

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) is a faith formation experience for children ages 3 to 12 years old. It is based on the belief that young children can and do experience God. Founded on the educational principles of Maria Montessori, CGS is rooted in scripture and liturgy. Central to the Catechesis is the atrium, a special environment created to nurture the child's spirituality with beautiful materials that focus the child's attention on key scripture passages and liturgical moments. Children enter into a love relationship with Jesus, the Good Shepherd, through gospel proclamation (life of Jesus, parables), prayer, song, silence, and liturgical celebrations. Hands-on materials (made by catechists and parish members) allow children to reflect on God's love and many gifts.

The catechesis began in Rome in 1954 and has continued with the approval of the bishops of Rome. Dr. Sofia Cavalletti, a scripture scholar, and Gianna Gobbi, a Montessori teacher and trainer, developed the Catechesis through their observation and work with children. CGS can be found in parishes and schools throughout the world. Since 2007, all Missionaries of Charity (Mother Teresa's order) worldwide have adopted CGS for their work with children and the religious formation of new sisters.

Completion of the entire course is required for **Level 1 certification** by The National Association of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.

[Catechists in the Diocese of Pittsburgh will receive catechetical certification along with completion of the Morality Course.]

The site for this course will be
Mother of Sorrows
4202 Old William Penn Highway
Murrysville, PA 15668

Contact us for lodging options.

Registration Contact:

Anita Wright

anita.wright@stvincent.edu

Logistical Contact:

Elizabeth Haberstroh

ehaberstroh@dioceseofgreensburg.org

This course is co-hosted by:

Mother of Sorrows Parish
and
Saint Vincent Seminary's
Institute for Ministry Formation

Registration Form - CGS Level 1 Formation 2023 - Mail \$100 registration fee and form to Saint Vincent, IMF, 300 Fraser Purchase Road, Latrobe, PA 15650

Name _____
 Phone _____ Email _____
 Address _____ Parish _____
 Total cost is \$850. Check # _____

This form and a \$100 non-refundable deposit are due Oct 7th to reserve a space & buy course books.

Please indicate if you'll pay the balance in full - \$750 by Oct 21st ____ or in half - \$375 due Oct 21st and March 2nd-____

Are you applying for a scholarship? _____.

Make checks payable to: **Institute for Ministry Formation**

Include in the memo: IMF CGS Course

This course is designed to attune participants to the religious life of children 3-6 years old and to provide specific methods and materials to foster their spiritual life.

A formation course for Level I includes at least 90 hours of presentations and reflections which model the presentations for children. Adult reflections lead to a deeper understanding of the Bible and the Holy Mass. We will do some material making as well as practicing presentations (lessons).

Completion of the entire course plus time observing in an atrium are required for Level I certification by the National Association of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.

The Course Fee is \$375 for each part and must be paid before each part begins. The fee covers:

- All course sessions
- Three required textbooks
- Handouts
- Certificate from National CGSUSA

Participants from the Diocese of Greensburg may request scholarship. Those in the Diocese of Pittsburgh may apply for a scholarship for catechetical certification and professional development. Participants from other Dioceses should check their own diocese for grant money or apply for a partial scholarship through the national association (if already a National CGS member).

Please send a nonrefundable \$100 Registration Fee and this form to Saint Vincent Seminary IMF (no later than Oct 7, 2023 please) to hold your place and allow us to order books.

Course will be limited to 20 participants & must have a minimum of 10 participants to be offered.

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Course # 1-2293

Formation Course for Working with
Three to Six Year Olds

Saturdays 9:30 – 4:30

Sunday 1:00 - 6:00

Part 1

Oct 21; Nov 11, 12;

Jan 6, 20; Feb 3, 17

Part 2

Mar 2, 3; April 6, 7;

May 4, 5; June 8, 9



“Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is not simply a set of techniques or special materials, but it is ‘the spiritual formation of the catechist/educator as a servant of God’s Word...’”

Mary Beth Palko, serves as a catechist in all three levels of the atria at St. Thomas More University Parish where she is the Director for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and Youth Ministry.

A nationally recognized CGS Level I Formation Leader, she has permanent certification in the Diocese of Greensburg and has also obtained her master's degree at Aquinas Institute for Theology in Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies and Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.

Mary Beth and her husband Phil have raised three children. She continues to share the pure joy of this work with others as her journey continues. of CGS and catechist

Danielle Cribbs, is also formed in all levels of CGS. In addition to serving in the Atrium, she is also the Director of Parish Life and Ministry at Holy Family in Seward.

Danielle and her husband have 3 children.

Comments from adults who have taken the CGS courses:

“If you want to find God, this is the course!”

“It was really exceptional in its retreat-like atmosphere and deeper experience of Christ’s love.”

“It’s not just for children, it is for adults.”

“It’s not a method, it’s a way of life!”

