



"I love the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd! I look back on my experience very fondly and I love to see how young children in our parish continue to attend. Through the atrium, I not only became more acquainted with Scripture and the Catholic faith, but I also formed strong associations with certain Biblical passages, most especially those starting with, "The Kingdom of Heaven is like..." Just recently I was searching for something in my room and muttered to myself, "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a woman who loses a coin and searches the entire house..." imagining the little wooden woman from my days in the atrium. Like this example, the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd taught me how much truth can be in the littlest of things, and how God chooses to reveal these things to children like me. I experienced for the first time how maturing in knowledge of the faith can bring life. For instance, preparing to receive my first Communion, my mind was totally blown when I realized that the Upper Room diorama *had a back side* to it that was like the great feast of heaven! After that realization, I kept my mouth shut but was so excited for others in the atrium to see it for themselves one day. And it's really the same for me now – as a young woman who is still on her faith journey – I have a deep appreciation for others to encounter Christ as I have. I am so thankful to have participated in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, the first stepping stone in my faith.

From Anna, 23 – Catholic Campus Missionary with FOCUS