

Office of the Catholic Bishop of the Diocese of Calgary

January 8, 2018

To Whom It May Concern

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) program is a ministry offering religious formation for children ages 3-12. It is modelled after the Montessori method and was founded in Rome in 1954 by Hebrew and scripture scholar, Sofia Cavalletti. At present CGS is being taught in 37 countries around the world.

This catechetical teaching is founded on both Scripture and Liturgy, the 2 pillars of the Catholic Faith. In Level 1, the child, age 3-6, comes to the atrium (classroom) once or twice per week to work with hands-on materials that reflect Biblical parables, stories of the life of Christ, liturgical timelines, and nomenclature of the church. The role of the catechist is to respond to the intrinsic desire of the child to come "to know Jesus by myself!" This is accomplished by giving individual instruction and by allowing plenty of time for the child to work alone with the materials.

In an effort to bring awareness of the CGS program to the diocese, the Religious Education Office brought the Level 1 training to Calgary in 2012/2013. In 2015 Level 1 training was offered and we have been very fortunate to have a growing number of CGS catechists and 3 new atria (classrooms) in the Calgary Diocese(.) A 3rd round of Level-1 training will be offered in February 2018 at Clear Water Academy.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a welcome ministry in our diocese. Many more catechists are still needed to meet the needs of the children who are already on waiting lists to be registered in the program. Please encourage parishioners interested in children's ministry to take advantage of this upcoming opportunity to grow personally and gain expertise in children's ministry.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Rev. William T. McGrattan,
Bishop of Calgary