



The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Level 1 Formation Course for Adults • 2016-2017

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a gift for every child, no matter what the culture, language and family background.

"Help us, O God, to enter into the secret of childhood, so that we may know, love and serve the child in accordance with the laws of Thy justice and following Thy holy will."

-MARIA MONTESSORI

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd assists the faith formation for children ages 3 to 12 years old. The catechist serves the mystery of God and the child and listens to God with the children. It is based upon the belief that young children can and do experience God.

Founded on the pedagogical principles of Maria Montessori, the catechesis is rooted in the sources of the Bible and liturgy. Central to the catechesis is the atrium, a special environment created to nurture the child's spirituality with beautiful materials that focus the child's attention on key scripture passages or liturgical moments.

Children grow in their relationship with the Good Shepherd through prayer, singing, silence, and by exploring Biblical parables, historical narratives and liturgical events. Hands-on materials (made by catechists and parish members) are used in each presentation to assist the child to continue meditation on the proclamation. Time for the child to work allows Christ, the Inner Teacher, to teach.

The catechesis began in Rome in 1954. Dr. Sofia Cavalletti, a scripture scholar, and Gianna Gobbi, a Montessori teacher, developed the catechesis through observing and working with children for over fifty years. Now, sixty years later, the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd can be found all over the world and in a variety of Christian traditions.

THE AIMS OF THE LEVEL I COURSE ARE:

- To explore the methodology and guiding principles of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.
- To explore the religious nature and most vital religious needs of the 3 to 6 year old child
- To meditate on the Biblical and liturgical themes presented to the 3 to 6 year old child
- To further develop the ability to observe and learn from children, to listen to God with children, and to enjoy the presence of God
- To offer aid to participants in preparing an Atrium environment, and in creating the participant's album.
- Discover ways to connect the atrium with the home and the parish through the child

COURSE HOURS INCLUDE:

Participating in presentations as given to children; background reflections on theological themes; reading; creating a Catechist album; practicing and observing.

COURSE HOURS: Selected Saturdays, 9:00-5:00 with an hour lunch break

DATES: 9/24, 10/1, 10/22, 11/19, 12/10, 1/7, 1/28, 2/25, 3/18, 4/22, 5/13, 6/3

Upon successful completion of the course, the participant will be awarded a level I certificate from the National Association of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.

The course will be led by **Anna Hurdle**, recognized to lead all three levels of CGS.

TUITION: Tuition is waived for St. Peter's parishioners

Checks payable to: **CATECHIST FORMATION**

Please mail or email registration form to **Anna Hurdle**
Hurdle.anna@gmail.com

Anna Hurdle, St. Peter's Episcopal Church
115 West Seventh Street
Charlotte, NC 28202

Name: _____

Address: _____

Parish or School: _____

Email Address: _____