

## Catechesis of the Good Shepherd



### Level One Formation

for adults working with 3-6 year-old children

**2021: May 8-9, May 22; June 4-5, June 18-19; July 23-24; Sept 18; Oct 2-3, Oct 16-17; Nov 6-7, Nov 20** at *St. Matthew's Catholic Church, 229 South 28<sup>th</sup> Ave, Wausau, WI 54401*

**Fri:** 1-5pm, **Sat:** 8:30am-5pm, **Sun:** 1-5pm

**These dates can be roughly divided into a Part 1 & 2;** please contact Ruth directly for more information.

If you are interested in the **Montessori Skills training days only**, please contact Ruth.

**Those already trained in Level 1 and wish to be refreshed are welcome! If you are already registered with the National Association the fee is \$140. Please contact Ruth.**

## Formation Leader

**Ruth Ohm Sutherland** (ruthohm@gmail.com) has been a catechist since 2007; she is trained in the 3 Levels 1-3 in the CGS, and is currently training for the CGS Infant-Toddler level. She has started the CGS in three cities, most recently in Wausau, WI, and offers atrium sessions at all three levels in Wausau. Prior to moving to Wisconsin, Ruth taught Scripture at the San Francisco Archdiocesan seminary in Menlo Park, California.

**Special Note:** The themes that comprise the presentations and adult reflections in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd are based on more than 55 years of work with children by Sofia Cavalletti and Gianna Gobbi. Since it first began in the Roman Catholic tradition, CGS is presented in a course as it has been passed down from its co-founders. However, since CGS also reflects the most essential proclamations of the Christian faith, a formation course in Catechesis of the Good Shepherd includes discussion, as needed, for making adaptations to other denominations.

- **Fee is \$435;** it includes Parts 1 & 2 of the Level 1 training, basic Montessori Skills training, and registration and certificate from the CGS National Association. Course is limited to approximately 20 participants. Fee postmarked by **May 1, 2021.**
- Checks can be made out to "Stella Maris Catechesis of the Good Shepherd"
- The course is approved by the National Association of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and is applicable toward certification after completion.

### Level I Formation Registration Form

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd 2021

Hosted by St. Matthew Church, Wausau, WI

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Church/Denomination: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

For more information on registration for this course and tuition, please contact Ruth Ohm Sutherland (ruthohm@gmail.com or 715-551-4760) Please complete this form and mail or scan and send to Ruth (604 Franklin St., Wausau, WI 54403). Your participation must be confirmed by Ruth by **May 1<sup>st</sup> 2021.**

## ☞ A Vision for Children ☞

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd offers Christian formation for children ages 3 through 12. Through this experience, children (and adults) are helped to form an authentic, faithful relationship with God. This Catechesis is grounded in scriptural and liturgical study, framed by Montessori's principles of education. It gives children the opportunity to hear the Gospel and absorb its message through the use of sensorially rich materials and the work of their hands.

This method of catechesis began with Maria Montessori and was continued in Rome, Italy in 1954 by Sofia Cavalletti, a Hebrew and Scripture scholar, and her colleague, Gianna Gobbi, a Montessori trained educator. Both women were Roman Catholic. In their work with children, they sought to discover what face of God children most needed to see, in order to grow in their knowledge and love of God. Children need the sensitive guidance of the adult and the inner guidance of the Holy Spirit to nurture this relationship. The adult prepares the sacred space for children, called the atrium, which allows them a prayerful place to learn to listen to and respond to a relationship with God through Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

The atrium is a place of community and worship. It is a place to be with God, enjoy Him, listen to His Word, and to pray. It is designed to reflect the beauty of His creation and God's abiding love. It is also a place to begin to learn and recognize the signs and symbols that speak of Him through the liturgies of Eucharist and Baptism.

## ☞ Course Description ☞

The **Level I course** is the foundation for all three levels of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. The objectives of this Level I formation include:

- ❖ To present the guiding principles of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd;
- ❖ To explore the religious nature and the vital religious needs of the 3-6 year old child;
- ❖ To offer the adult time to hear and reflect prayerfully and consider the Biblical and liturgical themes presented to the 3-6 year-old child;
- ❖ To broaden the adult's ability to observe and learn from children's spirituality;
- ❖ To cultivate the capacity to listen deeply and enjoy the Word of God with children;
- ❖ To offer guidelines and assistance in preparing the atrium, making the catechist's album, and the materials.

## ☞ Your Invitation ☞

You are invited to participate in this Level I Formation that will prepare you to work in an atrium with children ages three to six years old.

This course is a *spiritual formation experience for adults* as well as instruction in this approach of catechesis for children. The pace of the course is retreat-like, thus allowing for its contemplative nature. Presentations are given from Scripture and liturgy as they are given to the children. Adults will receive background information on selected themes and will be encouraged to read the core CGS texts throughout the course. Time will be allocated during the course for album page discussion and writing. Successful participation in this course will result in a certificate from the National Association of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.

*If we want to help the child draw nearer to God, we should with patience and courage, seek to go always closer to the vital nucleus of things. This requires study and prayer. The children will be our teachers if we know how to observe them.*

*-Sofia Cavalletti*