



GREAT ENDEAVORS MINED & SHARED

from an International Adult Faith Formation Best Practices Study

#144 – June 15, 2021

A Best Practice: Resources for Our Time (Part XVIII)

Since April 2020, in addition to some of our themed issues and/or issues of specific best practices, several **GEMS** issues have looked at some of the many resources available today. Many have been related to the times of COVID sheltering-at-home.

Now these resource issues (which are sent once a month – in the middle of the month) will continue to look at resources for these days of living post-pandemic **as well as other resources for these times** (which can be used in adult faith formation), such as:

- The up-coming liturgical seasons/calendar year
- Catholic social teaching
- Formation for an anti-racist society
- Caring for our common home

Some Practices, Resources and Reflections for Pastoral Leaders and Faith Formation Leaders

- [How to Lose a First Time Guest in 10 Minutes or Less](#)
- [What Now? A creative tool to help congregations make decisions in the age of COVID-19](#)
- [Holy Shift: Strategic Thinking for Congregations](#)
- [Imagining a Hybrid Future](#)
- [Planning our Regathering](#)
- [Jumpstarting Stewardship](#)
- [Two Truths for a Post-Pandemic Church](#)
- [Thriving Beyond Covid: Crisis or Opportunity?](#)
- [3 Things that will be True about Growing Churches in the Future](#)
- [The 4 Different Communication Styles and How Each Can Improve](#)

- [Summer Plans!](#)
- [7 Qualities a Leader Can't Afford Not to Have](#)

Good people turn to love, courage and kindness
in times of crisis,
not hate, fear and cruelty.

~ Laurence Overmire

Resources for upcoming feasts/liturgical year/the calendar year

- [An old devotion to the Sacred Heart finds new life](#)
- [Why do Catholics venerate the Sacred Heart of Jesus?](#)
- [Faith Reading Camp](#)
- [Celebrating Summer](#)
- [Backpack Blessing Kit](#)
- [Beginning of the School Year](#)
- [Fall Event - A Festival of Harvest](#)
- [Learning the Church Year](#)

Resources for the Year of St. Joseph

- [These U.S. cathedrals are the perfect pilgrimage destinations for the Year of St. Joseph](#)

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Resources for Formation Leaders (children, youth and family programming)

- [Gather Us In: Tools for Forming Families](#)
- [Fall Learning Centers](#)
- [Faithful Celebrations series](#)
- [Faith at Home: Mindfulness](#)
- [Faith at Home: Serving Others](#)
- [Faith at Home: Dinner Time](#)
- [Faith at Home: Bedtime](#)
- [Mass Transit Cards: Lectionary-based Conversation Starters for Families](#)
- [Why Hybrid Is Not Just for Cars and Superhero Movies Anymore: Hybrid Formation & Discipleship Basics](#)
- [Why Hybrid Is Not Just for Cars and Superhero Movies Anymore: Equipment to put it all together](#)
- [Virtual Learning for Catechesis in a Post-Pandemic World](#)
- [Religious education is broken. It's time to fix our Sunday school culture.](#)
- [Faith Formation Beyond the Pandemic](#) (Access Passcode: xe4+tf&*)
- [Confirmation Scavenger Hunt](#)
- [Helping Families Explore Faith Practices this Summer](#)
- [Family Faith Formation Resources | Grandparents](#)
- [Connecting Home and Church: Awakening Parents to Family Discipleship](#) (June 17 webinar)
- [Beatitudes on Film](#)
- [Are we catechizing for knowledge or understanding?](#)
- [Ways We Engage with Families for Success](#)

- [Six Keys to a More Evangelizing Catechesis: Storytelling](#)
- [Marking Milestones During a Pandemic](#)
- [Re-Igniting the Post-Pandemic Church: Whatever You Do, Don't Return to "Normal"!](#) (June 16 webinar)
- [Connecting Home and Church: Awakening Parents to Family Discipleship](#) (June 17 webinar)

“Yearning for a new way will not produce it.
Only ending the old way can do that.
You cannot hold onto the old all the while
declaring that you want something new.
The old will defy the new;
the old will deny the new;
the old will decry the new.
There is only one way to bring in the new.
You must make room for it.”

~ Neale Donald Walsch.

Resources for Faith Formation Leaders (adult faith formation)

- [Women in Conversation](#)
- [Bringing Home the Gospel: Reflections for Parents on the Gospel Readings](#)
- [Faith on the Run: Handouts for Busy Parents](#)
- [Parental Love Is... Handouts/Small Group Sessions for Busy Parents on The Joy of Love](#)
- [Restorative Circle Workshop](#)
- [Why Not Soar?](#) (Online retreat)
- [The Our Father retreat](#)

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- [Holy Women, Full of Grace](#) (Online retreat)
- [Tiny Retreat – Hildegard of Bingen, Patron Saint of Green and Growing](#)
- [A Biblical Guide to Emerging from Chaos](#)
- [Walking Together in Friendship: A New Resource for Exploring Pope Francis' Fratelli Tutti](#)
- [A Bishop's RCIA "Cheat Sheet"](#)
- [Why is the new ministry of catechist important for RCIA teams?](#)

Each day I am reborn. Each day I must begin again.
For the past eighty years I have started each day
in the same manner.

It is not a mechanical routine but something essential
to my daily life.

I go to the piano, and I play two preludes and fugues of
Bach. I cannot think of doing otherwise.
It is a sort of benediction on the house.

But that is not its only meaning for me.
It is a rediscovery of the world of which I have the joy
of being a part.

It fills me with awareness of the wonder of life,
with a feeling of the incredible marvel of being a human being.

The music is never the same for me, never.
Each day is something new, fantastic, unbelievable.

~ Pablo Casals (at age 93)

Resources for and about Prayer and Reflection

- [An Interactive Prayer For Acknowledging Our Losses](#)
- [A Morning Prayer](#)
- [5 Ways To Meditate When You Can't Sit Still](#)
- [Walking with Awe](#)
- [The Spiritual Practice of Going Barefoot](#)
- [Summer Prayer Tools](#)
- [Ordinary Blessings: Prayers, Poems, and Meditations for Everyday Life](#)
- [Mini Sabbath Notecards](#)
- [The Life-changing Spiritual Discipline of Wonder](#)
- [How We Can Be a Blessing to Others](#)
- [Creating a Centerpiece for Summer Prayer](#)
- [A Prayer for When Life Doesn't Make Sense](#)
- [A Prayer When I Feel Pulled in a Thousand Directions](#)

Music

- [The Basin and the Towel](#)
- [May I Suggest](#)
- [Stand By Me](#)

Church

- [American Christians must humbly look to global church for solutions to decline](#)

Liturgy and Sacraments

- [Reflections on the Eucharist](#)
- [It is your face O Lord that I seek, hide not your face](#)

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- [Finding the body of Christ in different 'spiritual communions'](#)
- [Ars praedicandi: Body and Blood of Christ](#)
- [Eucharist is bread of sinners, not reward of saints](#)
- [Handbook for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion – Reflections, Prayers and Practices for Your Journey in Ministry](#)
- [Group Reading Guides](#)

Catholic Social Teaching

- [Divine revelation leads to revolution](#)
- [The Church Cracked Open: Stewardship of Privilege: Using Your Power as Jesus Used His](#)
- [What Can We Learn from the World's Most Peaceful Societies?](#)

Work toward Anti-Racism

- [Anti-racism work is essential. Why don't parishes do it?](#)
- [Eight Picture Books for Asian American and Pacific Islander \(AAPI\) Heritage Month](#)
- [Racism and the Catholic Church one year after George Floyd's murder](#)
- [US Catholics must do more to combat racism, anti-immigrant policies](#)
- [Shades of Hope](#)

Caring for our Common Home

- [O Land, Land, Land \(Jeremiah 22:29\)](#)
- [Pope Francis launches program to put Laudato Si' into action throughout church](#)
- [The Eucharist and care of creation – an ancient perspective](#)

- [Drop a Raindrop on This Magical Map and Watch Its Journey to the Ocean](#)
- [Enjoying Summer with Creation Care in Mind](#)
- [There's a revolution needed. Join it.](#)

Humor During these Times

Sorry I haven't gotten anything done today. I've been in the Produce Department trying to open this stupid plastic bag.

Ideas and Suggestions for Families

- [Car Talk: Great questions for parents to share with children before and after Mass](#)

Suggestions and Reflections for All of Us

- [Religion After Pandemic](#)
- [After a year of isolation, it's nice to be noticed](#)
- [Don't Settle for Normal](#)
- [What the pandemic taught me about sacramentality](#)

Technology Considerations

- [How Technology Can Be Part of a Happy Life](#)
- [Franciscan spiritual wisdom to navigate the 'digital continent'](#)

- [Showing up Christian online: 8 ways to be 'leaven' on social media](#)
- [How Technology Can Link Teachers, Students, and Parents](#)



Adding New Luster to Some Older GEMS

GEMS #77 explored the writing of a spiritual of our spiritual autobiography. Here are some more helps and suggestions:

- [Writing Spiritual Autobiography as It Relates to the Spiritual Exercises, Part 1](#)
- [Writing Spiritual Autobiography as It Relates to the Spiritual Exercises, Part 2](#)
- [Summer Pilgrimage](#)
- [Tell Me Your Story: How to Write Your Spiritual Memoir](#)
- [How to Write a Spiritual Autobiography](#)



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Past issues of **GEMS** are archived at www.janetschaeffler.com

Additional ideas for Adult Faith Formation Planning and Best Practices can be found in:

- *Deepening Faith: Adult Faith Formation in the Parish*
<https://www.litpress.org/Products/4652/Deepening-Faith>
- *The Seasons of Adult Faith Formation*
http://www.lifelongfaith.com/store/p25/The_Seasons_of_Adult_Faith_Formation.html and <http://www.lifelongfaith.com/2015-adult-faith-formation-symposium.html>