



## You are invited!

Join us this summer for Level I Part A\* 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 Part A and Part B of a Level I course will result in a certificate from the National Association of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.*

## What is CGS?

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd offers Christian formation for infants through age 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 Dr. Maria 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 Dr. 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.

# Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

2024



## Formation Course Level I Part A

FOR ADULTS WORKING WITH  
3-6 YEAR OLD CHILDREN

*Let the children come to Me.  
Matthew 19:14*

# Course Description


The Level I course is the foundation for all four 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, & the materials.




Children in the MMOC atrium

## WHERE & WHEN

 Mary, Mother of the Church Parish  
2006 Weston Street  
La Crosse, WI 54601

 July 15 - July 22, 2024

 8:30am - 5:00pm\*

*\*some half days to be determined.*



Children in the MMOC atrium

## TUITION

Your course tuition is an investment in you, the adult, the children you encounter, and the community you are part of. Please do not let the cost deter you from joining us!

We have a grant pending to offset a portion of course costs, so at this time we are asking for a \$150 deposit to reserve your spot for Part A.

*Total cost for Part A will not exceed \$342.00\**

The remaining amount will be due by the beginning of formation on July 15th by check or on-line payment. All registrants that have paid the initial deposit will be sent a link via email for the final payment amount. Checks can be made out to Mary, Mother of the Church Parish.

*\*Built in to the tuition fee for Part A are the following costs:*

- \$35 CGS USA course certificate fee
- \$50 annual membership to CGS USA (which gives access to the materials manuals and many other valuable resources!)


## REGISTRATION

**To register online, follow this link, or scan the QR code,**

<https://www.wesharegiving.org/App/Form/d6eff3d4-d86c-4421-a570-a1bfee6ebdc0>



**or reach out to Host Coordinator  
Sarah Scarlet by June 1, 2024 .**

 [sscarlet@mmoclacrosse.org](mailto:sscarlet@mmoclacrosse.org)

 (608) 406-7686

## ADDITIONAL INFO

- This course is registered with CGS USA. (The course number is 1-02339)
- Course is limited to 20 participants.
- Snacks and beverages will be provided, we do ask that you provide your own lunch.
- Daily mass is offered at MMOC Tues-Fri at 7:30 am and at other local parishes.
- Additional details will be sent out in June prior to the beginning of the course.

## Meet the Formation Leader

**Ruth Ohm Sutherland** has been a catechist since 2007. She is trained in all 4 Levels of CGS from Infant-Toddler to Level 3. She has started the CGS in three cities, most recently in Wausau, WI, and offers atrium sessions at Levels 1-3 in Wausau. Prior to moving to Wisconsin, Ruth taught Scripture at the San Francisco Archdiocesan seminary in Menlo Park, California.

 [ruthohm@gmail.com](mailto:ruthohm@gmail.com)