



LET THE CHILDREN COME TO ME

Praying with Them through the Year

FCJ Retreat and Conference Centre
219 – 19th Avenue SW
Calgary, AB
T2S 0C8

Friday, October 18

4:30 pm – Registration opens

5:30 pm – Supper

6:30 pm – Annual General Meeting

7:30 pm – Short Address by Ann Garrido

8:00 pm – Social

Includes cake for recognition of 70 Anniversary of CGS Worldwide

SATURDAY, October 19

8:15 am Registration and Breakfast

9:00 am– Welcome and Opening Prayer

9:30 am– **Plenary 1- Ann Garrido –**

Title: Praying with Children

Description: When we become aware of all that God has done for us, our hearts well up with a desire to respond in prayer. But how to pray? Ann will look at what we have learned in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd movement about the praying with children, and in particular the importance of scripture in a life of prayer.

Speaker: Dr. Ann Garrido is Associate Professor of Homiletics at Aquinas Institute of Theology and former Marten Faculty Fellow in Homiletics at the University of Notre Dame. She is the author of multiple books including the award-winning *Preaching with Children* (Liturgy Training Publications, 2022). She has been involved in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd movement since 1996 and currently serves on CGSUSA's catechist formation committee. On Sundays, she can be found reading the Word of God alongside her parish's three-to-six year olds in Decatur, GA.

10:15– Break

10:45: Breakouts

Session A Breakouts

A.1: Angela Sali

Title: Freedom and Discipline in the Atrium:

How the Practical Life and Art Materials Beckon Children Deeper into Prayer

‘Come to me all who are weary and heavy-laden and I will give you rest.’

Description: In this workshop, we will learn more about the Montessori foundations regarding freedom and discipline in the CGS Atrium. We will take a closer look at the essential Practical Life and Art materials necessary to create a cohesive and harmonious Atrium. We will consider the power of the Grace and Courtesy lessons to provide a stable and comforting space for resting, and the intersection of the adult and the child working harmoniously within this sacred space.

Speaker: Angela Sali currently works as an educational strategist with children, families, teachers, schools and organizations in Canada and internationally. She prayerfully and strategically identifies strengths and gaps to build and develop joyful, essential spaces for children and adults to thrive. Angela is an AMI (3-6) trained Montessorian, with over 23 years of experience as an educator and administrator in Independent Schools (preschool/JK - 12) including Montessori, and IBO.

A.2: Murita Chua

Title: CGS at the Service of Children’s Liturgy of the Word

Description: Have you ever wondered what’s the difference between CGS and Liturgy of the Word with Children (LWC)? They both minister to the children in the parish and meet their spiritual needs. Can we simply retain LWC and drop CGS, or vice versa? Is there a way to merge them together? What are the guidelines and expectations approved by the Canadian Bishops? These and many more questions will be answered in this workshop. Murita will demonstrate appropriate steps in conducting LWC and discuss further practical points to consider in serving LWC and CGS in the parish.

Speaker: Murita is the Coordinator for all Children’s Ministries in the Archdiocese of Vancouver and a recognized CGS level 1 formation facilitator. She currently serves children as a level 1 catechist at Reach for the Stars Montessori and at John Paul II Pastoral Centre Atrium and a level 2 & 3 catechist and atrium coordinator at St. Francis of Assisi Parish. Murita is a workshop presenter, mentor, catechist and archdiocesan consultant who has been training catechists in PREP (Parish Religious Education Program) and LWC (Liturgy of the Word with Children) since 2004.

A.3 – Dorothy Burns

Title: From Darkness to Light: Preparing For and Celebrating Christmas”-

Description: How do we attend to the theme of the Mystery of the Incarnation in the atrium during the seasons of Advent and Christmas? In this session we will contemplate how the people of God waited for many centuries and the clues their prophets gave to them about this person for whom they were waiting. We will also ponder this person’s identity as revealed in our familiar Christmas Scripture proclamations.

Speaker: Mother of two, grandmother of four, Dorothy lives in Okotoks, Alberta with her husband Rob. She has been involved with CGS since 2013 and is a Level 3 Catechist. Dorothy retired from her education career in 2017 and opened an atrium in her parish, St. James, in 2018. As of fall 2023 her parish now offers all three levels of catechesis. This fall she steps off of the CGSAC board after serving 3 consecutive terms, seven years as chair. Dorothy is now in the apprenticeship program to become a Level 1 formation facilitator.

11:45 – Transition back to main room

12:00 **Special Presentation – The St. John’s Bible – Holly Hoffman, St. Mary’s University**

12:30 – Lunch

1:30 – **Plenary #2 – Ann Garrido**

Title: Living in Time with Children: Discovering the Liturgical Year

Description: The Church’s liturgical calendar helps us as Christians to orient our whole lives around the mystery of Christ. Ann will offer a historical introduction to how this calendar came to be and how we can introduce children to living in liturgical time.

2:15 – Break

2:30 - Session B Breakout Sessions

B.1 Ann Garrido

Title: Sap Moving Through the Branch: Praying with Level 2 & 3 Children in Lent & Easter

Description: A key image of Christ in the Level 2 and 3 atria is that of the True Vine. Ann will look at how this parable—so prominent in the Church’s life during the Easter season—can shape how we pray with elementary children throughout the whole of spring.

B.2 – Lili Szakony

Title: The Prayer of All Prayers: Introducing the Mass to Children –

Description: Jesus comes to us in the Mass. Join Lili in discovering the Mass as the place of encounter for the people of God. Together, we will explore how to prepare children for meaningful participation in the source and summit of our faith: the celebration of the Eucharist.

Speaker: Wife, mother, teacher, and daughter, Lili Szakony’s number one passion is her Catholic faith. Becoming a CGS catechist in 2013 provided a particular vision and mission to her work as a teacher. After 23 years teaching, she currently serves as the Consultant for Religious Education and Family Life for Elementary at the Calgary Catholic School Board where the work of the Good Shepherd permeates her mission.

Lili says that her most important work is getting ready for heaven. Developing a deep prayer life is a lifelong journey – and we come to this through the many gifts God sends – His Word, our relationships, and the beauty of His creation.

B.3 Angela Sali

Title: Art as an Expression of Prayer ‘Draw near to me and I will draw near to you...’

Description: In this sacred space, the St. John’s Bible and Montessori art materials are provided as inspiration for our own expressions of sacred art. A short talk will be given on the sanctity of art as prayer, and how the art materials prepared in the Montessori way, with clarity, simplicity, and beauty, create an invitation to wonder. Special and unique examples of classic and basic materials will be provided to prompt contemplation through the sacred practice of Art. This time and space is dedicated to quiet contemplation and finding rest with Him in the work of the hand.

3:30 – Transition back to main room

3:45 – 4:30 – Wrap Up Plenary and Closing Prayer (including Announcement of Silent Auction winners)