

# Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

## Level I Formation Course

*Participants in this formation course will be prepared to be catechists in a Level I atrium with 3-6 year olds*

All adults are welcome to participate for personal spiritual growth – discover the inner child whom the Good Shepherd calls by name!

**The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS)** is an approach to the religious formation of children that is rooted in the Bible, the liturgy of the Church, and the educational principles of Maria Montessori. This faith formation experience for children ages 3-12 is based upon the belief that young children can and do experience God. Children grow in their relationship with the Good Shepherd through Gospel proclamations using the parable method, through prayer, singing, silence, and exploring liturgical events. Hands-on materials (made by catechists and parish members) are used to help children and adults reflect together upon the great mysteries of the faith. CGS is an especially welcoming environment for special needs children. CGS training courses are designed to attune participants to the religious life of the child and to provide specific methods and materials to foster that life. The CGS course often becomes a transformative experience for the adult.

*Level I formation will be taking place in the Pittsburgh Diocese in four segments. Call or e-mail Barbara Matera to request a registration form or for more details.*

**412.366.5885 Ext. 18**

**bfmatera@yahoo.com**

(See [www.cgsusa.org](http://www.cgsusa.org) for more info on CGS)

### The aims of the course...

- 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 - 6 year old child
- To meditate on the Biblical and liturgical themes presented
- To further develop the ability to observe and learn from children, to listen to Scripture with children and **to enjoy the presence of God**
- To foster an intimate personal relationship with Jesus, the Good Shepherd

### Who

Since the course is in a retreat style, anyone can participate – parents, grandparents, single adults, older teens, priests, religious, male and female. Participants will receive diocesan enrichment credit and a certificate from the CGS National Office.

### Where

St. John Neumann Parish  
Franklin Park, PA

### When

Part 1A – 8/12 – 8/14/2011  
Part 1B – 9/30, 10/1, 10/2/2011  
Part 2A – 11/ 11- 11/13/2011  
Part 2B – 1/14, 2/11, 3/10/2012

*Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."  
Matthew 19: 14*



## CGS Level I Formation

Participate in this Level I course for personal spiritual enrichment or to become a CGS catechist. The Diocese of Pittsburgh will offer 60 enrichment credits to catechists completing this formation. Participants will receive certification from the National Association of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and can continue to “listen to God with children” in a Level I atrium.

CGS Level I formation is divided into four segments:

**Part 1-A Prayer (Introduction to CGS, the child and prayer)**

Friday, August 12, 2011 (6:30 – 9:30 p.m.)

Sat. & Sun., August 13 & 14, 2011 (9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

**Part 1-B Kingdom Parables & Liturgy**

Friday, September 30, 2011 (6:30 – 9:30 p.m.)

Sat. & Sun., Oct. 1 & 2, 2011 (9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

**Part 2-A Liturgical Year –Advent and Christmas (Advent Retreat)**

Friday, November 11, 2011 (6:30 – 9:30 p.m.)

Sat. & Sun., November 12 & 13, 2011 (9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

**Part 2-B Liturgical Year – Lent, Easter & Pentecost**

Saturdays (9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.) :

January 14, 2012

February 11, 2012

March 10, 2012

Visit to Garden Montessori Preschool for practical life – date TBA

Fee: \$300 full course

\*Discount for St. John Neumann Parish Members (\$200 = full course fee)

\*CGS members can apply for scholarship from the National Association

Books & Materials Fee: \$100

(includes required books: Religious Potential of the Child, Joyful Journey, Listening to God With Children, CGS in a Parish Setting, handouts, and a Certificate from the National CGS Association upon completion)

Inspired to grow in love and respect for the mystery of the love of God and the child, the catechist is invited through this formation to be a matchmaker for God and the child. In the words of a Sister from the Missionaries of Charity, “This is more than catechesis, this is evangelization, it is spiritual formation. It is not just for children, it is for us big people, too!”