



The Grapevine

Spring 2015

"Pentecost"

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SERVING THE CHILDREN OF KANSAS AND NORTHWEST MISSOURI

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Dear Catechists,

As we live each liturgical season, God brings us new delights that fill us in ways we never knew possible. Maybe it is hearing those words of scripture with new ears or becoming delighted in a piece of the Mass because of our own further work with the materials in the Atrium. However, at the celebration of Pentecost, it is none other than the overwhelming recognition of God's abundant gifts—given to us directly through the Holy Spirit. We receive each gift more prominently at different moments in our lives. We already know these gifts.

But what gift is the Holy Spirit telling us we need more of in our own lives this year? How can we use these gifts of the Holy Spirit for something bigger than our own spiritual strengthening? How can we best utilize these gifts for the betterment of our struggling society? In a letter to Diognetus (found in the non-Biblical readings for Easter #6 of the Office of the Hours, p. 1996-1998), it is clear that we are an integral part of our sometimes dark world. In this letter, it says, "To speak in general terms, we may say that the Christian is to the world what the soul is to the body. As the soul is present in every part of the body, while remaining distinct from it, so Christians are found in all cities of the world, but cannot be identified with the world. As the visible body contains the invisible soul, so Christians are seen living in the world, but their religious life remains unseen.

"...It is by the soul, enclosed within the body, that the body is held together, and similarly, it is by the Christians, detained in the world as in a prison, that the world is held together."

When working with the children before us in the Atrium setting, we ponder these gifts more deeply. We begin to understand their meanings and how they apply to us too. How do we put these gifts into action? With the younger children, I notice we often ask, "Which gift of the Holy Spirit do you want?" Then, when they are older, we might ask, "Which gift do you need?" We as adults also go through this progression in our desire for the Holy Spirit's great gifts. Sometimes our earthly experiences speak loudly about what gift we most want. Later, though, we find ourselves inundated with an abundance of all the Holy Spirit's gifts, and it no longer is what we want but what the Holy Spirit

needs to give us so that we are appropriately strengthened to be the soul of the world. Even the apostles could not fulfill their mission without receiving the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

God desires to give us a gift. The appropriate response to a gift is to receive it with grace, joy, and gratitude. Then we can use God's spiritual gifts to further build up the kingdom of God here on earth. Once we receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we must then determine how to pass on those gifts to others around us—our spouse, our family, the parish community, the children with us in the Atrium, and those beyond our Christian bubble. This may be someone of another faith background or someone with no faith at all. How do we live out the fullness of these gifts so others may come to better know who God is?

Awe of God
Understanding
Strength
Piety
Wisdom
Knowledge
Counsel

by Shannon Rasmussen
CGS Sonflower Board President

Benefits of CGS National Membership

Your membership in the National Association of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd connects you with catechists and supporters from across the United States and even around the world, who share a commitment to the Christian formation of children. Your membership support not only gives you access to wonderful resources in Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, but also helps our association spread the word about how a relationship with the Good Shepherd can change the lives of adults and nourish the spiritual growth of children.

We encourage individuals, churches, schools and other organizations to join the National Association of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd so that we can continue to build the network of those who support this work of Christian spiritual formation for children

All members, whether individual members or church/organization members, choose the level of support they wish to offer:

Become a Member of CGS National and receive free access to online materials manuals

Contributing Membership: An annual gift of \$50 or more

Connects catechists and others, who appreciate the gift CGS offers the child, to those throughout the country who also wish to nurture the child's relationship with God. *Anyone serving the child through this work, whether as a catechist, DRE or aide OR any parent, grandparent or friend who wishes to support this method of formation is encouraged to join CGSUSA at this entry-level.*

Supporting Membership: An annual gift of \$150 or more

While all members in good standing receive the same access to member benefits, gifts at this level support the full cost of membership.

Visionary Membership: An annual gift of \$500 or more Ensures the vision and work of CGSUSA can be shared with others who are committed to this method of spiritual formation of the child. *If you have the heart for and capacity to give more, we ask your prayerful consideration of membership at this level.*

Limited Income Membership: An annual gift of \$35

Allows those with significant limited means to enjoy the gift of CGSUSA updates, along with inclusion in the member directory. *CGSUSA will join you in prayerful discernment to determine if this membership is an option.*

***** Key Benefit To You *****

CGSUSA provides access to Online Level I and Level II Materials Manuals to Qualifying Members as a benefit of membership.

See www.CGSUSA.org for registration information

! Get The Latest News !

We have a new website at www.CGSKsMo.org! The hosting service has been very helpful, yet we could use the assistance of a SonFlower member with some web design experience. Communication is vitally important to a group such as ours that is spread throughout an entire state and beyond.

Check out *Events* on the 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

July 11, 9a.m.

Sonflower Region Board Meeting, Holy Trinity, Lenexa, KS

September TBD

Sonflower Region Board Meeting, Our Lady of the Presentation, Lee's Summit, MO

November 7, 9a.m.

Fall Conference, SonFlower Region; Keynote Speaker: TBD, Location TBD

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

Upcoming Formation Courses

Financial aid is available through the regional association at CGSKSMO@Gmail.com and the national association at www.cgsusa.org.

LEVEL I, PART 1: #1-1172

- Sept. 19, Oct. 17, Nov. 7, Dec. 12, 2015; Jan. 30, March 5, April 2, 2016
- Part 2 course dates to be determined
- Scheduled 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Curé of Ars School, Leawood, Kansas
- **Registration due date Aug. 19, 2015**
- Contact Emily Lopez, emilylopez@cureofars.com

LEVEL I, PART 2: #1-1098

- July 13-16, 2015
- Holy Spirit Parish, Lee's Summit, Missouri
- July 20-22, 2015
- Our Lady of the Presentation Parish, Lee's Summit, Missouri
- Scheduled 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- **Registration due date June 13, 2015**
- Contact Jo Engert, 816-251-1135,

jengert@olps.org

LEVEL I, PART 2: #1-1132

- Aug. 27, Sept. 10 and 24, Oct. 8 and 22, Nov. 5 and 19, Dec. 3, 2015; Jan. 7 and 21, 2016
- Our Lady of the Presentation Parish, Lee's Summit, Missouri
- Scheduled 8:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- **Registration due date July 27, 2015**
- Contact Jo Engert, 816-251-1135, jengert@olps.org

LEVEL II, PART 1: #2-384

- May 18-22 and 25-26, 2015
- Part 2 course dates to be determined
- Holy Family Atrium, Atchison, Kansas
- Benedictine College Ministry
- **Registration due date April 18, 2015**

- Contact Elizabeth Slobodnik, 913-240-1683, eslobodnik@benedictine.edu

LEVEL II, PART 1: #2-397

- Sept. 12, Oct. 10, Dec. 5, 2015
- Jan. 9, Feb. 13, March 12, April 9, 2016
- Part 2 course dates to be determined
- Holy Trinity Parish, Lenexa, Kansas
- **Registration due date Aug. 12, 2015**
- Contact Pat Domann, domann@saint-johns.net

LEVEL III, PART 1: #3-1 HT 2015

- Aug. 29, Sept. 26, Oct. 24, Nov. 21, 2015
- Jan. 23, Feb. 27, March 19, April 23, 2016
- Part 2 course dates to be determined

Continuing Formation Courses

Once you have paid for a course, you can audit it again at any location in the Sonflower Region

LEVEL I, PART 2: #1-1093

- Jan. 24, Feb. 7 and 21, March 14 and 28, April 11, and June 6, 2015
- St. Stanislaus Parish, Rossville, Kansas
- Scheduled 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Contact Tonia Schuckman, 785-640-6783, tonia.schuckman@gmail.com

LEVEL I, PART 1: #1-1132

- Nov. 20, Dec. 11, 2014
- Jan. 8 and 29, Feb. 19, March 5 and 26, April 16 and 30 (date added!), May 7 and 21, 2015
- Our Lady of the Presentation Parish, Lee's Summit, Missouri
- Scheduled 8:45 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. (new time!)
- See above for Part 2 course information
- Contact Jo Engert, 816-251-1135, jengert@olps.org

LEVEL II, PART 2: #2-340

- Sept. 13, Oct. 18, Nov. 15, 2014
- Jan. 17, Jan. 31, April 18, May 2, 2015
- Scheduled 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Lenexa, Kansas
- Contact Pat Domann, domann@saint-johns.net

LEVEL II, PART 2: #2-377

- Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29, 2015
- Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26
- March 5 and 26
- April 9, 16, 23, 30
- 11:30 am-2:30 pm Thursdays
- Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Lenexa, Kansas
- Contact Terisa Morgan, 313-393-4499, cntmorgan@yahoo.com

LEVEL III, PART 2: #3-117

- Aug. 23, Sept. 27, Oct. 25, Nov. 22, 2014
- Jan. 24, Feb. 21, March 28, April 25, 2015
- Scheduled 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Lenexa, Kansas
- Contact Julie Baltuska, 913-492-4842, johntentwentyeight@yahoo.com

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.

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.

Weaving Our Gifts: A Conference of Catechists

Share - Renew - Network - Worship - Learn - Enjoy
at our seventh WOG conference

October 22-25, 2015

at the [Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center](#)
in West Hartford, Connecticut

Weaving Our Gifts had an extra year between conferences and we can't wait to see you again in 2015! Join us for WOG, the largest regular gathering of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd community, and benefit from the vast breadth of our combined knowledge and experience. Marvel at New England's fall foliage in the tranquil setting of the Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center. Within the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd community exists a breadth of knowledge and experience. *Weaving Our Gifts*, organized by the Center for Children and Theology in collaboration with the [National Association of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd](#), brings these gifts together using a model of collegial presentations. Through the sharing of our studies and experiences as catechists, we gain a rich exposure to new information and a deeper connection to the heart of CGS gained in our courses. Each gathering includes a robust mix of practical, reflective, and renewing experiences.

Our own Peg Burns, from Kansas City, Missouri will be presenting at the conference this year. Maybe we could get a contingent from the KC area to go! Find more information at cctheo.org.