

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
Level I Formation 2023 Registration Form

Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Street Address: _____

_____ City: _____

Church/School: _____

Tuition: R300 for the concentrated Level I Formation.
Banking Details: Capitec, Acc.Holder: VG Nunes,
Acc.Number: 169 576 7266, Savings account, Branch
470010, Reference: CGS and Name

Lunch is a bring and share.

Please return the completed form & POP to:
goodshepherdjhb@gmail.com

For an invoice, please email this registration form
to:
goodshepherdjhb@gmail.com

Deadline to register is 15 September 2023.

For more information, contact
tracy@debeerassociates.com or 082 355 5184.

Formation Team

Tracy De Beer has received all three levels of CGS through the CGSUSA and is currently in discernment as a formation leader. Tracy first received CGS in Cape Town in 2010 and served both level 1 and 2 children in her parish. She currently serves children in The Atrium of the Good Shepherd at CBC Parklands where she works with children aged 3-6. Tracy under the guidance and mentorship of Karen Maxwell (remotely) will be offering this level I part 1 formation.

Karen Maxwell serves as Director of Formation for The United States Association of The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, CGSUSA, (www.cgsusa.org) and is also a representative for the association on the International Council for CGS. She has enjoyed the life changing work of being with all ages of children in the atrium of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd for 28 years and offering adult formation in this method of catechesis for 22 years. Karen serves children and adults in her parish, the diocese, and with the Missionaries of Charity.

Special Note: The themes comprising the presentations and adult reflections in Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) are based on more than 55 years of work with children by Sofia Cavalletti and Gianna Gobbi. Since it first began in the Roman Catholic tradition, CGS formation is presented as it has been passed down from its co-founders in the Roman Catholic tradition. CGS reflects the most essential proclamations of the Christian faith.

Level 1 Part 1 Catechist Formation for Adults

For working with 3-6-year-old
children

Dates: 22 to 26 September 2023

Venue: St Therese, 7 Fick Road,
Florentia, Alberton

Time: 08h00am to 17h00pm

Hosted by the CGS Team Johannesburg

*Catechesis
of the
Good Shepherd
Faith Formation for Children*



A Vision for Children

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd offers Christian formation for children ages 3 through 12. Through this experience, children are helped in developing an authentic, faithful relationship with God. The Catechesis is grounded in scriptural and liturgical study framed by Montessori's principles of education. This gives children the opportunity to hear the Gospel and absorb its message through the use of sensorially rich materials and the work of their hands which is very appropriate to their developmental needs.

This method of catechesis began in Rome, Italy in 1954 with Sofia Cavalletti, a biblical scholar, and her colleague, Gianna Gobbi, a Montessori trained educator. Both women were Roman Catholic. In their observation and engagement with children, they sought to discover what face of God children most needed to see in order to grow in their knowledge and love of God. Children need the sensitive guidance of the adult and the inner guidance of the Holy Spirit to nurture this relationship. The adult prepares a sacred space, called the atrium, which offers children a prayerful place to learn to listen to and respond to a relationship with God through Jesus, the Good Shepherd. The atrium is a place of celebration and community - to be with God, enjoy Him, listen to His Word, and to share such experience with others. It is designed to reflect the beauty of His creation and God's abiding love. It is also a place to begin to recognise the signs and symbols that speak of Him through the liturgies of Baptism and Eucharist.

Level I Formation

The **Level I Catechist Formation** is the foundation for all three levels of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. The objectives of Level I formation include:

- ❖ To present the guiding principles of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd;
- ❖ To explore the religious nature and the vital religious needs of the 3-6-year-old child;
- ❖ To offer the adult the necessary time to prayerfully reflect and personally consider the Biblical and liturgical themes presented to the 3-6-year-old child;
- ❖ To broaden the adult's ability to observe and learn from children's spirituality;
- ❖ To cultivate the capacity to deeply listen to and enjoy with children the Word of God;
- ❖ To offer guidelines and assistance in preparing the atrium, making the catechist's album, and materials.

Your Invitation

You are invited to participate in this Level I formation which will prepare you to work in an atrium with children ages three to six years old.

This formation is designed to be a spiritual formation for adults as well as instruction in this method of catechesis for children.

The pace of the course is retreat-like allowing for its contemplative nature to be a prayerful experience for adults as well as model the atrium

experience for children. A three-year cycle of presentations will be given from the scripture and liturgy appropriate to this age child and as they are offered to the children. Adults will also receive background information on the themes that undergird this formation including a foundational study into Maria Montessori's work with children. Participants will be encouraged to read the core CGS texts throughout this formation. Time will be allocated for making materials used in the atrium and discussing and writing album pages for presentations.

Successful participation of this course will result in a certificate from the United States Association of The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.

Help me come closer to God
by myself

-The silent plea of the child

If we want to help the child draw nearer to God, we should with patience and courage, seek to go always closer to the vital nucleus of things. This requires study and prayer. The children will be our teachers if we know how to observe them. -
Sofia Cavalletti