

APRIL 22, 2018 | 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

ST. BASIL'S



CATHOLIC PARISH

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY



The Good Shepherd — Vincenzo Taglioni Jr., 8

**WE TEACH BEST WHAT WE MOST
NEED TO LEARN**

by Marilena Berardinelli

I grew up in a parish in Montréal administered by the Salesians of Don Bosco, a religious community whose charism places young people, especially the poorest amongst them, at the heart of the church. The Gospel image Saint John Bosco found most expressive of his community's way of relating to the young was that

of the Good Shepherd, who knows his sheep by name and is prepared to give his life for them. My religious experience in childhood and adolescence was distinctly shaped by this image of Jesus.

Fast forward some years to Toronto, where within the context of my Masters of Religious Education at St. Michael's College, I enrolled (almost haphazardly) in an iconography course.

(Continued on page 3...)

CGS CATECHISTS

On this **Good Shepherd Sunday**, we acknowledge the talents and outstanding contributions of our catechists, who help our parish, realize our collective responsibility in the evangelization of our children: **Mariann Dunsmore (CGS Coordinator), Elizabeth Chesley-Jewell, Darina Dekirmendjian, Marissa Emm, and Suzanne Amato.**

These catechists have, or are currently, participating in 90-hour certificate program offered jointly by the Archdiocese of Toronto and Continuing Education at the University of St. Michael's College.

If you are interested in formation and joining our team of catechists, please contact Mariann Dunsmore: cgsMariann@gmail.com

SHARELIFE

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"One of the core components of our Pastoral Plan is Catholic Outreach in Justice and Love. As a Catholic community we are called to be the hands and face of Jesus in our communities. ShareLife is a tangible way we can put the Gospel value to 'love one another as I have loved you' into action. I invite all parishioners to support the mission work of the church by making a sacrificial gift to ShareLife."

—Thomas Cardinal Collins,
Archbishop of Toronto

**Today is ShareLife Sunday.
Thank you for your generosity.**

CONGRATULATIONS

The community of St. Basil's extends our heartfelt congratulations to the children of our parish who encountered Jesus the Good Shepherd in the Eucharist for the first time:

Alessandro Molo-Kato, Benjamin Xiong, Giulia Lacroix, Joshua Lau, Kleio Addario, Levi DeOliveira Costa, Olivia Dent-Draganiac, Thaddaeus Storino, Thomas Murphy, and Vincenzo Taglioni

We also recognize the commitment of their parents who journeyed with them this year and who dedicate themselves to the building of the domestic church, shaped by the love of the Good Shepherd.

EARTH DAY THROUGH THE LENS OF POPE FRANCIS

On April 22, people around the world celebrate Earth Day. The following is an excerpt from Pope Francis' Encyclical Letter: Laudato Si': on care for our common home.

"It must be said that some committed and prayerful Christians, with the excuse of realism and pragmatism, tend to ridicule expressions of concern for the environment. Others are passive; they choose not to change their habits and thus become inconsistent. So what they all need is an "ecological conversion", whereby the effects of their encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in their relationship with the world around them. Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience."

Laudato Si' is available online in PDF or plain-text format, free of charge. Visit laudatosi.com to download a copy.

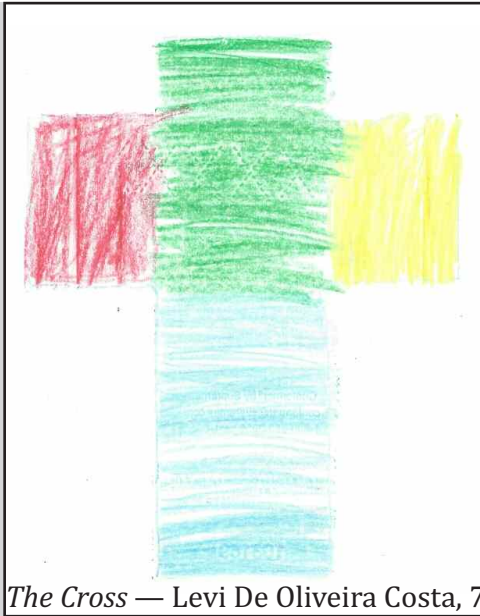
THE CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

(...Continued from Cover)

Among the many themes explored was that of Jesus the Good Shepherd. This Jesus of my youth, that had been unintentionally relegated to my subconscious,

once again beckoned, this time to know Him more intimately and to follow Him more closely.

Almost a decade after this iconography course, St. Basil's began the journey to bring the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd to the youngest of our parishioners. At the heart of this unique catechetical approach is Jesus the Good Shepherd, encountered by the children by the means of a simple wooden sheepfold, ten sheep and the Good Shepherd lovingly carrying the last of the sheep on his shoulders. For the third time in my life, this time as a catechist, I heard the voice of the Good Shepherd, speaking through the awe and wonder of the children who met Him for the first time.



The Cross — Levi De Oliveira Costa, 7

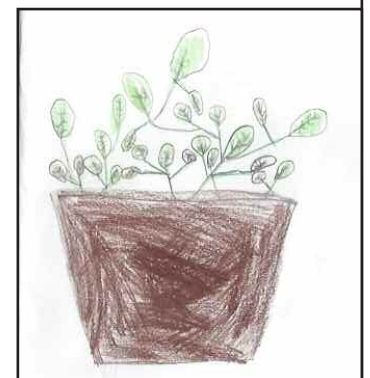
The program of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is lived at St. Basil's primarily in the Atrium. However, within our parish's mission of evangelization, we have extended the experience of the Atrium to ten JK/SK classrooms, that are visited by our catechists on a monthly basis. My five-year old son is a student in one of these classrooms. After presenting the Good Shepherd to his class, I invited the children to wonder about the identity of the sheep, "If Jesus is the Good Shepherd, who are the sheep?" My son, among a chorus of students, answered, "But you didn't tell us their names!"

A few weeks after this classroom visit and after the children had time to work with the material of the sheepfold, my son exclaimed, "I know the answer! I'm the sheep — Jesus calls me!". The joyfulness in his sharing made it clear that this new understanding wasn't a fact of the head, but a matter of the heart. His joy was as Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, SJ wrote "*an infallible sign of the presence of God.*"

May today's celebration of the Good Shepherd be a reminder to us to sit in the presence of Jesus, to listen to His voice call us by name and to respond to His invitation to faithfully and joyfully follow Him always.

A JOURNEY TO FIRST RECONCILIATION AND FIRST COMMUNION

At St. Basil's, the preparation for these Sacraments takes place within the context of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. Beginning in the month of October, children gather weekly in the Atrium from 11:30am-12:30pm. At 12:00pm the children, accompanied by their catechists, join the larger Church community for the Eucharistic portion of the Sunday liturgy. Unlike other Sacramental programs that end at First Communion, the children continue in the Atrium until Pentecost, allowing them time to deepen this new aspect of their relationship with Jesus, Bread of Life.



The True Vine — Giulia Lacroix, 7

THE CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD WELCOMES CHILDREN BETWEEN THE AGES OF 3 AND 9

To learn more about the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, to schedule a visit of the Atrium or to enroll your child for the 2018/19 season (October 2018- June 2019) please contact Mariann Dunsmore: cgsMariann@gmail.com

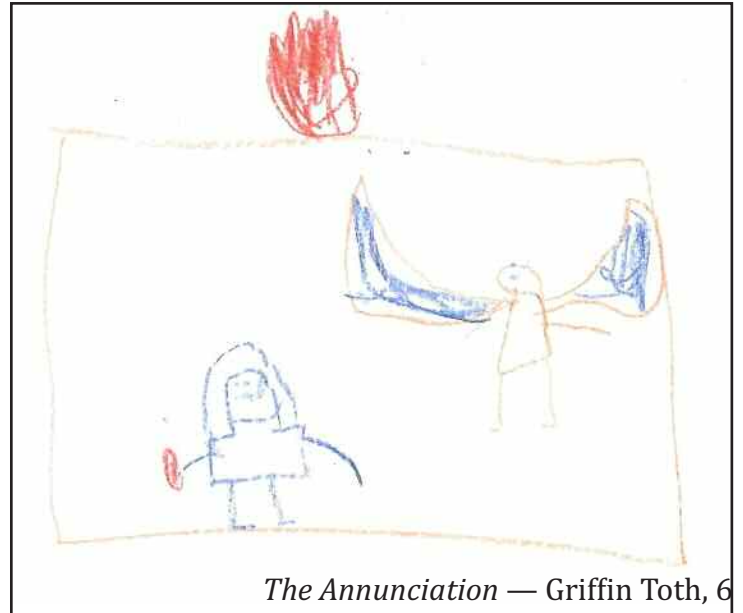
Just another children's program?

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd began in 1954 in Rome by Hebrew and Scripture scholar Sofia Cavaletti and her Montessori trained collaborator Gianna Gobbi. Guided by Montessori principles, this unique catechetical approach has as its mission to nurture the religious potential of the child, articulated in an essential curriculum that places the child's encounter with God at its center.

A classroom for children?

The Atrium is a purposefully designed space that supports the relationship between God and the child, in a manner that meets the child's developmental, intellectual and spiritual needs. It is not a classroom for instruction, but a place for community and worship in which the catechist and child listen, wonder and together ask, "God, who are you? How do you love us?".

In early church architecture, an atrium was a gathering place between the liturgical space of the church and the street. It was a space where the faithful recollected themselves before entering into worship and where catechumens received instruction in the faith as part of their initiation into the Christian community. The Atrium in our parish serves a similar purpose. As such, it is neither a drop off program or daycare, nor a child's church separate from the adult church. Rather the Atrium is an aid to the fuller participation of children in the liturgical and communal life of the one church that includes baptized Christians of all ages.



The Annunciation — Griffin Toth, 6

The child's "work"?

After discovering a room devoted entirely to the religious formation of children, adults next remark on the catechetical material found in the room. Often and inaccurately referred to as "props", these carefully and specifically designed materials are for "the work" of the child and are used by the child to foster meditation and prayer. *"The catechetical material is a way of letting the child prolong the meditation begun with the adult."* (Sofia Cavalletti, *the Religious Potential of the Child*)

How does sorting beads, lacing cards or a pasting activity help my child to pray?

In keeping with the Montessori method, the materials in the "Practical Life" section of the Atrium help the child gain control of their movements and develop their concentration, thus cultivating an independence where they can later be shown "a work" and execute it on their own. This discipline to slow down, is the building block to the child's quiet contemplation and "enjoyment of God." "Help me to come closer to God by myself".

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION

Are you planning to have your child baptized at St. Basil's? Have you recently been asked to serve as a Godparent? Our next Baptism Preparation class is **Saturday April 28 (10am-12pm)**.

For more information, or to register for the class please contact Jessica our Director of Pastoral Ministries: jessica.deluca@utoronto.ca or (416) 926-1300 x.3413

GAUDETE ET EXSULTATE: ON THE CALL TO HOLINESS IN TODAY'S WORLD

On March 19, 2018, Pope Francis published Gaudete et exsultate: Apostolic Exhortation on the call to holiness in today's world. Translated into English, Gaudete et exsultate means "*Rejoice and be glad*" (**Matthew 5.12**). This Apostolic Exhortation focuses on the call each and every one of us has to be holy.

"My modest goal is to repropose the call to holiness in a practical way for our own time, with all its risks, challenges and opportunities. For the Lord has chosen each one of us *"to be holy and blameless before him in love"* (Ephesians 1.4)".

(Paragraph 2)

"To be holy does not require being a bishop, a priest or a religious. We are frequently tempted to think that holiness is only for those who can withdraw from ordinary affairs to spend much time in prayer. That is not the case. We are all called to be holy by living our lives with love and by bearing witness in everything we do, wherever we find ourselves."

(Paragraph 14)

You are all encouraged to read this Exhortation in its entirety. It is available for free online via the Vatican publications website.

LAST SUNDAY'S OFFERTORY:

Sunday, April 15, 2018 \$ 3,738.50



MASS INTENTIONS

APRIL 22ND — 28TH

SUNDAY FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

9:00am Jo-Ann Davis (+)
10:30am *Pro Populo*
12:00pm Myriam Scoppio (+)
4:30pm Joe Torres (+)

MONDAY **St. George and St. Adalbert**

7:30am John Nemeth (+)
12:10pm Ana Pimentel (+)

TUESDAY **St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen**

7:30am Margret Hovanec (liv.)
12:10pm Joe Torres (+)

WEDNESDAY **St. Mark, Evangelist**

7:30am
12:10pm Kumar Selvadurai (+)

THURSDAY

7:30am Sr. Benedict Fahlman (+)
12:10pm Mary Lee Noir Kierans and Hugh Kierans (+,+)

FRIDAY

7:30am Yenukunme Chantal Djôssu (liv.)
12:10pm David Robert Weiner (+)

SATURDAY


5:00pm Sarah Welch(+)

PRAY FOR THE SICK, especially, Claire Fidler, Kam Fung Tem, Angel Martinez, Margaret-Mary McKenzie, Rita Moran, Celerina Agpoon, Bernice Casey, Lucy Rietveld Bowers, Donna Wood, Clare DeMello, Erika Farncomb, Mary O'Brien, Roberto Martello, Paul and Filomena Larocca, Joseph Troncone, Helen Agard, Rebecca Beaton, Paul O'Brien, Carry Eillen, Romulus DeMello, Neil McCormack, Barbara MacMahon-Firestone, Alexander Wu, and Desmond Brownlee.

PRAY FOR THE DECEASED, especially, Odilon San Juan

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