



CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Where a child can fall in love with God

Unless you become like a child

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) is an approach to religious formation of children. It is rooted in the Scriptures, the Liturgy of the Catholic Church, and the educational principles of Maria Montessori. Children gather in an "atrium," a beautiful, simple, and ordered room that has materials for students to use to deepen in their relationship with God. As one pre-schooler said, "Mom, the atrium is not where you learn about Jesus but *from* Jesus."

The Kingdom of God belongs to them

Children have a unique relationship with God that we as adults can foster but which is primarily directed by the Holy Spirit. The child's prayer is different from the adult's prayer. Children ponder Scripture and respond to God's Word through the work of their hands--moving figurines of parable characters, making yeast dough, setting up a model altar, or making their own Missal. These activities allow the space and silence necessary for children to contemplate the deep mysteries of life and grow in love with Jesus, their Good Shepherd.

**"This is the most beautiful homily
I have ever witnessed."**

St. John Paul II in his visit to an atrium in Rome

