

About the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a Montessori-based religious formation program for children, beginning at the age of three. It creates and facilitates a sacred, "hands-on" environment for children called an atrium, in which both the children and the catechists can hear, ponder, and celebrate the most essential mysteries of the Christian faith as revealed in the Scriptures and Liturgy. Originally developed in Rome by Dr. Sofia Cavalletti and Gianna Gobbi 60 years ago, the Catechesis has since spread worldwide and is used in several denominations.



Course Structure

The course will be held at St. Joan of Arc, Boca Raton and at the Basilica of St. Edward in Palm Beach, FL. This 90-hour course is designed to be instructional as well as a spiritual formation experience.

Successful completion of this course will result in a certificate from the National Association of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. The format of the course will include one four day session in October, one four day session in January 2027 and 2 days in early February TBD.



For more information contact
Diocese of Palm Beach
Office of Marriage, Family Life, Faith Formation
and Youth & Young Adult Ministry
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Early Formation/OCIA Specialist
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The United States Association of

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Level One (Ages 3-6) Catechist Formation Training

2 Session Course (90Hr)
October 1-5, 2026 Part I
January 7-10, 2027 Part 2
Plus 2 additional days TBD



Diocese of Palm Beach
www.diocesepb.org



“If we want to help the child grow near to God, we should, with patience and courage...seek to go always closer to the vital nucleus of things. This requires study and prayer. The child himself will be our teacher if we know how to observe him.” – Sofia Cavalletti

Catechist Formation

There are three levels of training for those interested in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd: Level 1-for children ages 3-6; Level 2-for ages 6-9 and Level 3-for ages 9-12. Each level involves approximately 90-100 hrs. of lectures, meditations, presentations, and album page assistance. At the end of this course, the participants will receive certification for Level 1 from the National Association of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.

Upcoming Training

Level One (Ages 3-6)

Catechist Formation – 2 Session Course
October 1-5, 2026 – Part I

St. Joan of Arc

370 SW 3rd Street, Boca Raton, FL 33432

January 7-10, 2027 – Part 2

Basilica of St. Edward

144 N County Rd, Palm Beach, FL 33480

Plus 2 additional days TBD

Formation Team Leaders
Alyssa Marchands * Lisa Brett-Reeves
Lilian Soto-Cabrera

3-6 Course Objectives

- To explore with participants the general developmental and religious characteristics of the 3-6 year old child.
- To facilitate meditation on the biblical and liturgical themes of the Catechesis.
- To offer guidelines and assistance to catechists for setting up an atrium for 3-6 year olds, preparing an album, and making materials.
- To deepen participants' ability to observe and learn from children.
- To aide formation of a community of catechists in the Palm Beach Diocese.

Tuition & Texts

Participants are asked to purchase four texts in advance of the course:

- *The Religious Potential of the Child* by Sofia Cavalletti, Ages 3-6
- *Listening to God with Children* by Gianna Gobbi
- *The Good Shepherd and the Child: A Joyful Journey*, by Rebecca Rojcewicz
- *The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd in the Parish Setting* by Tina Lillig.

These texts can be ordered from the National Association of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.

<https://www.cgsusa.org/shop/>

Register For Training



Registration forms are located on our website at will be honored in the order received.

Applicants are asked to send in a \$100 nonrefundable deposit along with the registration by September 1, 2026. The balance of the tuition is due on the first day of class—October 1, 2026.

If we are able to gather an adequate number of participants, the individual tuition for this course will be \$500. In cases where full tuition might prove prohibitive, scholarships are available through the National Association's CGS Fund.

Please contact Liliana Soto-Cabrera for more information at 561-775-9549. Register early, as space is limited to 20 participants.

Meet Your Instructors

