

*“Let your face shine on your servant...”*

Psalm 31: 17

*The purpose of CGSUSA 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.*

*The role and responsibility of the Board is two-fold: to ensure that CGSUSA remains faithful to its purpose and mission, and to ensure the national association has the necessary resources to facilitate this work.*

## Gifts we seek in potential board members:

The last 30-plus years have been years of growth and formation both within the work and in the communities in which we serve. It is not surprising then that the gifts we seek in our board members have also evolved.

### 1. Passion for the mission and the work of CGSUSA

Our board members have an awareness of the scope of this work and its essential spirit and are attentive to the needs of the regions, the national and international work, the Center in Rome, and other board of trustees members. While ideally this gift would be found in catechists and formation leaders trained in all three levels and serving in atria, we recognize that a heart for the child's unique spiritual development can be found in many others: spouses, parents, friends, religious brothers and sisters, and professionals in our communities. Many people have been touched by this method of formation. While they may not feel called to serve as catechists, their passion for our mission and familiarity with the work of CGSUSA is in itself a gift.

### 2. Business experience

Perhaps most notable in our 30 year history has been the evolution of formation and its place in our work overall and in the life of the catechists. CGSUSA has been blessed first with the gifts of our founders in handing on the fruits of their labors and then with the development of directors and formation leaders whose focus continues to be on the deepening of our understanding of the child, their careful work with the International Consiglio to remain faithful to the method, and the tireless efforts to provide timely, economical courses.

This is a great gift to our Association because it has meant that the Board can trust in the capable leadership of those involved in formation and can give itself over to providing the resources these people need to do this important work. Board members routinely review and discuss monthly and

annual income and expense reports, budget vs. actual forecasts, balance sheets, annual audit reports and other documents required of non-profit organizations. In addition, board members, in collaboration with the National Director, staff and committees, formulate marketing and communication plans for publications, events and fundraising.

### 3. Comfort with Use of Technology

While our work as catechists is built on relationships and is primarily with handmade materials, our work as an organization is increasingly dependent on the use of technology: website, online materials manuals, electronic newsletters, e-commerce for membership and sales, not to mention communication between offices and staff located in Phoenix and Atlanta, and online meetings that bring together catechists from all over the country.

Board members are increasingly asked to evaluate various tools of technology, always weighing the needs of our growing Association with the responsible stewardship of CGSUSA resources. So familiarity with any/all of the following is helpful: website, cloud-based systems, e-commerce, database systems, software and network tools, and the companies that provide these tools and services.

### 4. Willingness to Fundraise

CGSUSA revenue flows from four general areas: Member dues, Publications, Formation Events/Fees, and Donations. All sources of funding are essentially borne by catechists who may be among the least able to afford them. It is a primary responsibility of the CGSUSA Board to ensure the financial future of the work. To do this, we must expand our constituent base beyond “the catechist.” This means creating opportunities to invite others into our work. We must identify people who have a heart for the spiritual development of the child and the capacity to financially support our efforts.

While everyone -- catechists, formation leaders, staff and board members -- is asked to cultivate relationships, it falls primarily to the National Director and the board to ask for financial donations. Board members must be willing and able to seek financial donations to supplement revenue.

### 5. Commitment

Board members should be able to commit approximately five hours per week of time to the work of CGSUSA. This may take the form of conference calls, meetings, working on individual action items assigned by the Board or the National Director, helping on committees, or fundraising.

There is typically one Board meeting per month, held by teleconference and currently two board meetings per year, held in person. So the ability to travel is necessary, with the understanding that reimbursement for the costs of travel and phone bills is not always possible (depending on budget).