



GREAT ENDEAVORS MINED & SHARED

from an International Adult Faith Formation Best Practices Study

#148– August 15, 2021

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

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

Now these resource issues (which are emailed to you 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
- Helps for families
- Technology considerations
- 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

- [Let's build a post-pandemic church worth going back to](#)
- [10 Leadership Quotes that will Get Everyone on your Team Thinking](#)
- [What We're Learning: The Great Reset](#)

- [Your Church's Fall 2021 Growth Opportunity \(Why It's a Season of Hope...\)](#)
- [Ideas for reconnecting with members of your church family: Part 1](#)
- [Ideas for reconnecting with members of your church family: Part 2](#)

- [Make-Their-Day Ideas](#)
- [Breaking the Habit of Outsourcing the Ongoing Catechesis of Our Children](#)

- [Excel on Sundays - Hospitality](#)
- [The Ministry of Wholeness](#)

- [Why Going Back to “Normal” Seems So Compelling and Can Be So Dangerous](#)
- [Real presence in a time of ongoing pandemic](#)
- [What will your parish look like post-pandemic? It may depend on how it responded to coronavirus](#)
- [10 Service Ideas for the Creative Church](#)

In times like these, it helps to recall that there have always been times like these.

~ Paul Harvey

Resources for upcoming feasts/liturgical year/the calendar year

- [Back to School Prayer and Stickers](#)
- [Blessing of the Backpacks Tags and Resources](#)

- [Gearing Up for a New Season](#)
- [Prayers for Back to School](#)

- [Prayer Resources for the Twentieth Anniversary of September 11, 2001](#)

Resources for the Year of St. Joseph

- [St. Joseph as our model](#)
- [Why are Wednesdays for St. Joseph?](#)

- [Painting is Prayer](#)
- [Year of St Joseph Reflection](#)

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- [Pope praises Knights of Columbus seeking St. Joseph's "creative courage"](#)
- [Year of St. Joseph Resources](#)

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

- [Accompanying Children Back to the Classroom](#)
- [Prayer Calendar & Bingo Sheet for Creation Season](#)
- [What a Children's Book Taught Me \(and My Students\) About Grief](#)
- [Time to Rekindle Relationships: 9 Fall Ideas for Intergenerational Ministry](#)
- [Resources for the Practice of Remembering](#)
- [Picture Books in Ministry](#)
- [How to Make Sure Each Child Feels Welcomed, Loved, and Valued](#)
- [Discern vocation with toddlers, teens, and everyone in between](#)
- [Children ARE Welcome. Really.](#)
- [Can Children Understand Worship?](#)
- [What We're Learning: Awakening Our Imagination](#)
- [Quick Tips for Teaching Elementary Children at Every Age](#)
- [Three Things Every Family Needs and One Thing They Don't](#)
- [The Courage to Create Safe Spaces](#)
- [What Does Discipleship Look Like for Children?](#)

It is easier to reject a hurting world
than it is to embrace it with compassion.

~ Eugene Kennedy

Resources for Faith Formation Leaders (adult faith formation)

- [Commonweal Conversation Starter Series](#)
- [Showing Empathy for Young Adults](#)
- [How to Reflect on our COVID Experience While We are Still Going Through It](#)
- [The Rite of Election — a journey into the divine mystery](#)
- [The Rite of Acceptance — the beginning of a paschal journey for the RCIA seekers](#)
- ["Destruct" your precatechumenate to prepare RCIA inquirers](#)

When the pond dries up and the fish are lying
on the parched earth,
to moisten them with one's breath or damp them with spittle
is no substitute for flinging them back into the lake.
Don't enliven people with doctrines,
throw them back into Reality.
For the secret of life is to be found in life itself -
not in doctrines about it.

~ Anthony de Mello

Technology Considerations

- [Catholics clicked with online ministry. Will we keep it up?](#)
- [The Top Three Digital Engagement Mistakes to Avoid](#)
- [Professor Ann Garrido shares conscientious media use tips](#)
- [4 ways to bring parish ministry to the digital world](#)
- [Virtual reality and the coming Catholic Metaverse](#)

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- [It's hard to be a moral person. Technology is making it harder.](#)
- [Consider a technological examination of conscience](#)

Ideas and Suggestions for Families

- [Thirty seconds of silence: A great way to help kids prepare for prayer](#)
- [36 Questions That Can Help Kids Make Friends](#)

- [Start the School Year with Love](#)
- [9 tips for a successful family prayer time](#)

- [Meal time grace placemat for under 5s](#)
- [Lessons in love from a growing family](#)
- [Give thanks for your brothers and sisters](#)

Suggestions and Reflections for All of Us

- [The Call to a 'Mindful' Sabbath](#)
- [Take Time to Fill your Cup](#)

- [Fill your Cup \(Part 2\)](#)
- [Finding your vocation takes trust](#)

- [Honoring Nature's Gifts](#)
- [How a Time Capsule Can Make You Happier](#)

- [10 Regrets Too Many People Will Have in 10 Years](#)
- [Clean Slate](#)

- [Preparing for this New Season](#)
- [To navigate pandemic life, adopt a pilgrimage mindset](#)

Resources for and about Prayer and Reflection

- [Why you should pray at a monk's pace](#)
- [Magis Cards](#)
- [Looking for a Sign from God? Try These Prayer Practices Instead](#)

"Sometimes I just want it to stop. Talk of COVID, looting, brutality. I lose my way. I become convinced that this "new normal" is real life. Then I meet an 87-year-old who talks of living through polio, diphtheria, Vietnam protests and yet is still enchanted with life.

He seemed surprised when I said that 2020 must be especially challenging for him. "No," he said slowly, looking me straight in the eyes. "I learned a long time ago to not see the world through the printed headlines, I see the world through the people that surround me. I see the world with the realization that we love big. Therefore, I just choose to write my own headlines:

"Husband loves wife today." "Family drops everything to come to Grandma's bedside." He patted my hand. "Old man makes new friend." His words collide with my worries, freeing them from the tether I had been holding tight. They float away. I am left with a renewed spirit and a new way to write my own headlines."

Story by Andy Stanley.

Music

- [Lead Me, Guide Me](#)
- [There is a Season](#)

- [Eye Has Not Seen](#)
- [Glory and Praise to Our God](#)

- [Be Not Afraid](#)
- [You Raise Me Up](#)

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- [Here I Am, Lord](#)
- [The Lord Bless You And Keep You](#)
- [By Our Love](#)
- [Music Brings Hope and Healing](#)
- [Evensong Meets Healing Sound](#)

Church

- [Chicago cardinal says Church cannot be complacent about abuse prevention](#)
- [The Church is synodal because it is a communion](#)

Liturgy and Sacraments

- [Guidelines for Good Godparenting](#)
- [Engaging Young Parents through Baptism and Beyond](#)

Catholic Social Teaching

- [Bring Someone with You](#)

Work toward Anti-Racism

- [Critical race theory and Catholicism go hand in hand](#)
- [Predominantly White Churches & Racial Justice: Discern the Next Right Thing](#)
- [Toward an End to Racism](#)
- [Crossroads Leading to Diversity](#)

Caring for our Common Home

- [Prayer Calendar & Bingo Sheet for Creation Season](#)
- [Global climate change is also a spiritual crisis](#)
- [Laudato Si' calls us to economic and spiritual conversion](#)

- [Apart or a Part? Our Relationship to the Planet](#)
- [Three Seconds \(video\)](#)
- [Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis](#)

One ought, everyday at least, to hear a little song,
read a good poem, see a fine picture, and, if it were possible,
to speak a few reasonable words.

~ Johann Wolfgang von Goethe



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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>