

NOVENA

for the Ministry of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

April 13-22, 2018

This past year, we celebrated the centenary of Sofia Cavalletti's birth. As we move forward in hope, we invite all CGS catechists and supporters of our ministry to pray the novena during this Easter season. April 22 is Good Shepherd Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Easter). We pray for unity of hearts and purpose as we work together to spread the Good News to children across Canada and facilitate the opportunity for them to fall in love with the Good Shepherd.

Some information on those mentioned in the Prayer:

St. Charles Borromeo - (1538- 1584)

He is a patron Saint for both Catechumens and Catechists He is considered an apostle to the Council of Trent. One of his many works was to institute a Children's Sunday School.

St. Robert Bellarmine - (1542-1621)

He is also a patron Saint for both Catechists and Catechumens. He has been proclaimed a doctor of the Church. Besides being a college teacher of Theology and an extensive writer, he also taught catechism to children.

Maria Montessori - (1870 -1952)

An Italian Catholic physician, who developed a method of education. She believed that each child was born with a unique potential waiting to be revealed. In a 1917 letter to Cardinal Pompili she wrote: "I believe that this method of education is the instrument God placed in my hands -- for His ends."

Gianna Gobbi - (1919-2002)

She was trained in Montessori at age 20. She helped in developing the Montessori environment for infants. In 1954 she began working with Sofia Cavalletti to found the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.

Sofia Cavalletti - (1917-2011)

She was a Scripture Scholar, who co-founded Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. She recognized the religious capacity for children, and searched for ways to offer them the essentials of the Christian Faith.

St. Charles Borromeo and St. Robert Bellarmine

We ask that you intercede for us on behalf of the work of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd in our community, region and around the world, to our God: The Father who is the vine dresser Jesus our Good Shepherd and True Vine, and the Holy Spirit who is the sap flowing within us.

We are grateful for the work of Maria Montessori, Gianna Gobbi and Sofia Cavalletti, who through careful observation of children have helped us to know more deeply the secret of childhood, and have enhanced our understanding of Jesus' words, "Whoever does not accept the Kingdom of God like a child will not enter it."

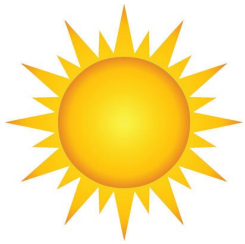
As the ministry of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd grows, we ask for guidance and counsel in our work. We long to bring people of all ages closer to Jesus and to help them understand that God is right there with them in everyday events. We hold in prayer the preparation of atria, the formation of catechists, and the children and families this work seeks to serve. May more children and adults join this ministry, and experience a closer relationship with God.

Help us to be open to the answers that come and to see the path that God has laid before us. We place all our dreams, desires and longings into the hands of God who is our Redeemer.

Our Father (3 Times)

Hail Mary (3 Times)

Glory Be (3 Times)



Maria Montessori's Prayer (On Back Cover)



Before the majesty of God,

I desire to consecrate myself

to the service of the Catholic Church,

offering myself as a holocaust

to Jesus Christ our Lord.

I desire to follow the path

of His divine will,

embracing my sweet cross

with the intention so truly to live that,

if it be His will, the Church of Christ,

in a reformed humanity,

may triumph midst

the splendors of civilization.



* ***Maria Montessori and her first followers said this prayer before the Blessed Sacrament in 1910***
* ***This novena has been adapted with permission from the Atrium at St. Michael's Parish, Olympia, Washington, USA. Prayed by them every year since 2002.***