

Countdown Day 76

Today, Sunday, June 4, Lani Bogart reminds us of the perseverance of a mustard seed. The growth is not always as fast or necessarily as perfect as we imagine. Yet, through the power of the Holy Spirit the roots are being nourished developing an unprofitable servant. Thank you Lani.

Children's Catechesis. Sadly, under my inexperienced leadership and through a variety of circumstances beyond my control, all three atria were closed. For a few years some faithful catechists and I tried to keep the work alive by moving materials to classrooms on rolling carts, but eventually had to admit the truth that we no longer had an atrium. Still I continued in my job as Coordinator of Children's Catechesis. I incorporated as much as I could from the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd into my work with children and catechists while I worked and studied for a graduate degree in theology and Christian ministry.

Eventually I took a job in another parish involving a myriad of responsibilities. Over Christmas break, I asked my husband to help me make the Level One Good Shepherd materials. To my surprise, in late Spring the school principal offered a tiny space for an atrium, and by the following Fall we were able to provide five preschool sessions each week. The space is inadequate, and we catechists need more training, still, the seed is growing. This summer seven people, five from the school and two from the parish, are beginning training to serve as catechists. What a privilege it is to plant a seed and watch it grow!

The fruit of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd has spilled over into every area of my life and work. It would be impossible to tell all the ways it has impacted me and others, but I will name a few.

An unshakeable conviction concerning the dignity of the child. This idea that children have an inherent dignity and inestimable value not just for who they may become, but for who they are here and now has transformed the way I interact not only with children, but with everyone I encounter.

An awareness that no aspect of catechesis, evangelization, or ministry is MY work, so I need not labor under the burden of striving for success. Like the "unprofitable servant", I am freed for faithfulness to my master whether or not my work is ever recognized.

Contemplation of the Mystery of the Holy Trinity in Scripture, in Liturgy and Sacrament, and often in human interactions as well.

A growing reverence for the Mystery of Life and Death.

Silence as an encounter with God.

All these good fruits I discuss with the catechists and other volunteers in our parish, sowing little seeds, and leaving the results to the Source of all Life.

Lani Bogart

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Glendale, AZ

Servant of God Antonietta Meo Atrium

A MUSTARD SEED OF WISDOM

