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CINCINNATI

VOCARE

## Catechesis of the Good Shepherd



The *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd* (CGS) is a Montessori-based religious formation program for children, beginning at the age of three. It seeks to create and facilitate a sacred, “hands-on” space for children called an *atrium*, in which both the child and the catechist can hear, ponder, and celebrate the most essential mysteries of the Christian faith as revealed in the scriptures and the liturgy. Originally developed in Rome by Dr. Sofia Cavalletti and Gianna Gobbi over 50 years ago, the catechesis continues to spread worldwide and is used with adaptation in various Christian traditions. The course Levels ground the participant in the theory and praxis of the CGS while also concretely preparing her/him to develop and facilitate an atrium for one of three age groups (3-6 year olds, 6-9 year olds, and 9-12 year olds).

There is a course standard for all three levels. The objectives of each are:

- To explore with participants the general developmental and religious characteristics of the 3-6 (or 6-9 or 9-12) year old child.
- To facilitate meditation upon the biblical and liturgical themes of the catechesis.
- To offer guidelines and assistance to catechists in setting up an atrium, preparing an album, and making materials.
- To deepen participants’ ability to observe and learn from children, while also exploring avenues for deepening parental & congregational ability to observe and learn from children.

Full attendance and active engagement in the training sessions for each of the three Levels of CGS fulfills the theological requirement for ten annual credits for catechist certification. Upon completion of the training program, the student submits a copy of their certificate of completion. This training *includes* the required observation and post-observation conference. The training *does not include* the Vocare course on *Theology of the Body*. CGS teachers should plan to complete the Theology of the Body course for insight into the Seventh Strand of the Graded Course of Studies.

Workshops specific to the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd will be pre-approved by VocareSupport and assigned credits in the Vocare system. Participants complete a *Vocare Event Submission Form* (available on the Vocare website) to obtain credit.