

HOW TO START

Catechist formation courses are offered by accredited facilitators. The 90-120 hour in-person course for each of the three levels prepares the adult to nurture the spiritual needs and capacities of children by listening together to the Word of God, reflecting on it, and engaging them through the use of hands-on Montessori materials.

Adults also learn how to prepare the atrium environment and make some of the materials children use.

Course dates and locations are published on the website and Facebook page. Each level builds on the preceding one; therefore, every catechist must begin with Level 1.

“The Church has found a pearl of great price (cf. Mt 13:45-46) in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. It is truly a great grace offered to the People of God, and I am so thankful to the good Lord that this gift from Italy is being “re-gifted” to a great number of communities in Canada.”

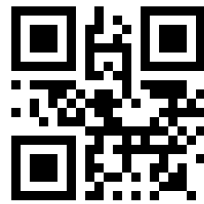
J. Michael Miller, CSB
Archbishop of Vancouver



The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Association of Canada is a member of the International Council of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and authorized to offer catechist certificates.

CGSAC is a Registered Charity:
Charity Registration Number: 827250945RR0001

cgsac.ca



CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD CANADA

*The Spirituality
of Childhood*





“The atrium is a place of spiritual retreat...in which work easily becomes prayer...a place of worship where children and adults celebrate the Word together.”

Sofia Cavalletti
The Religious Potential of the Child

OUR VISION

What if every child could have time and space specially set aside for an encounter with Christ?

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a time-tested approach to faith formation which feeds the deepest needs of children, allowing each one to get to know God personally.

In a retreat-like atmosphere, through the use of special materials designed just for them, children hear the Word proclaimed as they grow in their relationship with God.

The most essential treasures of the Christian faith, from scripture and liturgy, touch the heart of each child and lead to deep contemplation, prayer, and joy.

LEVELS



In the Level 1 Atrium, children discover that

God is love,
Jesus is Risen,
and he is our Good Shepherd.

AGE
3-6



As children move into Level 2, secure in their relationship with God, they wonder ...

What is God's plan?
What is my role in God's plan?

AGE
6-9



With a wider perspective, curious about God's plan of salvation, they ask

What is God calling me to do as his co-worker in the kingdom?
What gifts have I been given to use in this work?

AGE
9-12



HISTORY

Inspired by the educational principles of Maria Montessori, the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is the fruit of over 50 years of observation of children by Sofia Cavalletti, an Italian theologian and scripture scholar, and her Montessorian collaborator, Gianna Gobbi. The first Canadian atrium was established in 1979. Today, CGS serves hundreds of children in parishes and schools across the country.

“The child has a different relation to his environment from ours ... the child absorbs it. The things he sees are not just remembered; they form part of his soul. He incarnates in himself all in the world about him that his eyes see and his ears hear.”

Maria Montessori
The Absorbent Mind

OPEN TO ALL

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is open to all Christian denominations.

It can be realized in any social or cultural setting and can be found in over 70 countries around the world.