

## A Vision for Children

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a Christian Education program for children ages 3 through 12 in which they experience and form an authentic, faithful relationship with God.

The Catechesis is grounded in scriptural and liturgical study framed by Montessori's principles of education. This allows children to hear the Gospel through the use of sensorially rich materials. The children are free to work with these materials that represent essential proclamations of the Christian message.

The adult's task is to prepare the sacred space, called the atrium, for the children, so that they can respond to this holy relationship, first proclaimed to them through Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

The atrium is a place of community and worship rather than a classroom for academic study. It is a place to be with God, enjoy God, listen to God's Word, and to pray. It is designed to reflect the beauty of His creation and God's abiding love.

The vision for this faith experience began in 1954 with Dr. Sofia Cavalletti, a Hebrew and Scripture scholar and member of the Vatican Commission for Jewish-Christian Relations, and her colleague, Professor Gianna Gobbi, a Montessori-trained educator.

Dr. Cavalletti began her work of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd with young children in

Rome, Italy. She found in working with children in this particular approach that, whatever the culture, they have vital religious needs and that Children desire to draw near to God, but need the sensitive guidance of the adult as well as the inner guidance of the Holy Spirit in them to nurture this relationship.

Today the Catechesis can be found in Roman Catholic, Episcopal, Methodist, Lutheran, and other churches, as well as schools worldwide.

## Your Invitation

You are invited to participate in Level I formation training for adults, in monthly Sunday afternoon sessions. Whether you would like to work in an atrium, or just further your own spiritual growth, you are welcome to this class. Upon completion of this training course, you will be prepared to enter an atrium as a catechist and to work with children ages 3 to 6 years old.

## Course Objectives

- To present the methodology and guiding principles of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.
- To explore the religious nature and the most vital religious needs of the 3-to-6 year-old.
- To meditate on the Biblical and liturgical themes presented to the 3-to-6 year-old.
- To broaden your ability to observe and learn from children, to listen with children to the Scripture, and to deepen your enjoyment of God's presence.
- To offer you guidelines and assistance in preparing the "Atrium" environment, and in making the catechist's album and catechetical materials.

## Formation Leader

Lynda Catalano has been the catechist at Trinity Episcopal Church in Fillmore, California, for 23 years. She has led level I and II formation courses for adults throughout the United States, was on the formation team for a National level II course in Arizona, and leads courses in Spanish. She is on the Formation Leader Discernment committee of the National Association of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, and has been on the presenting team for Formation Leader Training Courses. Lynda has recently retired from teaching first graders in a public school, and she has four children.

## Course Dates

Sundays, 1:00 to 4:30 pm

Feb 2, Mar 16, Apr 6, May 4, Jun 1, Jul 13,  
Aug 3, Sep 7, Oct 12, Nov 2, Dec 7, 2014.

Jan 4, Feb 1, Mar 1, Apr 12, May 3, Jun 7,  
Jul 12, Aug 2, Sep 6, Oct 4, Nov 1, Dec 6, 2015  
Jan 10, Feb 7, Mar 6, Apr 3, 2016.

## Tuition

\$100 for the entire course.  
Scholarships are available

Call Trinity Church, 805 524-1910  
Deposit of \$10.00 is due by Jan 26, 2014.

# Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

**Level 1 Formation course**  
Trinity Episcopal Church  
Fillmore, CA



1st Sunday afternoons  
(mostly...)  
February 2, 2014  
to April 3, 2016

## REGISTRATION FORM

**Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level I course at Trinity Church, Fillmore**  
Please send to CGS Training, Trinity Episcopal Church, P.O. Box 306, Fillmore, CA 93016

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parish \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration deposit of \$10.00 made payable to Trinity Episcopal church, enclosed.