks while in public. Not to be in gatherings of more than 10 people. To social distance at least 6 feet. Diocese of Cleveland has only allowed for Mass with modifications including 6 feet distance between pews and sitting from others unless you are family. No receiving from the cup. Advising us that if we are at risk we shouldn't attend Mass. Our attendance is at about 30 percent of what is normal. No events other than Mass are happening. Our ministries and groups are meeting only via zoom. No socializing on grounds. Office is not open to public. Confession is upon request.</p>	
<p>We are required to have 4 sq meters of space per person allowing 2 adults and 3 children because the furniture is worked into the equation which doesn't leave much space. Level II is about the same - maybe 4 children, Level III is about 2 adults and 12 children because our Atrium (gathering space of the church) has double doors that enter the church, so we prop them open and have a lovely space. We have presented on the carpet in front of the sanctuary steps before the Altar and we have also made the church available for private prayer, journal writing or drawing. I bring coins sometimes and they can light a candle in front of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. We cannot open all of Term 3 now because the church remains closed and we are considered a ministry, not a school, so we remain closed.... We are hoping to be able to open in Term 4 - but our numbers need to go down and many catechists and parents will not return possibly until next year. (Feb)</p>	
<p>This will be very complicated for us as we only have one Atrium that serves many children. Practically we will face this next February depending on how we will return .</p>	
<p>Help on creating a "home atrium environment" for families as an interim (possibly year) while unable to open our atria.</p>	
<p>What an Atrium may look like without forgetting the sacredness? How to add song when singing may not be allowed?</p>	
<p>Many children have chemical sensitivities to various cleaning products. It was mentioned to use Thieves by Young Living, which I personally use. Some children and adults also react to certain oils as well. This would have to be discussed with the parents before allowing the children to return.</p>	



One of the people in our group observed at her child's Montessori school a special rug where children would place used materials for an adult to disinfect before the adult would return it to the shelf.	
Concerned about keeping it sanitized with children as I anticipate a return and how to schedule our time together.	
I would like to know if there are specific guidelines concerning required dimensions of plexiglass tabletop dividers used in the atrium/and should these be on 3 sides of each table or just strictly between each child???	
I will use cheerful and bright color art objects to decorate the atrium, such as a beautiful image of earth and God's creation.	
Different catechists said they were doing different sometimes contradictory things concerning commonly used items. It is important to remember to follow the guidelines where you live (your diocese's, your state's).	
Although we desperately want to serve the child and the family... we also desperately want to preserve the integrity of the program. In my research for catechesis of these levels I have attempted to understand for the child's ear I read "Educating in Christ-A Practical Handbook for Developing the Catholic Faith from Childhood to Adolescence" by Gerard O'Shea. Through this book he references CGS. Near the end of his text/assessment he speaks more in depth of CGS, then offers a "caveat...In...2009...(Cavalletti) generously agreed that all of her material should be available widely to whoever found it useful. "The Shepherd's voice," she said "should be heard as widely as possible." The one stipulation she placed on the use of her materials was that it should not be called CGS unless it was being used in a properly designated program." The Bishop goes on to disagree saying that he didn't wish to do nothing for fear he would not be perfect... But then I am reminded Corruptio optima pessima	
For our current Atrium population we are blessed to have enough space to practice social distancing. For those who continue to feel they must ckeep their child/ren at home we will continue to offer Zoom.	
Not yet	
I saw a box with lights in the previous seminar and ordered one for the Atrium. It was expensive, \$89 but presuming it works will be very worth while.	
Are catechists going to ask parents to provide pencil, scissors, glue , clip boards.	
My concerns are mainly with having the time to disinfect and if we do this during the time spent in the atrium (after a child uses a material) will this disturb the peacefulness or time of meditation on a lesson?	



Yes. I have every concern. But you have been very supportive with guidelines and such. I really appreciate that.	
I appreciate everything shared at the seminar about the environment. Perhaps keep updating info as it develops.	
How do we disinfect paper materials that are not laminated?	
At this point, you are doing a wonderful job in helping and supporting directors and catechists. My belief is that our approaches and practices will be fluid as we learn and have more experiences in the atrium.	
I'd like to hear about UV light and how that might be an option for the Atrium.	
Do you have any information about the UV-C sanitizing lights for rooms?	
We have a small parish, with only one hour-long session per atrium per week. We will require masks and hand sanitizing on arrival. My understanding is that the covid virus will not survive on any surface for as long as seven days. Have you read anything to the contrary? If we limit the number of children per session to five or six, each working in designated subject areas for that session, (so no materials shared in common that session), we are thinking that any virus that could possibly have transferred to a material would have died before that material was used again, making the sanitizing of materials between sessions not as critical. While we would certainly clean and sanitize work spaces, sinks, doorknobs, etc., sanitizing materials would not be a priority, although catechists practicing with materials during the week may want to sanitize if it can be safely done, or choose to wear gloves. What are your thoughts on this approach?	
<b>9. Are there products you would like to suggest for use? Or those that should not be used? - Responses</b>	
If A CGS catechist chooses to meet online with any children or families from the Atrium, I do recommend Zoom (without broadcasting or recording) as it allows for the best experience of being with others in community.	
Working in child care for over 40 years is that Clorox Bleach with soap and water is the easiest thing to use. Or Clorox wipes. Do not use Hand Sanitizer with Ethyl Alcohol!!!!	

Thank you so much for doing this.....and for all those who heard my mom had been diagnosed with CLL (Leukemia) - Her pet scan results came back and it's SLL (Lymphoma) and it's contained to her Lymph node under her Left arm and it's travelled 10 cm toward her neck and she will start Chemo in 2 weeks. Thank you all for your prayers.	
We do not have some of the products which were listed at the seminar. We use a 70% alcohol sanitizer which is made locally. We are not facing germs but a virus and therefore there are many disinfectants which kill germs but do not kill the COVID 19 virus. Soap and water too is in fact cheap and effective.	
I would really love to see a set a two-dimensional materials that can be printed out and provided for families to work with at home. One of the things that came across to me during the seminar was that children will lose their freedom in a typical atrium space. At home, though, they can have it.	
Thieves by Young Living Basic H, by Shaklee These product generally are more expensive and not as easy to obtain. That is the downside of using all natural products.	
I am curious about the use of UV Light to disinfect the atrium.	
Are UV products okay to use or should we stay away from these?	
I have a question. Which products are safe for children to clean material by themselves?	
Toddler Montessori works, sacred art for the walls (icons, prints of masters) reproduction of audio or video of training lectures from Sofia or Gianna	
I have been researching UV lights, and based on research with other bacteria and viruses, it seems it would be effective. (and safe, used with proper precautions) <a href="https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/29959245/">https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/29959245/</a> <a href="https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32581288/">https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32581288/</a> <a href="https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/17822117/">https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/17822117/</a>	
Not at this time.	
<b>10. Do you have any suggestions for improving the events we offer? - Responses</b>	
These have been very helpful; thank you!	

Might be good to hold a couple of forums in late September - what is working in Atriums which returned; what is working for Atriums that have not returned.	
Some how to address how those who need further training can acquire it in lieu of the pandemic. Our catechists are all older or have health issues. So how can we finish our training when Zoom meetings are not permitted due to the philosophy of active involvement needing to be implemented.	
I think it's great to make the time later for the East Coast ladies. It was 1am for me, but I just stayed up late so it was great....except not so great for my family. Hannah Rose and Rebecca both said they fell asleep just after 3am when we finished. So long as they are posted on line to access-great	
Thank you for doing this!	
More information on how to serve the family virtually and at home.	
I have no suggestions for improvement. It was so well run. And I was so happy it began with a prayer. I felt like it was a mini-retreat. Many, many thanks for all you did to make this so gratifying.	
A small thing: Perhaps before we break out into groups make it clear the roles for the breakout groups. Our notetaker expected to present to the whole group and did not know that she was going to need to submit her notes in writing.	
You all are doing a fantastic job!!!! My initial response when I get off of a Zoom call with you all is an overwhelming feeling of grace and gratitude for being part of the ministry of CGS!!! â, ð, ð, ð, ð, ð, ð	
I like to hear what is going on other atria, especially, from at school setting. Most of catechists are from parish setting. They have different context and are not always practical to me. Also, we may want to divide a group by a region or by the level of openness, so that we may be able to reflect our concern on a local situation.	
Discussion questions sent out in advance so the participants can prepare for the group chat... often we cannot even see them long enough to jot them down or did not spot them before we were popped into our rooms.	
CGSUSA would be wise to shift its emphasis to the likely scenario of supporting the domestic church. Clearly, I'm in the minority, but I am frustrated with, and frankly, bewildered by, the emphasis being placed on in-person atrium sessions, while support for virtual implementation of CGS continues to be, comparatively, on the back burner.	

Please list the breakout session questions ahead of time for those of us who need a little more reflection time-- either on the slides before small group time, or even on the sign-up confirmation email with the zoom link.	
Offer lists in writing than by reading them.	
You are doing an amazing job! Thank you!	
I am learning a lot from these online events, and pray they can continue	
Please clarify what we can and cannot do as far as zoom.	
I like the small groups. But I didn't think we got to spend enough time there. We barely got through introductions.	
Please keep offering these events! We need the community aspect and to be able to pray together! Thank you!!!	
I have loved the two events so far. Please keep up the good work and let me know if there is anything I can do to help.	
I watched the first webinar, participated in the last and hope to be able to register for the 26th. I found them all to be informative, overwhelming (just due to the nature of the coronavirus) but extremely thought provoking.	
I am grateful for your support. Thank You!!!	
More directed, less generalized questions for discussion	