



***Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
National Certificate Training Series
Level One
Three opportunities for catechist training
will be offered during 2013-2014***

***A. Summer 2013: June 19-22, July 11-13, August 15-17
9:00 am-5:00 pm each day
Gesu Catholic School
17180 Oak Drive
Detroit, MI 48221***

***B. School Year 2013-14: Ten First Saturdays
September to June 9:00 am-5:00 pm
Gesu Catholic School
(Address as above)***

***C. School Year 2013-14: Ten Second Saturdays
September to June 9:00 am-5:00 pm
St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic School
214 E. Henry
Flushing, MI 48433***

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is an approach to the religious formation of children, 3-12 years of age. It originated in 1954 with the founding of the children's center or "atrium" in Rome by Sofia Cavalletti, a biblical scholar, and Gianna Gobbi, an educator of children and teachers. Inspired by Montessori principles of education, the catechesis is based on the conviction that God and the child are already in relationship.

The goal of Level One (ages 3-6) of The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is to help the child enjoy and be in love with God, first proclaimed as Jesus, the Good Shepherd. Such a relationship is the strongest possible foundation for life-long spiritual growth and moral living.

Children hear the Gospel by working with sensorially rich, but simple materials, keyed to scriptural or liturgical moments. Central to this program is the Atrium, a sacred space prepared for the children. A place of beauty, the atrium is designed for being with and enjoying God, listening to God's Word, and praying.

Implementation of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd requires training for adults at each level or age group: Level One focuses on children ages 3-6. The training course features 90 hours of lectures, participation in discussions, lesson presentations, and assistance with preparing materials and the catechist's album. The Level One course is the foundation for all three levels of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.

Level I course objectives include:

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

The National Association Certificate will be granted to all participants who complete the course requirements.



Required textbooks: The Religious Potential of the Child
by Sofia Cavalletti (\$25)
The Good Shepherd and the Child: the Joyful
Journey by Cavalletti, et al (\$15)
Listening to God with Children
by Gianna Gobbi, (\$14)
available at National Assoc. of CGS: www.cgsusa.org or (708) 386-8032 or LTP.org

Course Dates:

Option A: June 19-22, July 11-13, August 15-17, 2013

Option B: Sept. 7, Oct. 5, Nov. 2, and Dec. 7, 2013. Jan. 4, Feb. 1, Mar. 1, Apr. 5, May 3, and June 7, 2014

Option C: Sept. 14, Oct. 12, Nov. 9, and Dec. 14, 2013. Jan. 11, Feb. 8, Mar. 8, Apr. 12, May 10, and June 14, 2014

Lunch and snacks will be provided on all days. The schedule will be from 9am to 5pm each day. Additional hours will be scheduled for observation, book studies, and material making.

Information: All options: Sr. Nancy Ayotte, IHM (734) 240-8234 nayotte@ihmsisters.org
Gesu location: Laura Silveri (248) 548-2018 lsilveri321@yahoo.com
Flushing location: Elaine Baur (810) 659-8556 ebaur@strobertparish.org

Course Leader:

Sr. Nancy Ayotte is a member of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Monroe, Michigan. She holds a M.Div. and a M.R.E. Sr. Nancy has been involved with religious education on all levels since 1965 and a catechist of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd since 1994. She is trained in all three levels by those who studied under Sofia Cavalletti and is a recognized formation leader from the National Office of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (www.cgsusa.org). She has given courses in the Saginaw Diocese, Lansing Diocese, Detroit Archdiocese, Cincinnati Archdiocese, in Montana and South Africa.

The tuition for the Level I Formation is \$400, which includes a \$35 fee for the National Association of the Good Shepherd Certification. \$100 deposit is due with the registration form. **Please submit at least 2 weeks in advance of the first session of the course.** Balance is due with first session of the course.



Registration Form

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Email _____ Fax _____

Parish/School _____ Rel. Affiliation _____

Please indicate your choice:

Option A: _____ **Option B:** _____ **Option C:** _____

A check is enclosed _____ A check will be sent by my parish/school _____

Please make checks payable to: Sr. Nancy Ayotte IHM, 610 W. Elm, Monroe, MI 48162