

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Why I Am Called To Serve

I signed up with my daughter, Amanda, because she had the desire to teach the children's Religious Education. She asked me to be her assistant. Amanda has her degree in Elementary Education.

As soon as our first night of teaching the children was ending, I knew this would be a good year. So of course, we signed up for year two, as well. The children are so beautiful and smart. They are a joy to be around – I learn so much from them.

If is an easy commitment to stick to, and it is so worth every minute.

Ms. Cathy

Why I signed up – I thought it would be fun to share my knowledge of our faith with the children.

What I have found is I enjoy the interaction that their questions create. The experience of watching these children grasp the concepts from the lessons is highly inspirational.

Mr. Phil

I found that I have learned much about our Catholic faith in preparation for teaching the classes that I did not know.

I felt I needed to give back to the program, and now have the opportunity to do so. I wanted to make a difference for our young people by sharing with them what I know and have learned.

Ms. Janice

I was called to serve, and I answered the call because I wanted to.

Ms. Mary

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I'm pretty sure that Fr. Curt was looking right at ME when he asked for volunteer catechists! Always one to enjoy the company of children, I answered the call. I thought serving as a catechist was a good way to give back to my community.

The gifts I've received as a catechist have been a surprising reward. Each evening spent with the children fills me with a peace and joy that must come from the Holy Spirit. The method of teaching inspires a deep spirituality in the children and myself.

Finally, having taught other programs, in other places, it's important to mention that St. Mary's Catechesis Program is extremely well-organized. Anyone willing to make the commitment to teach will find that they will be well-equipped with all the tools they require.

I volunteered to serve, but actually have been the receiver of the Spirit through the amazing hearts of the children.

Ms. Jenny

I answered the call to teach because I love kids and am filled with happiness when I can share the Word of God with them.

Working with the kids is so rewarding. Working with them and helping them learn helps me to be stronger in my faith.

The kids are so loving and so excited to hear the lessons each week.

I look forward to working with the children on Wednesdays because I give them everything and help them learn as much as I can. In return, I get to experience their excitement, positivity, and joy in learning about our faith.

In giving just a few hours of my week, I help form the children's faith foundation. They are so receptive and so eager to learn as much as we can teach them.

Ms. Tracy

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I am glad that I heard Cy make the appeal for catechists 12 years ago. My oldest child was then 2 years old, and I thought I should learn what the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd was all about. Lucky me!! I've learned more about the Catholic faith from the children and CGS than I ever did in 12 years of Catholic Education.

Jesus said, "Unless you are like one of these little children, you won't enter the gates of heaven." God does wonderous things using the smallest children. I'm glad I have a chance to slow down and listen to God with the children.

Mrs. Karen

Growing up, my family did not go to church regularly nor did we practice religion. I met my husband nine years ago. He's been blessed with religion for all of his life, and he guided me back to finding my faith. When I was sitting in Mass last Spring, I heard a testimonial and about the opportunity to work with children. I heard God say to me "You need to give back to every child what you waited your whole life for." I looked at my husband and said, "I am signing up after Mass." He looked at me and smiled and shook his head in support. I signed up right after Mass.

Ms. April

Children are candles to be lit, not vessels to be filled. Working with the children at St. Mary's for the past 12 years has been one of the best things that has ever happened to me. I can feel cranky and blah, then spend 90 minutes with the children, and feel refreshed, re-energized, and filled with joy.

Their capacity for wanting to hear about Jesus, our Good Shepherd, and the Catholic faith never ceases to amaze me. Children enter the classroom in the fall quiet and shy, not quite sure what is expected of them. By mid year, these same children are offering beautiful prayers during prayer time and sharing what is deep in their hearts during the lesson time. The transformation is amazing, and the gifts they give back to me fill my heart.

Ms. Jan
