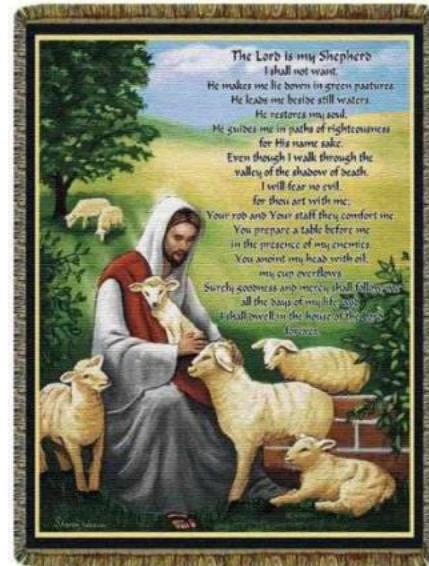




My name is Theresa Vandercar. I am a CGS catechist in Michigan. I have always considered myself a prayerful and reflective person, but being in the atrium has taught me a new way to pray.

A few years ago, I was going through a painfully, dark time in my life. The atrium was a gentle, loving place in my healing process. It carried itself home with me. One day, I was talking with my pastor about some serious issues one of my own children was experiencing. I was beside myself with fear and worry. This on top of some other painful experiences that were already taking place. He assured me that God would come find me and read with me Psalm 23.

The next morning in my prayer, I immediately went to the psalm again. Then I went and got a light board and a picture of the Good Shepherd finding one of His lost sheep. I traced it and as I did so, I felt his garment against my cheek. I knew He was with me. It was as if it all came alive as I traced. It was very powerful. Then I copied the psalm again, this time with conviction.



As I contemplated, I wondered what it would be like to be the only sheep- so that I could always be in His arms. But then I remembered what Fr. Paul said- he doesn't forget about us. We don't always have to be in His arms to know that He is thinking of us. I looked at the other sheep. They weren't anxious. They were content. He is shepherd of ALL the sheep. It's very important to see Him that way, for we are part of the flock.