



## My Friend, Sofia

I am ever so blessed that Sofia came into my life. She became not only my mentor, but also my friend. We would often exchange emails. Early on I realized that when I sent Sofia an email, it would often be weeks and sometimes a month before she would reply, but the reply was worth waiting for. Her response was so prayerful, so full of wisdom and love.

I had been a Montessori teacher, teacher-trainer and Good Shepherd Catechist and trainer for over forty years when my husband became ill. I realized that God was asking me to leave my Montessori class, which

also included a Good Shepherd atrium, in order to care for him. I was scheduled that summer to give a Level I course in a small town in Ohio, which I figured out I could do. God had other things in mind. I received a phone call that informed me that the course had to be cancelled because not enough people were able to take the training.

I decided to inform Sofia of my position and emailed her saying, "It looks like God is asking me to retire." Surprisingly I received a reply in a few hours. It was short and simple:

DON'T YOU KNOW THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS RETIREMENT IN THE GOOD SHEPHERD CATECHESIS!!!!!! MUCH LOVE, SOFIA

I soon found out how wise she was. God did not want me to retire. He has blessed

me with countless opportunities to continue his work. There really is no such thing as retirement in the Good Shepherd Catechesis. And what a gift!!!! closer to Christ.

Betty Hissong

