



CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
SONFLOWER REGION

The Grapevine

Spring 2017

"Follow The Son"

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SERVING THE CHILDREN
OF KANSAS AND
NORTHWEST MISSOURI

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Lee's Summit, MO 64082

Meet our New

President -

Ellen Blake-Jones

I was first introduced to Catechesis of the Good Shepherd by a good friend in 2004. I attended a Bible study which incorporated CGS for the children while mothers participated in the study. Little did I know ten short years later I would be a trained catechist, teaching in an atrium in my children's school. I was familiar with the writings and teaching method of Maria Montessori as I had attended a Montessori school for 3 years as a child, and my mother was a trained Montessori teacher. I had already sent my first three children to Montessori school, and was incorporating many of her teaching methods in my home.

How amazed I was to learn that Sophia Cavalletti had worked with Dr. Montessori, and developed a catechesis program! What a gift to have Dr. Montessori's work devoted to a scripture and catechesis program for children! My love for CGS has grown over the years and my formation has driven me to explore many new avenues of spiritual development that I probably would not have pursued otherwise. CGS has been a wonderful gift to my family and children. I truly believe that my children's faith and spiritual journey would look much different if not for CGS. I have not seen a better way to pass on the Catholic faith.

Best of all, are all of the beautiful lives that have touched mine on this journey of faith. Children, parents, catechists, teachers, and formation leaders, all of whom have been beautiful ripples in the waters of my spiritual growth. What a blessing! What a gift!



I recently started reading a Matthew Kelly book entitled Resisting Happiness. Maybe some of you have heard of it or read it. In the beginning, he talks about resistance; what defines it, what it looks like in our daily lives, and its broad and lasting impact on our happiness and our ability to become the best version of ourselves. And is that not what holiness is? Becoming everything God imagines us to be?

It brought to mind the beautiful children of the 3-6 atrium. Their minds, souls, and hearts are largely untouched by the details of life. As adults, our life experiences, both good and bad, tend to produce a certain amount of clutter in our minds, a cloud if you will, that prevents the clear picture of God's love and truth from shining through. In our busy culture, we work hard to find moments of clarity where we can encounter God. And if we are persistent, this love can touch us in an almost physical way.

How blessed are these small children in the atrium! They have a physically prepared place to encounter God, specifically for them. They are given the time, uncluttered, in order to encounter Jesus' love. There in the atrium, they have the opportunity to quietly absorb. Absorb the love of Jesus and contemplate only that, nothing else. How lovely for us as catechists; to be able to be silently present in these moments. What a gift to us to be a part of that moment of God's truth and love alongside the child.



Sonflower Region
Catechesis of the Good Shepherd invites you to a morning Lenten retreat

“The Heart of the Matter”

with The Apostles of the Interior Life



Sister Loredana Mazzei and Karen Lombardi

The Apostles of the Interior Life are consecrated women who dedicate their lives to God by taking the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience.

Saturday, April 1, 2017
8:30 am – 12 pm

8:30am coffee and pastries

9:00 Introduction and Talk One: A Daily Heart-to-Heart: Mental Prayer

9:45 Adoration with Meditation

10:45am Break

11am Small group discussion

11:30 Talk Two: A Daily Change of Heart: Concrete Resolutions

St. Ann Catholic Church
7321 Mission Road
Prairie Village, KS 66208

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

Questions: Please contact Lynn Smith (816) 582-9025

Sponsored by:



Continuing & Upcoming Formation Courses

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

Watch the website for These Courses,
More Details TBA:

Level I, Part I

Sept. 16, Oct. 14, Nov. 11, 2017
Jan. 20, Feb. 10, Mar. 10, Apr. 14 2018
St. Paul Catholic Church, Olathe, KS

Level I, part 2:

Sept. 15, Oct. 13, Nov. 10, 2018
Jan. 12, Feb. 9, Mar. 9, Apr. 13, 2019
St. Paul Catholic Church, Olathe, KS

LEVEL II, PART 1:

Sept. 9, Oct. 7, Dec. 2 2017
Jan. 6, Feb. 3, Mar. 3, Apr. 7 2018
Holy Trinity, KS

LEVEL II, PART 2:

Sept. 8, Oct. 7, Dec. 2, 2018
Jan. 5, Feb. 2, Mar. 2, Apr. 6, 2019
Holy Trinity, KS

Helpful Formation Policies to Remember:

1) You can miss one day of Formation *per Part* for a total of two per Level to receive certification in that Level.

2) hostesses are paid \$200 per part. Registrars \$50 per part.

3) Registrars are required to keep the enrollment forms and turn them in to the Corresponding Secretary (Shelli Lange this year). The Sunflower Board is required to keep those for 3-5 years for everyone who participates.

* 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

We are so grateful to the Archdiocese of Kansas City, Kansas for offering a Grant to assist Catechists in formation. For more information, please visit: http://www.archkck.org/file/ecat-youth-documents/CGS-grant_scholarship-final.pdf

What can CGS Sunflower Regional Board do for You??

The Sunflower Region Board manages CGS activities across the Kansas and Greater Kansas City area. The nine-member board reviews and awards financial aid to formation participants in need, we schedule and review formation courses in the area and share continuing education opportunities with our members. You can find information through various regional communications, e.g., newsletter, email, Facebook, and our web site.

The Sunflower Board email, Facebook and website are resources for you to get help starting an atrium in your area, finding materials, or finding Formation opportunities. We can also help you promote CGS by scheduling an event in your parish or school. We call these events "seed-plantings". 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 let us know if we can help support your program in any way.

cgsksmo@gmail.com

www.cgsksmo.org

"LIKE" us on Facebook at [SonFlower Region Catechesis of Good Shepherd](#).

Help much appreciated, always needed

The Sunflower 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.

Please prayerfully consider serving the region in some capacity, be it small or large.

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.



