



CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
SONFLOWER REGION

The Grapevine

Fall 2016

"The Little Ones"

Vol. 9, Issue 2

SERVING THE CHILDREN OF KANSAS AND NORTHWEST MISSOURI

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www.CGSKsMo.org

E-mail the board at

CGSKsMo@gmail.com

or contact it through

Corresponding Secretary

Shelli Lange

4184 SW Lafayette Place

Lee's Summit, MO 64082

Dear Catechists,

The Gospel Acclamation for the Memorial of St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus on October 1st is a verse we experience daily in the life of the Atrium: "Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the Kingdom." (Mt 11:25) And how blessed are those little ones whose trust is so great that they are open to receive those revelations of the Kingdom.

The words of St. Pio of Pietrelcina, O.F.M. Cap., "Pray, hope and don't worry," come to mind. Often, we are busy, rushing about from one activity to the next, worried about this, that and the other thing. "Where will I house the Atrium this year?", "How will I find the time to make all these materials?" "Who will lead or assist the sessions?". All this, and not to mention the thoughts and worries about our personal lives.

But the children are simple. They do not concern themselves with the details of life or the needs of the Atrium. When they are with us in the Atrium, they are there, with Jesus, and will simply "be" with Him. What a great gift they give us! How much we can learn from them! We can pray and hope and leave the rest to God because "worry is useless. God is merciful and

will hear [our] prayer." (St. Pio) In prayer, God has always provided for our needs, especially in our Atria, and even more than we could have imagined for ourselves.

And how much we can learn of the great Love and Mercy that Jesus

has for each one of us, His littlest ones, in the presentations we offer the children. In Level I, the Found Sheep, in Level II, the Found Coin and the Forgiving Father (all of which we heard at Mass a few weeks

ago). In Level III the Old Testament Scripture studies of Abraham and Noah. Let us reflect with the children and hear these words anew for ourselves too. The work is a gift to us, as much as to them.

As the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy comes to a close, I would like to invite you to join us to participate in discussion with Rebekah Rojcewicz, author of the foreword in Religious Potential of the Child, Vol. I, at our Annual Meeting on November 5th at Our Lady of the Presentation. Let us come together and learn from each other about how we can best serve God and the children.

Peace,

Jennifer O'Malley

CGS Sonflower Board President



Changes to Sonflower Region ByLaws

We need your vote! The Board is proposing the first-ever changes to the Bylaws for our Sonflower Region, and a majority vote of the members/ catechists in our region is needed!

What do the changes mean?

- The President would no longer need to reside in Kansas, allowing each officer to be chosen based on their talents, while maintaining a principal place of business for the Sonflower Region in the state of incorporation.
- Future bylaws changes could be passed by a majority vote of those present at the Annual

meeting (Also the Fall enrichment).

- Other changes include updating membership lists, term of appointments to vacant Board positions, and timing of the year-end meeting of the old and new Board.

How can I help?

- Vote now via email at cgsksmo@gmail.com.
- OR Vote at the Annual meeting on November 5th.

**Please
Vote “Yea” or “Nay”
Now at
cgsksmo@gmail.com**



! Get The Latest News !

Check out Events on the Sonflower Region website to see what is planned. See what Certification Courses are being offered in our region. See whether your atrium is listed under Find an Atrium and that the information is correct. Also send in your photos and children's work or prayers. Anything that shows children or their work must be accompanied by a parent release (on the website under Documents).

We hope to use the site as an additional forum for your questions and discussions. We also have a Facebook page: SonFlower Region Catechesis of Good Shepherd.

www.CGSKsMo.org

SonFlower Calendar

**November 5, 8:30
a.m.**

*Fall Conference &
Sonflower Region Board
Elections;*

*Keynote Speaker:
Rebekah Rojcewicz;
Location: Our Lady
of the Presentation
Catholic Church*

See www.CGSKsMo.org
for new and current
course listings in all
three levels.

Sonflower Region of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Bylaws Changes Ballot

Please vote YES or NO for each proposed change to the Bylaws:

Article I

Section 2: *Change:* If the current President of the Corporation resides in Kansas, then the location of the principal Place of Business shall be the home address of the current president of the Corporation. If the current President of the Corporation does not reside in Kansas, then the location of the principal Place of Business shall be the home address of the first officer who resides in Kansas, according to the following order: Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer.

YES NO

Article III

Section 2: *Add:* A resignation by default shall occur if two successive electronic mailings to a member are unsuccessful in delivery, and the email address used is verified to be the most recent email address the member provided. The member shall be removed from membership until such time that they provide a current email address.

YES NO

Article IV

Section 3: *Change:* Newly elected Directors shall participate in a transitional meeting with current Board members. before the end of the current calendar year

YES NO

Article IV

Section 4: *(Regarding appointments to a vacant position on the board) Change:* Such individual shall serve the remainder of the unfilled term.

YES NO

Article V

Section 1: *Add:* One or more officers shall reside in Kansas.

YES NO

Article V

Section 3: *Eliminate:* The President shall reside in Kansas.

YES NO

Article VI

Section 1: *Change:* Amendments to these bylaws, recommended by any member of the SonFlower Region of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, Inc., may be adopted at any annual ~~scheduled or special meeting by a majority vote of the members (in person or by e-mail or general mail ballot) if a quorum is present,~~ by a majority vote of the members present at the annual meeting, provided that an electronic or written statement of each proposed amendment has been sent to each member twenty days before the meeting.

YES NO



Continuing & Upcoming Formation Courses

(Kansas Residents may apply for a CGS Grant through the Archdiocese of Kansas City, KS)

LEVEL I, PART 1: #1-1305

- Nov. 12, Dec. 10, Jan. 14, Feb. 4, Mar. 11, Apr. 15, Apr. 29, 2017
- Scheduled 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Holy Trinity Parish, Lenexa, KS
- Contact Jo Thornley Cox, 816-522-3002, kcmojo@gmail.com

LEVEL I, PART 2: #1-1172

- Sept. 17, Oct. 15, Nov. 12, Dec. 12, Jan. 7, Feb. 11, March 4, April 1, 2017
- Scheduled 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Curé of Ars School, Leawood, Kansas
- Contact Emily Lopez, emilylopez@cureofars.com

LEVEL II, PART 2: #2-397

- Sept. 10, Oct. 1, Dec. 3, Jan. 28, Feb. 18, Mar. 25, Apr. 8, 2017
- Holy Trinity Parish, Lenexa, KS
- Contact Pat Domann, domann@aint-johns.net

LEVEL III, PART 2: #3-220

- Aug. 27, Sept. 24, Oct. 22, Nov. 19, Jan. 21, Feb. 25, Mar. 18, Apr. 22, 2017
- Schedule 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Holy Trinity Parish, Lenexa, KS
- Contact Julie Baltuska, 913-492-4842, johntentwentyeight@yahoo.com

* Applications for financial aid may be requested through National CGS at www.CGSUSA.org or through the Sunflower Region at CGSKsMO@gmail.com. Applications generally are due a month before the registration date

*"If God is presented to the child through tangible and meaningful activities, it will do more for the child than just arouse interest; it will create in the child a sense of joy, admiration, and wonder."
- Maria Montessori*

Help much appreciated, always needed

The SonFlower Region cannot fully bloom unless more catechists are involved. The nine-member board is only part of the nutrients for a growing region. We also need people to serve on the financial aid committee, reviewing applications; to work on development, e.g., fund-raising, continuing education; to help with communications, e.g., newsletter, press releases, archives, and web site; to provide financial and legal assistance; to update the membership database.

We are growing quickly in this region and as the demand for more formation classes increases, we are in need of more Formation Leaders. If you feel this call to help form our future CGS Catechists, please contact us.

Like the mustard seed, the region began small, but the power of the Holy Spirit has strengthened and guided it. Like the leaven, though, it needs the work of human hands to help it grow and change with God's grace. Please prayerfully consider serving the region in some capacity, be it small or large.

cgsksmo@gmail.com

What is the SonFlower Region?

The Regional Board developed the following Purpose, Mission Statement, and Vision. Annual strategic goals are set each year in January. Read the following to have a better understanding of our SonFlower association.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the SonFlower Region of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is to assist the involvement of adults and children in a common religious

experience in which the religious values of childhood predominate.

MISSION STATEMENT

With the guidance of Father, Son, and Spirit and in accordance with the National Association and the International Council of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, the mission of the SonFlower Region of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is to nurture understanding of the religious potential of children and support the growth of CGS atria in the state of Kansas and the Kansas City, Mo., metro area.

VISION

The SonFlower Region will provide ongoing formation and enrichment opportunities for regional catechists.

The SonFlower Region will spread the understanding of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd by educating church leaders and offering "Seed Plantings" at the school, parish, and diocesan levels.

The SonFlower Region will develop the infrastructure of the organization with the guidance of an elected board.

The SonFlower Region will establish regular contact with catechists through written, voice, and visual electronic media.

The SonFlower Region will promote membership in the National Association of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, work in harmony with it, and provide support when requested.

The SonFlower Region will develop methods of raising funds, including grant proposals, if a need is determined.

Fall Conference

Saturday, November 5, 2016

"Remaining on the Joyful Journey of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd"

Featuring Rebekah Rojcewicz, author of the foreword in Religious Potential of the Child, Vol. I,

"A shared meditation on our true identity in Catechesis of the Good Shepherd; its roots, and current 'new outreaches'; considering the meaning of one of our original ten CGS characteristics: the 'deschooling of catechesis' and how the spiral method can help us with this; breaking into small groups to consider a few specific points about how we work; time for questions and discussion about our biggest challenges."

Rebekah has been a catechist and formation leader in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd for the past 35 years since completing her training in all three levels with Sofia and Gianna in the Rome atrium. She has translated several of Sofia's and Gianna's books and articles and has written various pieces of CGS core texts. Rebekah works in her parish atrium and in the atria of the Missionaries of Charity in Memphis, TN and serves on the staff of CGSUSA, as well as on the Executive Committee of the International Council for the catechists.

The Fall Conference of the Sonflower Region is also the annual membership meeting to hear about the regional association and to elect new board members.

Jennifer O'Malley, President, will address the region's accomplishments and goals. Elections will be held according to the Ballot attached at the end of this newsletter.

The conference schedule is as follows:

8:30 Registration, coffee, continental breakfast, Voting

9:00 Opening prayer

9:15 Keynote speaker: Rebekah Rojcewicz

11:00 Board Reports

Announcement of new board members

11:30 Closing prayer / Social time

Location: Our Lady of the Presentation Church, 130 NW Murray Rd., Lee's Summit, MO 64081 (*please park in large parking lot on north side and enter through school entrance, the second set of doors*)

Catechists, assistants and friends welcome.
No RSVP required.
Free of charge.

Questions: Contact Lynn Smith (816) 582-9025

Sonflower Region Annual Meeting

Election of SonFlower Region Board of Directors

The SonFlower Region is dedicated to fostering the growth of and supporting atria in Kansas and the Greater Kansas City area. Its work is overseen by a nine-member board, with three members rotating on annually.

Existing Board Member	Term Ends:
Shannon Rassmussen	Dec. 2016
Cathy McCaig	Dec. 2016
Jennifer O'Malley	Dec. 2016
Shelli Lange	Dec. 2017
Jo Ellen Engert	Dec. 2017
Jeanne Wickman	Dec. 2017
Lynn Smith	Dec. 2018
Ellen Balke Jones	Dec. 2018
Janet Lovick	Dec. 2018

Please consider this work. The board generally meets four times a year. Officers are president, vice president, treasurer, recording secretary, corresponding secretary, and formation leader representative, and these positions are determined at the first meeting of the new board. Work of the board includes managing formation courses in the region, offering continuing formation for catechists, supporting the establishment of atria, and fostering education about Catechesis of the Good Shepherd for parents, teachers, pastors, and diocesan officials. Board members must be certified in at least Level I and reside in the SonFlower Region. Submit your name and a brief biography, including atrium experience and why you want to support the region, to CGSKsMo@gmail.com. You may nominate others only with their consent. Nominations may be offered from the floor during the general meeting at the Fall conference.

We need a minimum of three people to run for a three-year term on the board.

All catechists certified in at least Level 1 of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and who reside in the SonFlower Region (Kansas or the greater Kansas City, MO., metro area) are qualified to vote. Only one ballot is allowed per member. The ballot is on the last page of this newsletter.

Ballots may be submitted by:

1. postal delivery to Jennifer O'Malley
2. OR electronic delivery to cgsksmo@gmail.com by midnight, November 4, 2015
3. OR deliver to the Registration Table at the November 5, 2015, SonFlower Region Fall Conference at Our Lady of the Presentation's Catholic Church,

BALLOT FOR SONFLOWER REGION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NOVEMBER 2015

******* As of this mailing, there are no nominations on record. *******

Election will take place at the Fall Retreat on November 6th

******* PLEASE SUBMIT NOMINEES TO SERVE ON THE BOARD 2016 THROUGH 2018. *******

NOMINATIONS REMAIN OPEN UNTIL THE MEETING ON NOV. 6.

PLEASE SUBMIT AT CGSKsMo@gmail.com.

_____ **NAME**

Short Bio

_____ **NAME**

Short Bio

_____ **NAME**

Short Bio