

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Since 1954, In Rome, Italy, Sofia Cavalletti has pursued the revelation of the young child's religious potential, marking over thirty years of research and published material at both the preschool and elementary levels. With the "self-teaching" principles of Maria Montessori and the theological moorings of Hebrew scholarship, Scripture studies and Roman Catholic liturgy and doctrine, Cavalletti and her co-worker, Gianna Gobbi, developed an approach which not only appealed to the profound religious intuition of younger and older children, but which evolved from the children themselves. Today the work (still active in Rome) has emerging centers in Italy, Chad, Argentina, Columbia, Canada, Mexico and the United States.

For the Older Child (Ages 9-12)

With the older child, ages 9-12, a third presentation of the history of salvation focuses on the plan of God in history as a plan of communion, a plan which links all people together. The emphasis is on our response to this unfolding generosity of God and the responsibility that come with receiving God's great gifts. "What is the kingdom of God and my place in it?" is a cosmic query which begins to lay the foundations for a life's commitment.