

On the very first day of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd with our very first group of children, I explained that we were in an atrium, a place where the children can spend time with God. All too soon, it seemed, it was time to gather on the carpet for prayer. After the prayer, I asked the children the simple question, "What is an atrium?" Matthew responded, "An atrium is a beautiful place where the Light of God shines through." To this very day, I remember Matthew's words every time I enter the atrium.

Mary Alice Teller

*The atrium is a community in which children and adults live together a religious experience which facilitates participation in the wider community of the family, the church and other social spheres.*

- *The atrium is a place of prayer, in which work and study spontaneously become meditation, contemplation and prayer.*
- *The atrium is a place in which the only Teacher is Christ; both children and adults place themselves in a listening stance before his Word and seek to penetrate the mystery of the liturgical celebration.*

#3 *The Characteristics of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd - 32 Points of Reflection*



The National Association of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd 2017