

Catechists anew in the Transfiguration of Christ

The Offices of Catechetics and Faith Formation of Archdioceses of Saint Boniface and Winnipeg and local CGSAC leadership are blessed to host The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Association of Canada National Gathering this year. More than a hundred Catechists flocked across Canada in-person and online at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Winnipeg, Manitoba from October 27 to 28, 2023, to bear witness to Christ's love and start anew to ensure that the missionary impetus drawn from the field continues. The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd sensitizes the child to the surrounding environment and fosters a state of inner peace and thus, a greater capacity for listening to God. As for us, the adults must learn the art of listening because only those who listen can proclaim the Gospel. (DC 283-289). How can we accompany and foster the art of listening with the children, the family, fellow adults, the community we belong, and most especially those who have no voice? This year's theme is "*Listen to Him*" (Mark 9:7) an inspiration of the Transfiguration of Christ at Mount Tabor. The three apostles were privileged to witness the inner life of Christ, revealed to them in the splendor of the holy mountain. The transfiguration of Christ foreshows the glory that awaited him beyond the crucifixion. The apostles were shown Christ transfigured so that when the gloomy events of Good Friday came about, they would remember having seen Christ's glory and remain faithful and hopeful. The transfiguration is our story too. As we see Christ transfigured, we are challenged to look into our hearts and souls. We are challenged to bravely cast away from our souls and hearts all obstacles to a full intimacy with Christ. The transfiguration invites **conversion**, peering into the glory of Christ. The transfiguration invites us to **configuration**. It invites us to imitate Christ, to enter into intimacy with Him. Being configured to Christ, just as the apostles came down from Tabor to carry on the mission of the Lord, the transfiguration challenges us to **communicate** Him to the world, we must leave the mountain and continue our journey as missionary disciples.

The CGSAC National Gathering Local Committee would like to express our gratitude to everyone who made this event a possible one. Thank you to the CGSAC National Board for all your support and for giving us the opportunity to serve with you. Thank you, Fr. Eric Giddins, and the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish for your warm welcome and generosity in opening the church as our home of prayer, formation, and fellowship. A special thanks to the inspiring and Spirit-filled Plenary Speakers: The Reverend Canon Donna Joy, Dr. Ruth Ashrafi, Archbishop Albert LeGatt, and Archbishop Richard Gagnon. Thank you for the expertise and enthusiasm of all the Workshop Facilitators. Thank you to Elders Russell Maytwayashing and Chris Asham, Kyle Munn, and Crew, Anton Badajos, Renaud Caron, and Gary Cherlet. To all the Catechists who were at the gathering near and far, we thank you for your presence, you are a gift. To all who have served and dedicated their time quietly behind the curtains, we thank you.

As we leave the mountain, we will continue to journey and share the gift of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. We are joyful to announce that Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Course Level 1 will be offered at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Winnipeg. Part A (December 2023 to March 2024) & Part B (October 2024 to December 2024). Do not delay, register today. For detailed information visit cgsac.ca or click [here](#). To view the brochure click [here](#). For Registration or inquiries please contact Rachel Suarez-Banmann at rbanmann@stgianna.ca

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