



The United States Association of

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd®

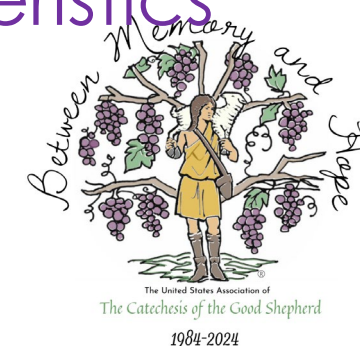
Annual Membership Meeting

November 15, 2024



Our Purpose and Mission

- Our purpose is to assist the involvement of children and adults in a common religious experience in which the religious values of childhood, primarily those values of contemplation and enjoyment of God, are predominant.
- Our mission is to support catechists, parents, and others in the Church and beyond, as they grow in their understanding of the religious potential of children.
- Our Guideposts are The Gospel, the 32 Characteristics of CGS, and our Vision.



Esta reunión se presenta en español e inglés.

This meeting is being presented in English and Spanish.

Para escuchar la interpretación, en la parte baja de su pantalla de Zoom encontrara el icono del Mundo. Ahí seleccione el idioma que desea escuchar.



The Agenda

Welcome and
Call to Order

Opening
Prayer

The Year in
Review

Ministry
Reports

Board
Updates

A Call to
Action

Raffle

Closing and
Adjournment



Opening Prayer

“I will open my mouth in a parable; ...things that we have heard and known, that our ancestors have told us. We will not hide them from their children; we will tell the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.”

Psalm 78: 2-4

En parábolas voy a abrir mi boca, evocaré los enigmas del pasado.

Las cosas que escuchamos y sabemos, que nos fueron contando nuestros padres, no deben ignorarlas nuestros hijos. A la futura generación le contaremos la fama del Señor y su poder, las maravillas que él ha realizado.

Salmos 78:2--4



Between Memory and Hope Prayer

O Lord, turn our ears to hear your Word, so it may live in and resound in our hearts, for it nourishes and strengthens us. Your Word echoes through the generations of catechists, may your Word continue to resound.

All: Rooted in memory and lived in hope !

Todos: Arraigados en la memoria y vividos en la esperanza

Today we come before you, Lord, children and adults from places near and far. We hear the Good Shepherd call us by name, we respond to His voice and follow Him. As a branch on the True Vine we delight in the abundant sap, strive to remain, and bear fruit. In harmony with one another we are

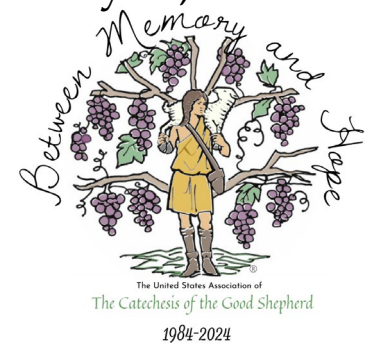
All: Rooted in memory and lived in hope !

Todos: Arraigados en la memoria y vividos en la esperanza

Your divine plan, from creation to Parousia, from the prophets to the present day, allows us to enter this Sacred History. That the children yet to be born, may hear your Voice and follow you, and then one day tell their children, and that their joy may be complete.

All: Rooted in memory and lived in hope !

Todos: Arraigados en la memoria y vividos en la esperanza



The Raffle

Each year we have a raffle for a fun way to encourage you all to stay here with us in the meeting! Tonight, we are raffling this lovely print of the Anniversary Artwork from the artist Jen Norton. If you have put your names on your screen, Lisa has added you to the raffle. If you have not done so, please do this now!



Cada año hacemos una rifa para animaros a todos a quedaros con nosotros en la reunión. Esta noche, estamos rifando este precioso crucifijo de madera que mide 12" de alto y es de El Salvador. Estas cruces son pintadas por diferentes individuos y firmadas en la parte de atrás. Cada una es única y son de comercio justo. Si habéis puesto vuestros nombres en la pantalla, Lisa os ha añadido a la rifa. Si no lo han hecho, por favor háganlo ahora.

National Director's Report

Remaining on the Vine

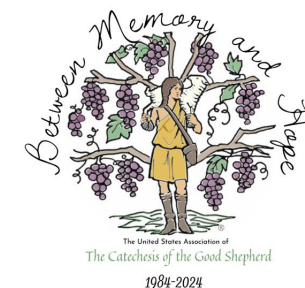
- Serve with excellence, heritage, and legacy
- Provide leadership and business management with sound financial practices and impeccable communications
- Maintaining good and faithful stewardship
- Advocacy, community, formation and publications, outreach, international resources and support for communities with mustard seed-like growth.



National Director's Report

Tending the Soil

- We serve 140,000 children and their families
- There are more than 7000 atria found in churches, schools, and homes
- This is a daily, weekly, monthly work of the staff of 15
- Who work with patience, kindness and consistency



National Director's Report

Remaining & Sustaining

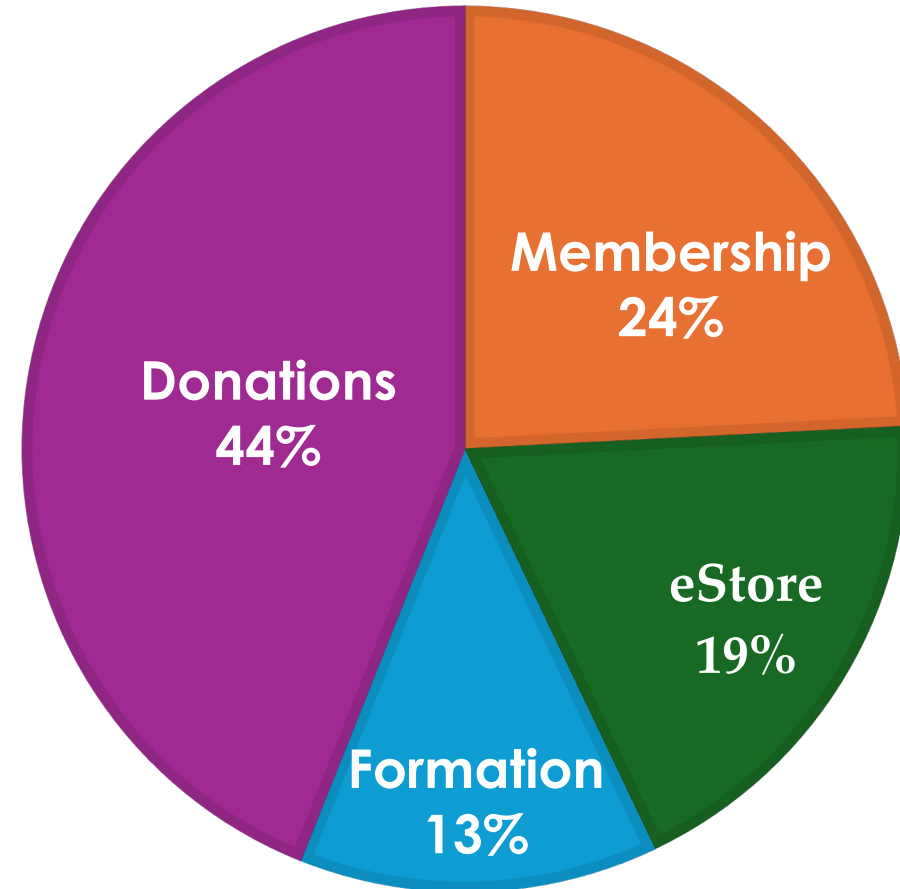
- Almost 5,000 active members from 21 Christian traditions
- 110 Publications – this year we introduced 7 new publications
- 210 hard-to-find/hard-to-make materials and supplies
- Shipped 987 packages this quarter alone!
- 26 podcasts a year for the last 4 years
- Regional groups growing across our 7 regions



Treasurer's Report

INCOME

■ Membership ■ eStore ■ Formation ■ Donations



Income
July 2023 – June 2024
Total Revenue
\$1,043,980



Treasurer's Report

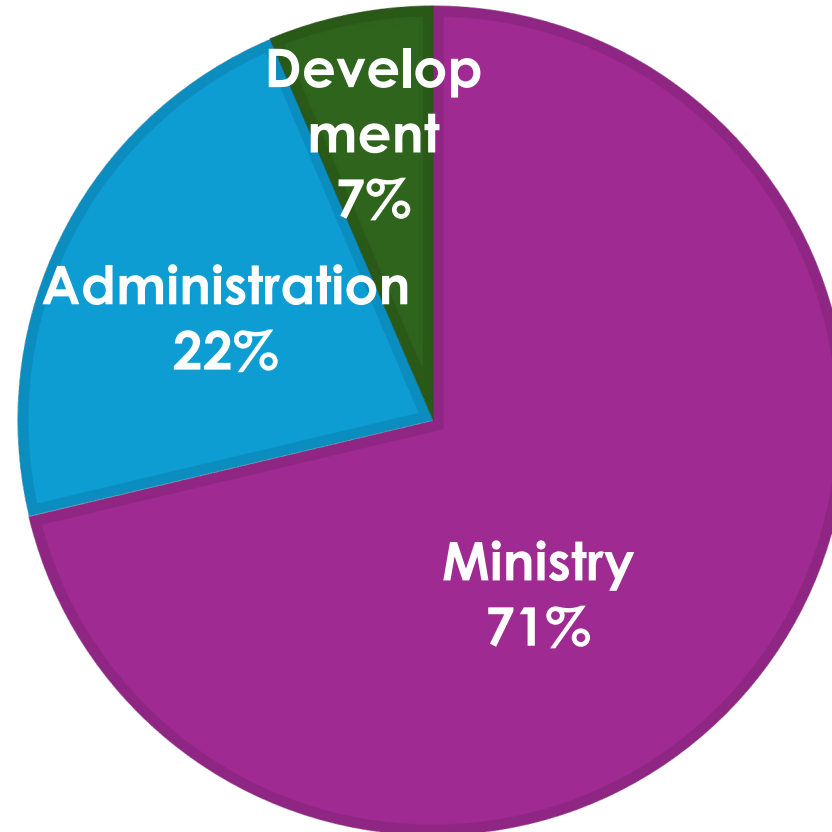
Expense

July 2023 – June 2024

Total Expenses
\$966,130

EXPENSES

■ Ministry ■ Administration ■ Development



Gifts Gratefully Received!

281 Donors

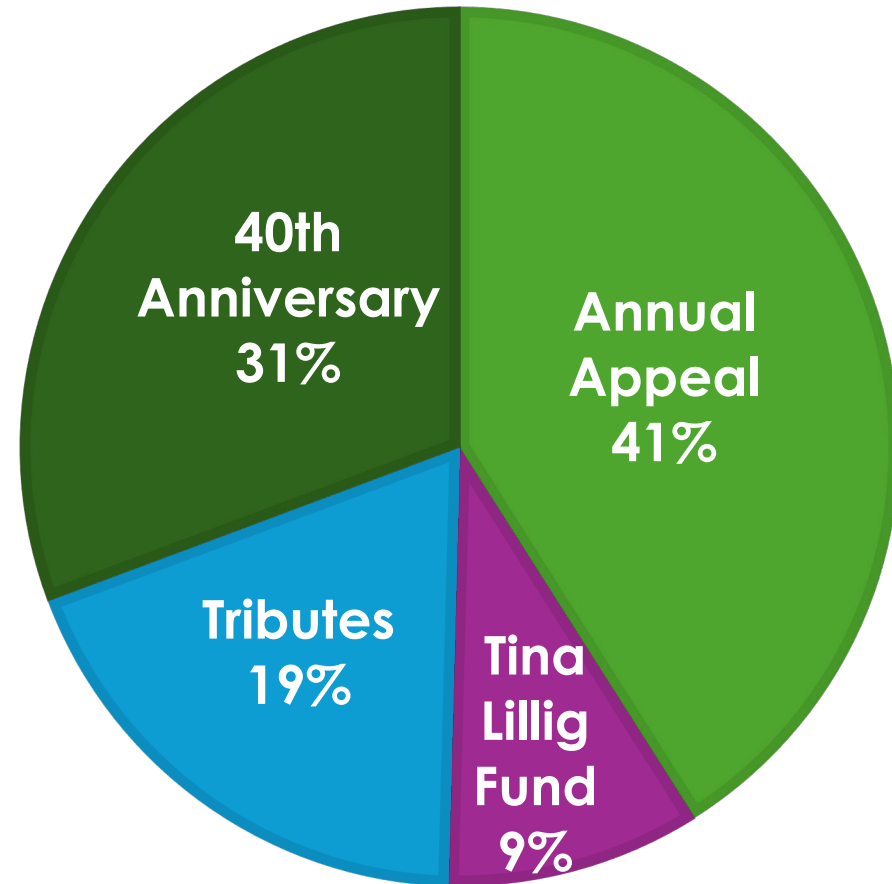
465 Total Gifts

\$197,000 Donations Raised

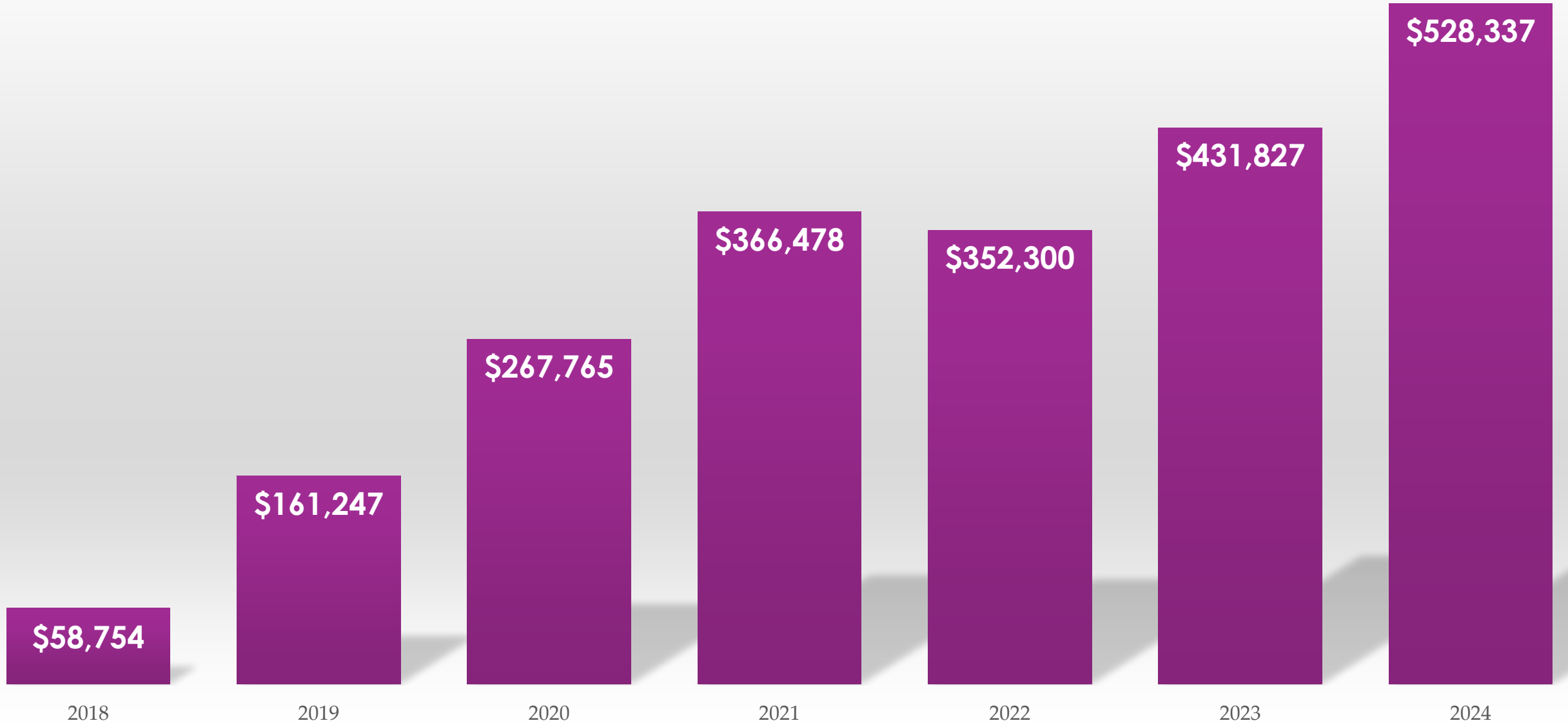
\$424 Average Gift

2023-2024 DONATIONS BY CAMPAIGN

■ Annual Appeal ■ Tina Lillig Fund ■ Tributes ■ 40th Anniversary



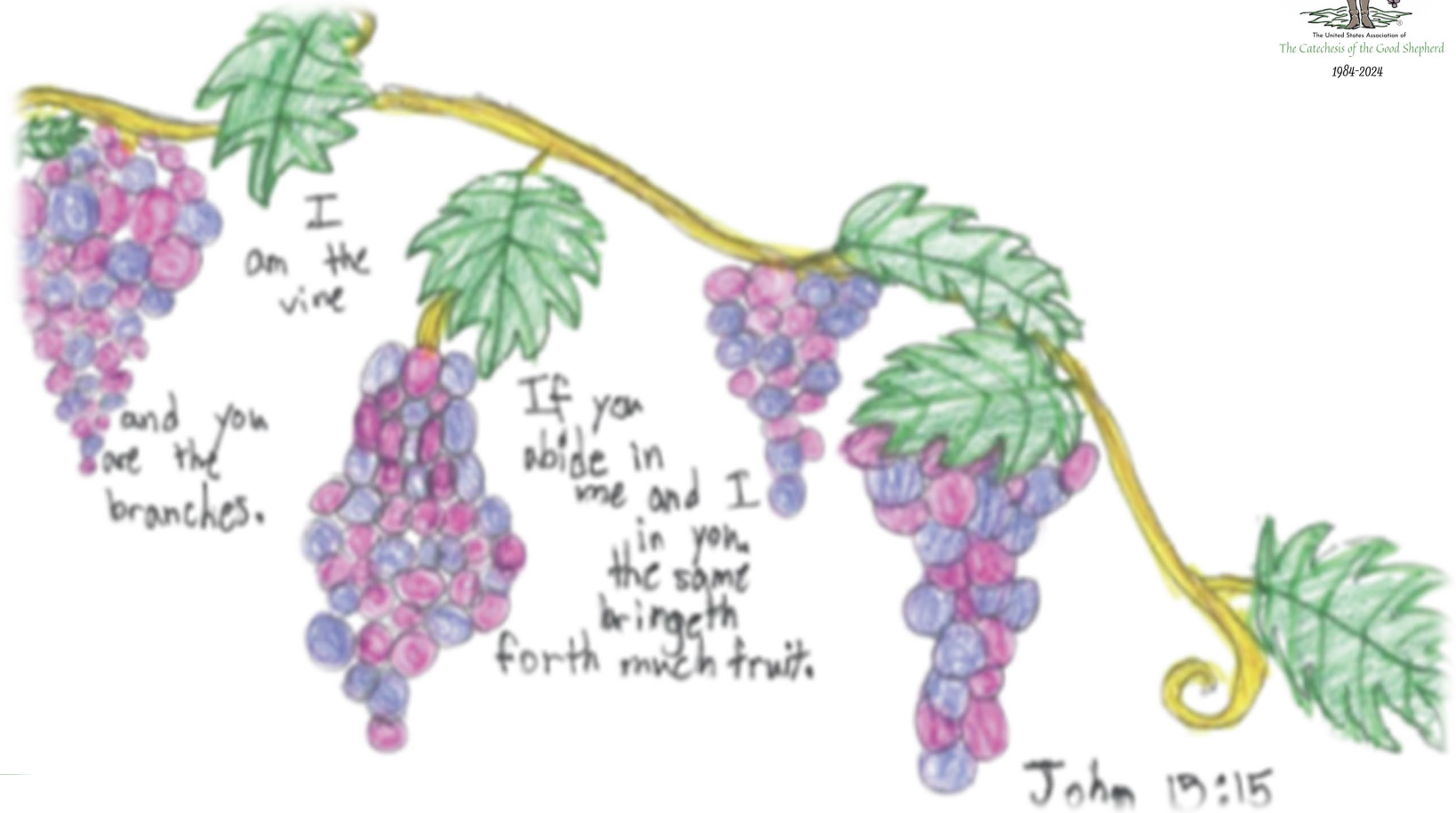
The Endowment Fund Balance



Annual Appeal

We invite you to abide with us as a supporter of CGSUSA's 2024-2025 Annual Appeal.

Help us to ensure the children and catechists yet to be born may abide together in the love of our True Vine 40 years from now.



Jennifer, age 9



Membership Report

Our
membership
grew to over
5,000
members.

- 40 years of Friendship!
- Resources in English and Spanish
- Parent newsletters, monthly Catechist Notes, Videos of Member Moments and Songs of the Atrium.

Membership Report

Our Organization Member Drive

- Our goal is to increase our membership by adding at least 160 new organization members this year. Organization members are those entities that offer CGS and/or support those who serve the children
- The first 160 NEW Organization Members will receive a handmade prayer card for their Atrium.
- Only 130 prayer cards are still available - create your Organization Membership TODAY! Organization Members also receive the following each month:

Membership Report

Organization Member Resources

- a library of 4 years of bulletin items
- 6 Catechist In-Services to download TODAY and offer your catechists.
- Assistant Formation
- Seed Planting Workshop
- Family Events
- Catechist Prayers and prayer services

Membership Report

Our Atrium Locator

By registering an atrium on the CGSUSA website, we are able to provide those seeking data with the most up to date information.

We invite every atrium in the United States to register in the Atrium Locator on our website.

We are asking each of our Regional Groups, and the representatives in each state/area/or diocese to help us in this endeavor, by inviting those catechists and atria in their area to register.

To register your atrium, please visit our website at:

<https://www.cgsusa.org/connect/register-an-atrium/> or contact the Membership Office at maryheinrich@cgsusa.org



Formation Report

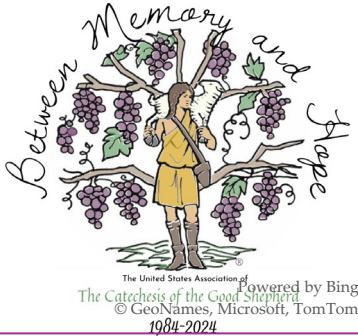
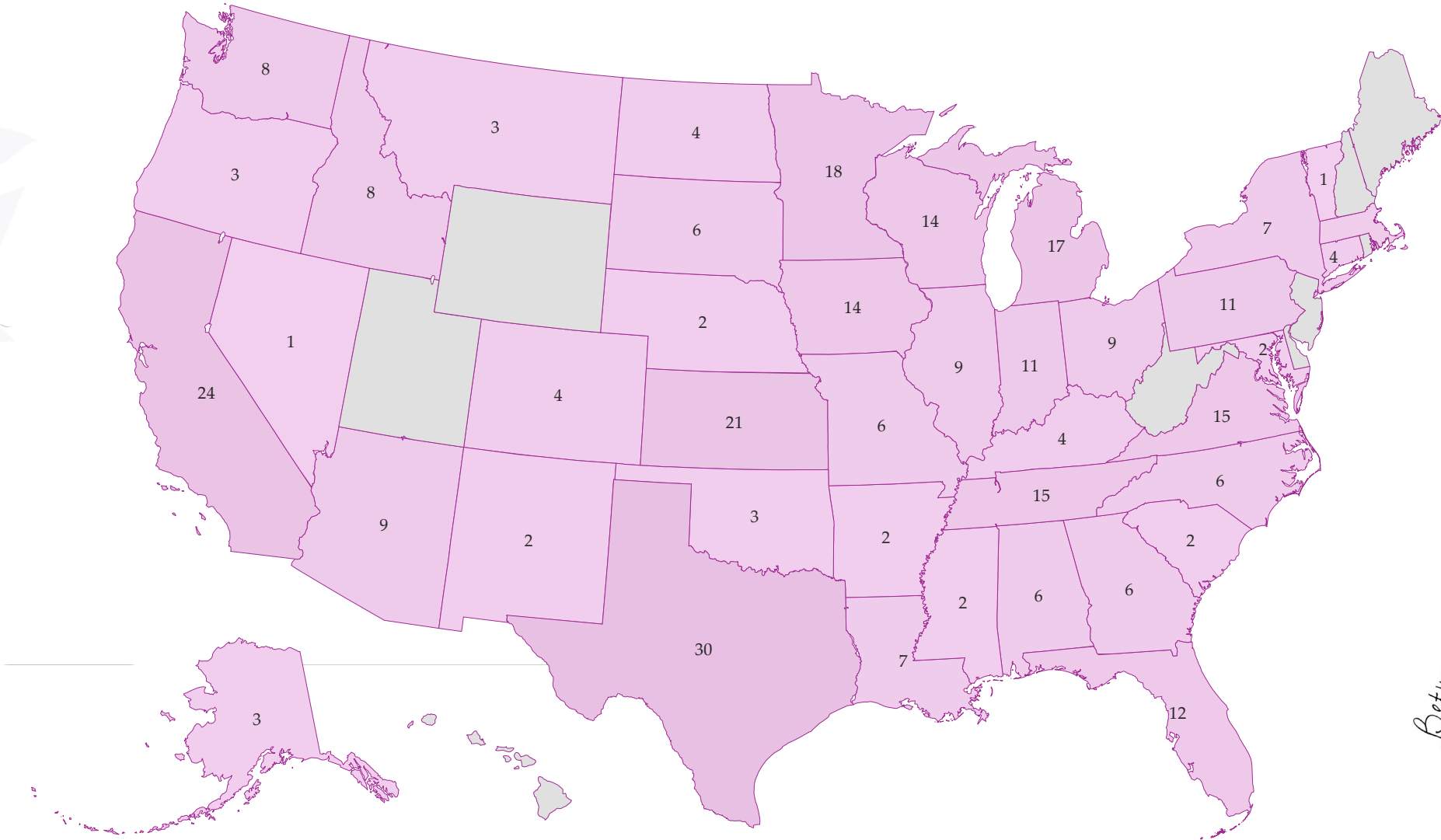
Sustaining the Legacy

We are deeply grateful for all those who serve:

- two new members of the Formation Office:
 - Beth Enz, who serves as my assistant
 - Nancy Kujawski, who serves as Course Registrar.
- community of CGSUSA formation leaders who enthusiastically respond to the demand to lead CGS Catechist Formation at all levels.
- Formation Advisory Council, who meet each year in person in Atlanta to discuss various aspects of our work in catechist formation.
- The Formation Leader Discernment Team

CGS Catechist Formation Courses By State

Total 2024 Courses Registered and In Progress: 372
awarded CGSUSA certificates to over 2,437 catechists



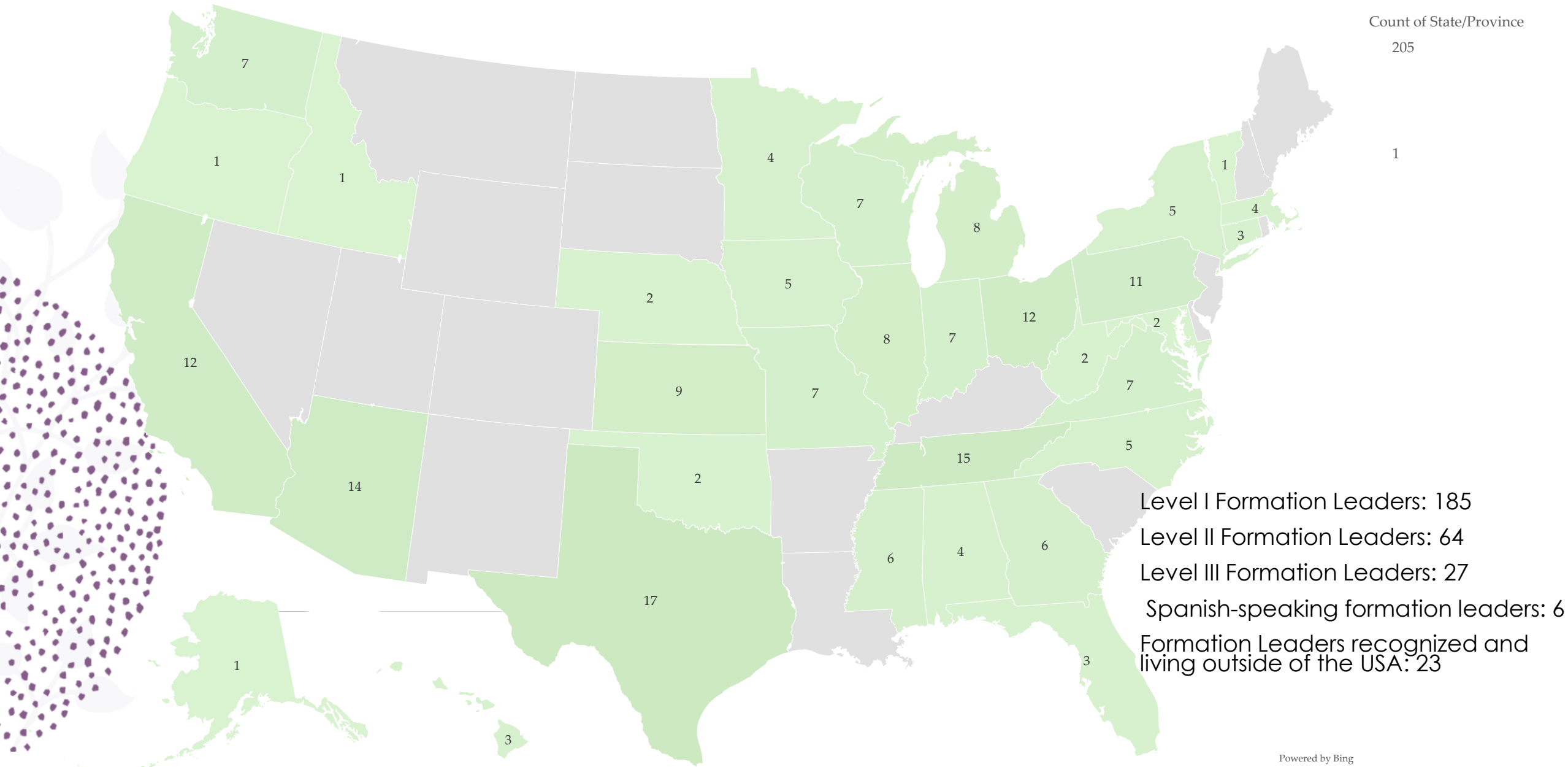
CGSUSA Recognized Formation Leaders



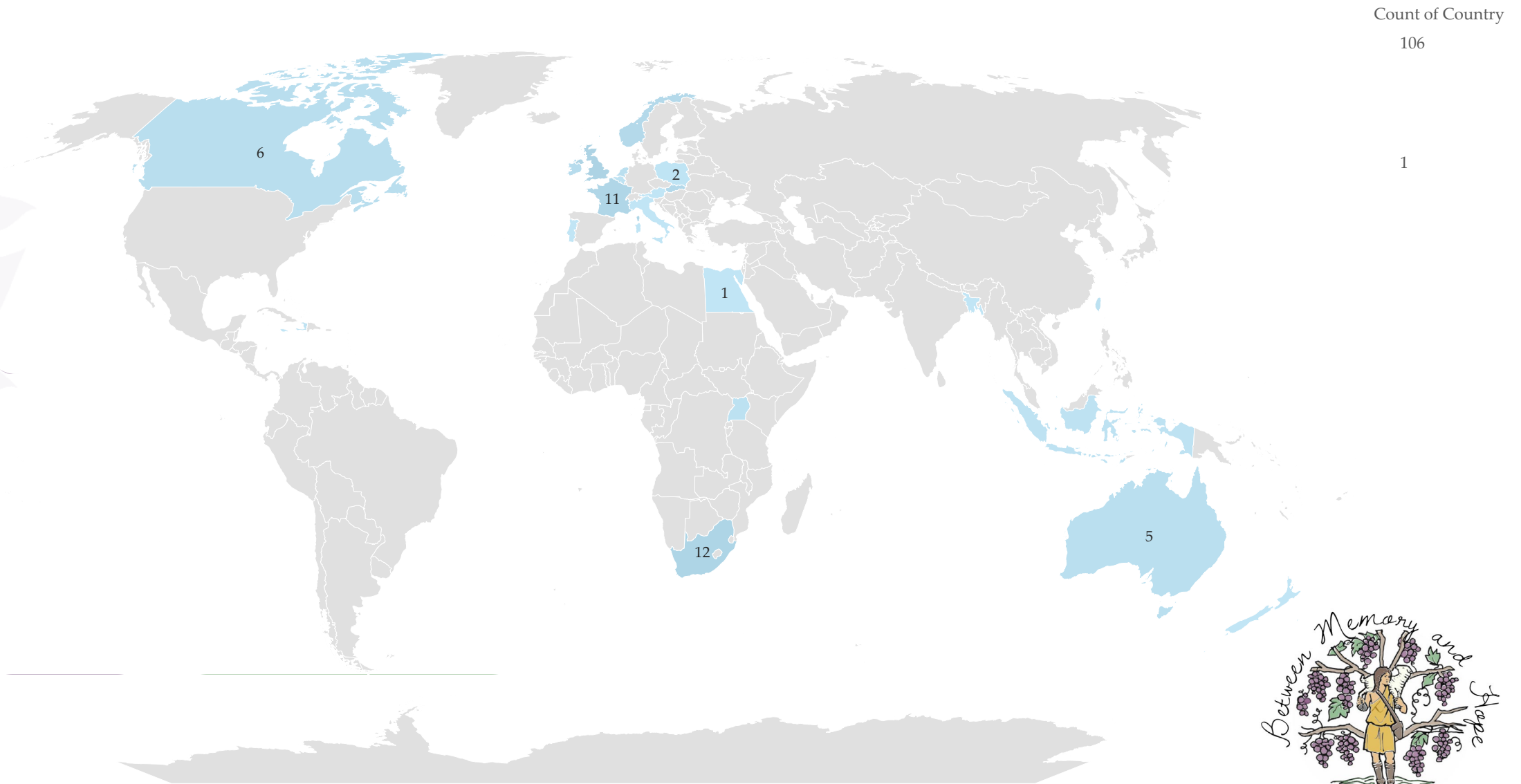
Infant-Toddler Courses: 2 + Level I Courses: 241 + Level II Courses: 76 + Level III Courses: 23



CGSUSA Active Formation Leaders By State 2024



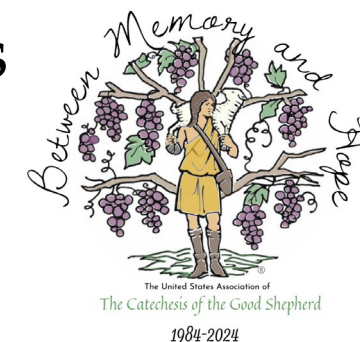
CGSUSA Offered Catechist Formation Courses By Country 1998-2024



The United States Association of
The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Special Projects

- 40th Anniversary of CGSUSA
- For Catechists
 - National Courses
 - Ongoing study for Catechists
- For Formation Leaders and Potential Formation Leaders
 - Ongoing studies at each level
- I Am the Good Shepherd Book Series
- Infant-Toddler Catechist Formation and Conferences



Spanish Speaking Report

- seeing an increase in the need for resources for Spanish speakers and are working to meet that need in a variety of ways.
 - Life in the Vine along with The Commemorative Journal for our 40th Anniversary are available in Spanish as well as in English.
 - courses in Spanish, subsidized by the Tina Lillig Memorial Fund for two years to increased demand and to identify possible future formation leaders..
- The Spanish Speaking Advisory Council is committed to meeting the needs of Spanish speakers in our association and have a history of providing translation assistance to make resources available and accessible to all

- Observamos un aumento en la necesidad de recursos para hispanohablantes y estamos trabajando para satisfacer esa necesidad de diversas maneras.
- La Vida en la Vid junto con El Diario Conmemorativo de nuestro 40 Aniversario están disponibles en español así como en inglés.
- Cursos en español, subvencionados por el Tina Lillig Memorial Fund durante dos años para aumentar la demanda e identificar posibles futuros líderes de formación..
- El Consejo Asesor de Habla Hispana se ha comprometido a satisfacer las necesidades de los hispanohablantes en nuestra asociación tienen una historia de proporcionar asistencia de traducción para que los recursos disponibles sean accesibles a todos. Organization Member Resources



Technology Report

Remaining
connected!

- three website design updates
- developed new vendor-partner relationships
- enabled CGSUSA to serve the membership better



SEEK
Find CCS

BEGIN
Start CCS

ENGAGE
Find a Course

JOIN
Become a Member

- improved the responsiveness & speed with a significant upgrade to the site's primary server
- a new event hosting solution for the 40th anniversary.
- New website pages

Technology Report

Remaining connected!

- growth of courses & membership outpace the growth of staff
- built a new foundation for long-term growth & stability
- prioritizing adaptability to future needs
- selected tools adaptable to the changing needs and goals of CGSUSA and the expertise of our staff and members

cgsusa.org

We host visitors
from around the
USA & around the
world

almost 100
countries were
hosted by
CGSUSA.ORG this
year





The Good
Shepherd
& the
Child
Podcast



- hosted by Kerri Mecke-Lozano
- 4th fourth season!
- vital source of outreach for families and religious leaders and continuing education for formed catechists.
- downloaded over 75,700 times this year
- nearing 300,000 all-time downloads!

Technology Report

Using technology to serve the mission while never allowing technology solutions to dictate goals or determine association strategy is our team's guiding light.

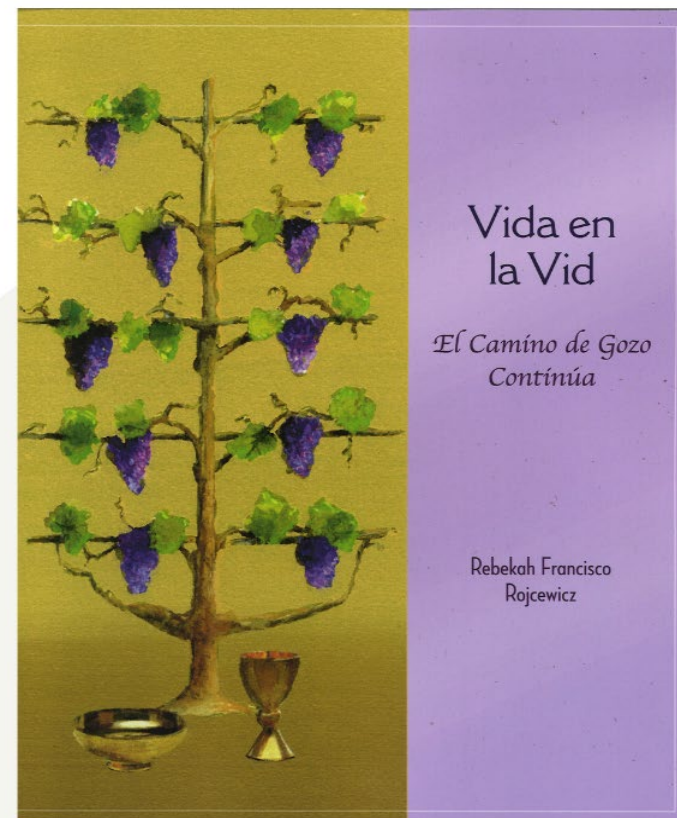
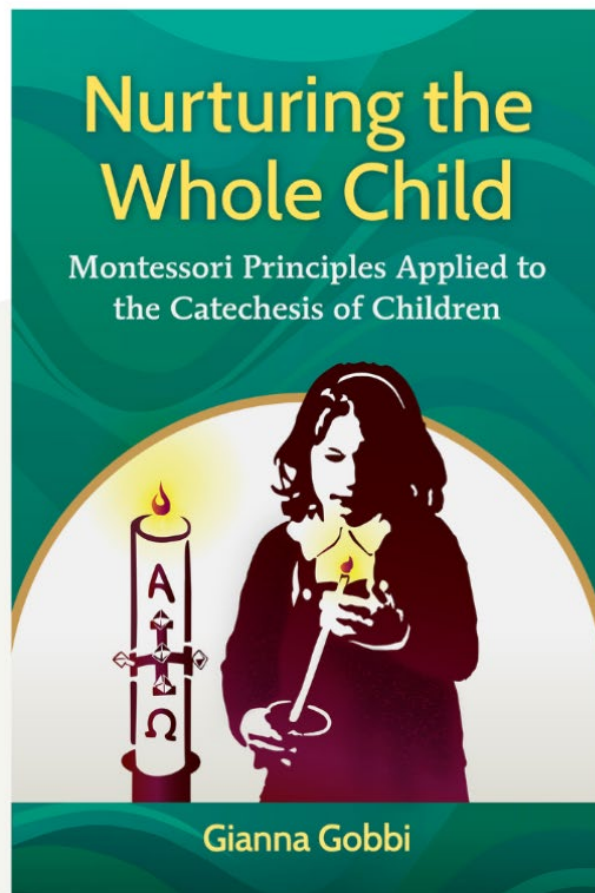
eStore Report

It Really Is A Closet!



- our inventory expanded to over 200 items
- recent additions:
 - Infancy Narrative figurines
 - toddler materials
 - catechist gifts

New Books



From the Board

Growing Edges

A year of tremendous growth and reaching to edges:

- the National Black Catholic Congress
- the LA Congress
- Encuentro: The Child & The Lamb at the MACC
- Rome for the International Consiglio meeting
- USCCB Institute on the Catechism
- Episcopal Convention
- National Eucharistic Congress <https://vimeo.com/992563965/7b3b8ee696>
- Our 40th Anniversary Celebration



From the Board

The Littlest Ones

Serving the youngest among us, the infants and toddlers:

- Now with 36 atria around the country serving these little ones
- 414 catechists have gone through the seminal formation course
- Preparing formation leaders and gather the best practices into future formation courses.
- This is some of the most important and joyful work we have been given to do!



Call to Action



Invite your community to an organization membership



Increase your donation with a recurring monthly gift



Get together with those close to you and support one another

Memory

Thank you for joining us!

You Are The Shepherd

