

Spiritual Formation

Formation is an immersive spiritual experience that will prepare you to encounter Jesus with the child.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is founded on the two pillars of scripture and liturgy; proclaiming God's word and celebrating His presence in the Eucharist.

Using the methods of Maria Montessori, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd fulfills the child's deepest need for relationship.

This formation will lay the groundwork for you to be able to foster the 3-6 year-old child's relationship with Jesus, prepare a proper atrium environment, compile a catechist's album, and create materials for the space.

A secondary goal of this experience is for the adult to fall more deeply in love with the Good Shepherd through contemplation, meditation, and work.

Further information can be found at www.cgsusa.org

Formation Team

Ginger Peterson (*Formation Leader*) fell in love with Catechesis of the Good Shepherd in 2002 during the first formation course held in Iowa. Since that time, she has trained in all four levels under nationally and internationally recognized formation leaders.

Formerly the Director of Faith Formation at All Saints Catholic Church in Stuart, Iowa, Ginger led her parish in transitioning from a textbook-based program to a fully integrated Good Shepherd approach. Ginger is a credentialed Montessori Early Childhood/Primary guide, with Elementary I coursework and in the Fall of 2012 co-established School of Mary—Montessori, a Catholic Montessori Homeschool co-op. Ginger is a founding board member of Shepherd's Staff, a regional association promoting and supporting CGS. Her greatest CGS joy is being in the Atrium with the children.



Tracy Miller has been growing in faith with children in the Atrium for the past 11 years. She is a DRE at St. Mary-Holy Cross parish in Elkhart, IA where she helped establish all four levels of CGS. Tracy has spent the past 7 years serving the youngest child in many Toddler Atriums.

Rachel Manley fell in love with CGS at her first training in 2015, and since then has heard the Good Shepherd calling her to this important work of helping others fall in love with Him too. She has been trained in all four levels and served in multiple atria throughout the Des Moines area. She is also a wife and homeschooling mother to eleven children.



National Association of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Level I Training Parts 1 & 2

For adults seeking to serve
children ages 3-6

St. Francis of Assisi Parish
7075 Ashworth Road
West Des Moines, Iowa 50266



April 5-7, 2024
April 19-21, 2024
May 17-19, 2024
June 21-23, 2024
August 2-4, 2024

Registration Form

Register using the QR code below.



Contact:

Kristi Quinlan
hrohe@saintfrancischurch.org
515-440-1030

St. Francis of Assisi Parish
7075 Ashworth Road
West Des Moines, Iowa 50266

Tuition

\$450 for complete Level I course,
due at time of registration

Auditors Welcome - \$75 fee due with
registration

Two core texts are required -
purchase before course starts from
<https://www.cgsusa.org/shop/>

- *Religious Potential of the Child, 3rd Ed.* by Sofia Cavalletti
- *The Good Shepherd and the Child: A Joyful Journey, Revised and Updated*, by Sofia Cavalletti, Patricia Coulter, Gianna Gobbi, Silvana Quattrocchi Montanaro, and Rebekah Rojcewicz (2014)

*The child seems
capable of seeing
the Invisible,
almost as if it
were more
tangible and real
than the
immediate reality.*
- Sofia Cavalletti



*Young children
have a natural
ability to enjoy
their relationship
with God in a very
deep way. Children
are capable of
enjoying the
presence of God;
they are able to
give themselves
totally to God's
love.*

– Sofia Cavalletti



Dates and Times

April 5-7, 2024
April 19-21, 2024
May 17-19, 2024
June 21-23, 2024
August 2-4, 2024

Fridays 5 - 8:30 PM
Saturdays 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Sundays 10 AM - 5 PM

Snacks will be provided, as well as lunch
on Saturdays and Sundays