

I have to tell you that the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd has been a Godsend for our family, especially after my deployment to Afghanistan. My impatience and lack of Sabbath joy, and deeper need for sacred rhythms came to the surface she. Reintegrating with our two year old. After she became a big sister a year later, things were no better. I felt inadequate and unskilled in sharing my faith with our children in any meaningful way, because I was so reactionary. My impatience and anger stemmed from a deep fear of wasted time and opportunity, and this worsened as our daughter engaged in regressive, attention-seeking behaviors. When I was encouraged to train as a catechist, I immediately recognize a safe, sacred, and intentional space where I could learn new skills to connect with our daughter at the feet of Jesus. We could afford to be sheep together: creatures in need of care, restoration and reassurance. I was reminded of the prophet's words, "He shall lead his flock like the shepherd...and he shall gently lead those who have young." (Isaiah 40:11) The composure and skill I have learned in the Atrium has spilled over into our lives, creating more intentional, sacred and safe space. I cannot thank you and my formation leader enough: God has accomplished so much in our family through you.

Heather Morgan

