

Growth of the *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS)* in the Archdiocese of Ottawa 2013 - 2014

January 2013 - upon invitation, an overview of the CGS was offered to Archbishop Prendergast and the Episcopal Vicars by Dale Balkovec of St. Maurice Parish, and Lilia Garcia, Annunciation of the Lord Parish.

February 2013 - presentation to the priests of the Archdiocese by Dale Balkovec with Lilia Garcia. Literature and information pamphlets were provided to the packages for the parishes.

November 2013 - April 2014 - a Level 1 Formation Course offered through by the *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Association of Canada (CGSAC)* was held in Ottawa over five weekends, co-hosted at three Ottawa Catholic Atria: Annunciation of the Lord Parish (one weekend), St. Maurice Parish (one weekend), St. George's Parish (three weekends).

As a result of this course,

- nine (9) participants received their Level 1 CGS completion certificates
- one (1) participant will receive his certificate upon submission of the required album pages
- three (3) participants completed half of the course. They may complete the last half of their course at the next Ottawa Level 1 training
- five (5) other catechists took part in various weekends as refresher training
- of the new catechists, six (6) are now assisting in four Catholic Ottawa Atria
- Ruth Ann McClure has facilitated the opening of a new Atrium with Fr. Pierre Champoux at Holy Redeemer Parish.
- two (2) new catechists, Meghann Baker and Diane Garvin, sponsored for the course by their parish, are in dialogue with their pastor and pastoral council about establishing an Atrium at Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Parish in Russell for next fall. The two catechists currently are being mentored, one each at St. George's and St. Maurice's Atria.

CGS for Fall 2014 - current involvements (Nov 2014) in each of the Ottawa Atria are as follows:

- Annunciation of the Lord Parish - Level 1 (two sessions weekly), Level 2 (one session) and Level 3 (one session) with total enrolment of 48 children; six (6) catechists.
- Holy Redeemer Parish - new Level 1 (one session) currently with four (4) children; two (2) catechists.
- St. George's Parish - Level 1 (one session) and Level 2 (one session) with a total of nine (9) children; two (2) catechists.
- St. Maurice Parish - Level 1 (four sessions) and Level 2 (one session) with a total of 42 children; (six) catechists. St. Maurice now has a designated Atrium space, which has enabled the growth in number of sessions and expansion to Level 2 this fall.

Other Developments -

- Five Ottawa area catechists attended the *60th Anniversary International Gathering of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd* in Phoenix, Arizona for four days in October.
- One Ottawa area catechist attended the *Canadian National Gathering of the CGS* in Winnipeg, Manitoba in October.
- Ruth Ann McClure and Dale Balkovec have assumed positions on the Board of *CGSAC*, the national association, insuring a strong presence and voice for Ottawa area catechists.

Plans for 2015 -

Plans are underway for another **Level 1 Formation Course** to be hosted in Ottawa this coming **July 13-18, 2015 at Holy Redeemer Parish**. This will be a national course, inviting catechists from across Canada to receive their Level 1 formation through *CGSAC* in Ottawa. Ruth Ann McClure and Dale Balkovec will lead the host team.

We are most open to any further communications or requests from the diocese related to the *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd*.

Respectfully submitted November 10, 2014

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