



Welcome to the Rother Region of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd!

After prayer and discernment, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and the support and direction of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, the Rother Region of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd has been established! The region will serve the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) catechists of the Archdiocese in their work of evangelization and catechesis of the children, families, and parishes throughout the archdiocese. The CGS catechist, through their prayer and work, guides and supports the Lord Jesus' youngest disciples in a personal relationship with Him with the seeds of the Word of God and the Liturgy of the Church. In the Atrium, the CGS's carefully prepared environment, the CGS catechist offers a time and a place for children to pray and experience the joyful living of their faith. With this newsletter, we wish to share information about our Region, as well as its goals and plans.

The Formation of the Rother Region

The Rother Region of CGS came to be as God put the need for structure and organization in the hearts of CGS parish and archdiocesan leaders due to the growth of CGS in our Archdiocese. CGS began in OKC in 2003/2004 and was first offered at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Guthrie and Christ the King in Oklahoma City. Throughout the years, the quiet work of CGS grew as more parishes discovered its beauty and richness and wanted to bring this beautiful method of faith formation to their children. Catechists poured their hearts and faith into their work with the children. Parishes offered formation courses for adults, created atria environment, and made materials. Through this work, lasting friendships were, and continue to be, forged, bound by the catechists' love for God and the common work that they shared. As of 2025, parishes that offer CGS to their families cover the geographical area from Ponca City, to Shawnee, and to Oklahoma City with about 60 certified, active catechists working in atria around the archdiocese.

Structure of the Rother Region

With the guidance of the Archdiocese, CGS parish leaders were invited to an initial meeting at the Catholic Pastoral Center, followed by monthly zoom meetings to prayerfully discern and determine the best way to support and serve the needs and growth of CGS in our Archdiocese. It was decided that structure and organization was essential for growth and support, and thus the Rother Region was established and a board was appointed.

Members of the Rother Region

Members of the Rother Region include all catechists of the Region of the Oklahoma City Archdiocese and anyone wishing to support their work, such as parish and/or archdiocesan administration individuals. Members are invited and encouraged to actively participate in the work of the Region and will receive updates about upcoming formation courses, catechist enrichment opportunities, social gatherings, and other events and information pertinent to catechist formation and the growth of CGS in the Archdiocese. We are currently working at forming 2 groups: a Hospitality Committee to support Adult Formation courses and catechist gatherings, and a Prayer Support group to support the work of CGS with their prayers. We invite you to follow the links at the bottom of this newsletter to join one, or both!, of these groups. We also invite you to use the link provided below to let us know of adult formation needs that you and/or your parish have.

Goals of the Rother Region of CC'S

The Rother Region's main goals are to support CGS in the Oklahoma City Archdiocese and the catechists in this work. The Region will assess the expressed needs of the parishes and catechists and serve as support to Adult Formation courses hosted by the Region. It is the Region's goal to also support catechists with the physical needs in their Atrium (material making), and offer enrichment opportunities and social events to nurture the growth and friendship of the catechists.

The Rother Region of CC'S first event – Atrium Tour 2025



The Rother Region of CGS joyfully hosted its first official event on November 8, 2025. CGS catechists and parishioners from the Archdiocese interested in learning about CGS gathered at St. Eugene Catholic Church for a tour of their Atrium and a Level 1 presentation on the Mass, presented by Kathleen Borgert, and a Level 2 presentation on the Mass, presented by Laura Webb. After the presentations, those in attendance had time to explore St. Eugene's prepared environment, take pictures, ask questions, and receive gifts sent from the National

Office of CGSUSA to celebrate our event. Afterwards, the group moved to St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church for an opportunity to tour and explore their Levels 1, 2, and 3 Atria. There,

attendees received a Level 3 presentation on the Mass, presented by Sarah Epps. We concluded the morning by having lunch together, gifted to us by the Archdiocese. The newly formed board was introduced to those present, and we closed with a fun raffle of gifts sent to us by CGSUSA. Thank you to all those who worked so hard to make this event possible and gifting us with a beautiful morning.

Coming in 2026!

Adult Formation Courses

Level 1 Part 1

May 7, 8, 11, 12,13, & 14

Hosted by Christ the King



Level 2 Part 2

May 4, 5, 6, 18, 19, & 20

Hosted by Christ the King

[Click here for more information and to register for the courses at Christ the King](#)
Other adult formation courses, catechist enrichment, and social events TBA in 2026

Links

[Click here to sign up to be part of the Hospitality Committee](#)

[Click here to sign up to be part of the Prayer Support Team](#)

[Click here to let us know about your CGS Adult Formation need/request](#)

[Click here to be removed from correspondence and information from the Rother Region of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd](#)

May this upcoming Advent season be filled with the Peace and Light of our Good Shepherd.

In His love,

The Board of the Rother Region of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Mara Lemcke
President

Laura Webb
Vice-President

Bridgit Offer-Coleman
Communications/secretary

Christie Ardoin
Consulting Board Advisor

Deacon Joe Vandervort
Program Coordinator for Spiritual
Direction Archdiocese of Oklahoma City