



GREAT ENDEAVORS MINED & SHARED

from an International Adult Faith Formation Best Practices Study

#113 - Mid-May 2020

A Best Practice: Resources for Our Challenging Time (Part III)

Since April we have been scheduled to look at Part III and Part IV of *A View from the Community: Today's Best Practices, Today's Challenges*. Those issues are on hold as we explore **some of the many resources**

- that have always been available to us
- those that have been created in the last few weeks

This issue is coming in **mid-May** rather than our usual monthly schedule because there are **a few time-sensitive resources** in this issue:

- thoughts, ideas and suggestions regarding “re-opening”
- several suggestions for graduations and summer events

Many of the resources throughout this issue are **available all the time** and can be used now but also in the months ahead (when things return to “a new normal”) and we continue to learn, pray, support each other both face-to-face and virtually.

All of these links were working at the time I completed this issue and emailed it. However, with our quickly-changing circumstances, some organizations and groups might be changing and altering their sites.

A Few Articles-Webinars for Reflection and Guidance

- [Between Two Worlds](#)
- [Where is God in All This?](#) (webinar from GIA)
- [Self, community and motivation](#)
- [Strong in the Face of Tribulation](#) (a free downloadable book of Pope Francis’ prayers and homilies responding to the trial and suffering of the coronavirus pandemic)
- [Laudato si’ and Covid-19: Can praises still be sung in a strange land?](#)
- [The New Normal](#)
- [From Emergency to Emergence](#)
- [Few Americans say their house of worship is open, but a quarter say their faith has grown amid pandemic](#)

- [The Great Realisation](#)
- [Pandemic Practices: Finding our Way Forward](#)
- [The Christian response to Coronavirus isn’t “Keep Calm and Jesus On.” It should be “Let’s Love Our Neighbors, Together \(Even If From a Distance!\)”](#)
- [Beyond the pandemic: believe everything or deny everything?](#)
- [Walking with others in an age of social distancing](#)
- [Does the Covid crisis represent an opportunity for climate change? Here are four ways it might.](#)
- [Socially distant, spiritually connected](#)
- [A People of Hope: Looking Back, Looking Ahead](#) (Register for a May 26th webinar from CTU)

“Prayerfully consider what you can do to help create a new and beautiful normal like that that the death and resurrection of Jesus created.

- * What of this period of isolation do you want to maintain – in your life, in your community, in your work situation, in your church?
- * What of your old life has this reset encouraged you to let go of?
- * What steps could you take now to reset your life in a new direction where love of God and love for neighbor holds centre stage?”

- Christine Sine

<https://godspacelight.com/2020/04/27/meditation-monday-the-great-pause-or-a-complete-reset/>

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Some Practices, Resources and Reflections for Parishes

- [A Synopsis of Pastoral Considerations for the Reopening of Churches and the Resumption of Public Masses](#)
 - [24 Questions Your Church Should Answer Before People Return](#)
 - [48 Questions to Ask Before You Reopen Your Church](#)

 - [Before we get 'back to normal,' we need to grieve and pray](#)
 - [Now what? Some thoughts about what's next for the scattered and gathered church](#)
 - [Four things you need to begin planning for reopening](#)

 - [Questions Your Church Should Answer Before People Return](#)
 - [Returning to Church](#)
 - [Guidance for the New Normal](#)

 - [Will it All be Different: Ministry Considerations from a Healthcare Perspective](#)
 - [The Things You Need to Think About Before You Reopen Your Church](#)
 - [More Masses Because of Corona?](#)

 - [Thinking About Reopening Church – In the Age of Coronavirus](#)
 - [Five Likely Consequences of the Pandemic most Church Leaders do not Expect](#)
 - [Resources for Planning for Reopening](#)

 - [Avoid this big mistake: Stepping back into the past when you step back into your building](#)
 - [What can we learn from tomatoes about reopening our churches](#)
 - [When Your Church Reopens, Here's How to Meet Safely](#)

 - Visit the GIA Publications page on Facebook for the webinar [“Exploring guidelines for resuming public worship”](#) (with Rita Thiron and Msgr. Rick Hilgartner)

 - Visit the Parish Catalyst website for the webinar [“Reopening the Parish – A National Conversation”](#)
- [Theologians concerned over bishops' plans for 10-person pandemic Masses](#)
 - [Who will we leave behind?](#)
 - [What to Expect When You Return to Mass](#) (A video from the archdiocese of Baltimore)

 - [Reopening Churches After The Lockdown](#)
 - [After the Pandemic - Opening up Again](#) (Fr. Frank DeSiano)
 - [Prepare Now for Post-Pandemic Ministry](#)

 - [Don't let's start again too quickly!](#)
 - [It is ok to pause before you plan. Really.](#)
 - [COVID-19 Response Toolkit for Churches](#)

 - [6 Ways to Shepherd When You Can't See the Sheep](#)
 - [Communion & Community in a Time of Pandemic](#)
 - [Revive Parishes \(3 months free\)](#)

 - The [Church in these VUCA \(Volatile, Uncertain, Complex and Ambiguous\) Times](#) (A parish can get oriented by asking three questions: What, So What, and Now What. This 4-minute video explores those questions, to help churches plan for what's up ahead.)

 - [Resources for Catholics During COVID-19](#)
 - [Free webinars from Parish Catalyst](#)
 - [Positive Trends, Social Realities, and the Future of the Post-COVID-19 Church](#)

 - [New Ways to Worship](#)
 - [Preaching to an Empty Room](#) (webinar)
 - [The empty tomb: our reason for existence](#)

 - [Lessons from the Frontlines: What Pastoral Ministers can Learn from Hospital Chaplaincy](#)

 - [Lessons from the Frontlines: What Pastoral Ministers can Learn from Campus Ministry](#)

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- [Taste and See: the sensory experience of liturgy in an age of virtual worship](#) (Webinar with Vicki Klima and Fr. Michael Joncas)
- [Isolated from communal prayer, Latino Catholics rediscover spiritual roots](#)
- [One Thing I Don't Like About COVID-19, And Why It's A Gift In Disguise](#)

- [Has your Mass been 'Zoom-bombed'? Here's what you can do](#)
- [The 4 Pillars of Meaning That Will Help Us Emerge From the Pandemic Better Than Before](#)
- [What Happens When We Lose Our Social Rituals?](#)

- [The Distanced Church: Reflections on Doing Church Online](#)
- [From Emergency to Emergence](#)
- [Mourning our Changing Church](#)

- [Why Scripture Will Help Us Chart a Path Forward During Uncertain Times](#)
- [Funeral Services: Who Cares for those who Care for the Dead?](#)
- [Pastoral Ministry during COVID-19](#)

- [11 self-care reminders for clergy and other caregivers](#)
- [Pentecost postcards to send to your parishioners](#)

- [This Too Shall Pass: Mourning Collective Loss in the Time of COVID-19](#)

- [Cartoon reflections on living through the pandemic](#): “A humorous approach to the serious matter of our relationship with God.” Free to download and share with your people on social media, parish website, or by email.

- Some thoughts from Jane Angha at Ministry Blueprints (jane.angha@ministryblueprints.com): “What happens when this is over? I suspect we will have changed as individuals and as a parish or school community. And it's in acknowledging and responding to the change that will signify our ability to be church.

There are three things that are good to consider:

1. Connect regularly with your volunteers, ministry leaders, pastors and parishioners. Notes, calls, virtual gatherings - stay in touch. There are so many stages to this pandemic that our feelings change from week to week if not day to day. Meet needs if you can, resource and outsource those you can't. Don't let anyone fall through the cracks. This is a defining moment for all of us. Do this part well, with hospitality and grace.

2. Find new and creative ways to be church and to make the most of the time you have at hand. Be willing to repurpose your ministry for a bit and do whatever is needed. Clean, do the gardening and yard work, paint and deep clean every room there is. Take online courses, learn a new skill - make this time count! Become an integral part of your community as well. Reach out to civic leaders and all essential workers with support, encouragement and creative thank you's. Gather leaders for public prayer - online, pack up lunches and snacks for hospital and nursing home workers. Become indispensable!

3. Plan for re-engagement with experts. Communication, message, delivery and presence are all vital areas that need to be well-thought out. There won't be room for retakes and do-overs. Ministry Blueprints is in the midst of all these things too. Our friends at Hashtag Creative are helping us navigate these new waters so we are able to serve the church in new ways. We invite you to do that, too. Your parish or diocese isn't too small, too poor or too complex to get a little coaching and advice on how to do this re-engagement thing well. This is the time to have experts help craft messages, plans and stages of re-entry.”

- Some additional thoughts (May 4) from Jane Angha at Ministry Blueprints (jane.angha@ministryblueprints.com):

1. Gather a few focus groups - and ask questions and gather intel. What have they missed the most? What are they worried about? What would they like to see continue from the remote ministry they encountered? What doors are open now for innovation? Record the info and report to the staff to look at what is really important to your people now - and start there.

2. Continue to reach out and build relationships. If you haven't called your people yet - do that this week. If you haven't thanked your parish

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for their patience, prayer and support - do that with a postcard or a little gift (seed packets, cookies, drive by blessing of homes etc.) We are all in the midst of managing and by now we know that people have suffered financially, physically, emotionally and spiritually. Reach in to listen, pray with and for people and point them in the right direction for the help they need. If you keep this up creatively and abundantly, the re-engagement phase will be seamless.

3. Communicate. Use every platform you have to reach out and let people know all that you know. When your Bishop or pastor makes a decision or statement, holds a meeting or receives new information, get that out to the people in every way you can. This is crucial. It's keeping a lifeline out there for those you serve. If you are not adept at this as a diocese, parish or school, we encourage you to get some good advice or outsource. Your diocesan office may have services you can tap into, or contact our friends at <https://hashtagcrtv.com> to get moving on this. People need to know what is happening, how it affects them and what they should be doing. Be clear, concise, kind and consistent! Your people will turn to you as a trusted source for re-engagement when it's time.

After 3 days isolation inside a fish,
Jonah came out with a mission and changed a city.

After 40 days isolation on a mountain,
Moses came out with 10 commandments and changed a nation.

After 40 days isolation in the wilderness,
Jesus came out in power and changed everything.

What are you coming out of isolation with?
What needs to change?

- *Vision.org.au*

Resources for Faith Formation Leaders

- [Struggling with Live-Stream? A Different Way to Have Liturgy at Home](#)

- **Sunday Celebrations** is a new free resources from RCL Benziger to help celebrate Sunday at home. Each session focuses on the Gospel of the day, and encourages singing, praying, sharing, and celebrating. [Contact RCL Benziger Sales Representative.](#)
- [Faith in the Time of COVID: A Brave New Frontier](#)
- [Developing Playlists of Faith Formation Content and Experiences for All Ages](#) (June 2020 webinars)
- [Canceling Summer Programs: Resource Round Up](#)
- [Who will we become after the coronavirus? For students, the key is resilience](#)
- RCL Benziger is offering free online access for 60 days to the Echoes of Faith Emmaus Edition. [Contact your sales representative.](#)
- [A propitious moment for the domestic church to flourish](#) (Hosffman Ospino)
- [Webinars](#) (from Vibrant Faith Catalyst)
- [Mary, Mother of God Kit](#)

“If everything continues as it was,
if we spend our days content that ‘this is the way
things have always been done,’
then the gift vanishes,
smothered by the ashes of fear and concern
for defending the status quo.”

- *Pope Francis*

Resources for Faith Formation Leaders (children and youth programming)

- [How to Lead VBS \(even in a year with COVID-19\)](#)
- [Canceling Summer Programs: When Camps, Trips, And VBS Cannot Go On](#)

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- [Summer Catechesis](#)
- [VBS Resources](#)
- [BeachCatholic Kids](#)
- [MagnifiKid](#) (The readings and prayers of the Sunday Mass with explanations of the difficult words and the meaning of the rituals; a suggested prayer for Morning and Evening; many suggestions on how to live the entire week with the Lord; various games, a comic, and activities to help children learn about Christian life and culture; a page intended for the parents with suggestions for family prayers)
- [What is the Church? Lesson Plan](#)
- [Children's Ministry During COVID-19](#)
- [COVID-19 Coronavirus Response & Praying with Children](#) (from Catechesis of the Good Shepherd)
- [Tips for Online Faith Forming Gatherings With Children & Families](#)
- [Free Videos to Accompany the USCCB High School Framework](#)
- [Free High School Mini Units](#)
- [Credibility in Crisis: How to Leverage Pivotal Life Moments in Youth Ministry](#)
- [Accompanying Young People through Quarantine](#) (webinar)
- [Ideas and Resources For Lament and Thanksgiving](#) (Especially Appropriate For Those Working With Youth)
- [Less pizza, more phone calls: Youth Ministry after COVID-19](#)
- [The Year Without Graduation](#)
- [Naming loss and gratitude with young people in these uncertain days](#)
- [Grief and Graduation](#)
- [Reinventing graduation: 3 ways to honor milestones in the midst of pandemic](#)
- [Religious education continues in different format during pandemic](#)
- [Family Formation](#)



Resources for Faith Formation Leaders (adult faith formation)

- [RCIA will never be the same again](#)
- [RCIA in the time of Pandemic](#)
- [Celebrating the RCIA scrutinies outside the usual times](#)
- [Scheduling initiation outside of Easter](#)
- [An RCIA calendar for celebrating the initiation rites outside the usual times](#)
- [Encountering Christ through the Living Word in This Time of Social Distancing](#)
- [Free Online Course: "Journey with The Saint John's Bible"](#)
- [Digital pilgrimages allow the faithful to travel the world from their couches](#)
- [Loneliness and Isolation Among Young Adults](#)
- [Gathering Gratefully in the Time of Coronavirus](#)

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What challenges have you experienced during this time of social distancing?
What joys have you experienced?
Take some time to share this in conversation with a trusted family member or friend.

What new gifts have you discovered about yourself over the past several weeks? How are you being called to use these gifts now?

How, given your particular situation, might you be able to support others who are around you in your family, school, or wider community?

- Suggested questions during webinar from NFCYM and ND McGrath Institute on April 24, 2020

Resources for Reflection and Prayer

- [Resources for Prayer and Engagement during Coronavirus](#) (USCCB)
- [Nature 365](#)
- [Strengthen your spirit by bullet journaling](#)

- [Read the Daily Gospel through Art.](#)
- [How to Pray the Liturgy of the Hours](#)
- [Julian of Norwich and Social Distancing](#)

- [A Service of Light & Breath](#)
- [A free seven-day practice composed of gratitude for little things](#) (Sign up before May 20)
- [Quarantine Fatigue or Sabbath Rest: A Reflection on Psalm 31](#) (Walter Brueggemann)

- [Prayers, Liturgies, Seasons and More](#)
- [Free pastoral resources for praying together even when we are apart](#)

- [Pray as You Go](#) (a new Alexa skill for Pray As You Go. Just add the skill to your device and say, "Alexa, launch/open Pray As You Go.")
- [No, No, There is No Going Back](#)
- [Re-imagining Psalm 23](#)

- [A Meditation on the Love of God](#)
- [Praying Together, Praying Apart: At-Home Prayers for Times of Healing, Illness, and Death](#)
- [The Mystery Continues to Dwell, Glimmering in Fugitive Light](#)

- [Pray As You Stay Week 3](#)
- [Kitchen Still Life Prayers](#)
- [Young adults 'praying more' in Covid-19 lockdown](#)

- [Free pastoral resources for praying together even when we are apart](#)
- [Practicing Gratitude in the Middle of Covid-19](#)
- [With Jesus in the Desert: A retreat for a time of isolation](#)

- [Waiting for the Spirit: An Online Retreat from Ascension to Pentecost](#)

The boat I travel in is called Surrender.
My two oars are instant forgiveness and gratitude –
complete gratitude for the gift of life.
I am thankful for the experience of this life,
for the opportunity to dance.

I get angry, I get mad,
But as soon as I remind myself
to put my oars in the water,
I forgive.

- Balbir Matbur, Heron Dance Interview (Issue 11)

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Prayers and Reflections

- [A prayer for first responders amid the coronavirus pandemic](#)
- [A prayer when baptism must be delayed in time of Coronavirus](#)
- [Tiny Prayers](#)
- [Not Without Cost, This Going Deep](#)
- [12 Spiritual Energy Boosters](#)
- [Opening the Gift of Peace](#)
- [Prayer for Our Adult Children During The LockDown](#)
- [Practicing Visio Divina with U.S. National Parks and Monuments](#)
- [Emptying Prayer for Anxious Humans](#)
- [A Litany for the Dying, the Departed, and the Grieving](#)
- [Pandemic Prayerbook](#)

Music

- [I will come to you in the silence](#)
- [Be Not Afraid](#) by Catholic Artists from Home
- [We are Called](#)
- [Shelter Me](#)
- [Gathering of Spirits](#)
- [Taize Community Choir](#)
- [A Whole New World](#) (Daddy Daughter Duet)
- [Several Resources for Easter Hope & Pentecost Expectation](#)
- [Superhero: A Covid 19 Song](#)
- [You'll Never Walk Alone](#) (300 people from 15 different countries)
- [Anthem](#)
- [Sound Sanctuary](#)
- [The Power of Hymns in Times of Crisis](#)



Hope is what sits by a window and waits for one more dawn, despite the fact that there is not one ounce of proof in tonight's black, black sky that I can possibly come.

- Joan Chittister in *Scarred by Struggle, Transformed by Hope*

Ideas and Suggestions for Families

- [Supporting Children during the Coronavirus](#)
- [Children's grief in quarantine may look like anger: Here's how parents can respond](#)
- [Raising Children and Forming Families in a Virtual Faith Community](#) (a webinar from GIA)

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- [Helping Kids Think About the Good](#)
- [Stories of Grace for Kids](#) (free downloads of Stories of Grace prayer journal for children)
- [Coronavirus: A book for children](#)
- [Cora and the Corona](#) (a free coloring book)
- [How to Help Teens Handle the Loss of Proms and Graduations](#)
- [Celebrating Faith Milestone Rituals at Home](#)
- Two free milestone moments that can be celebrated at home:
 - [Graduation Milestone Moment Online](#)
 - [End of School Year Milestone Moment Online](#)
- [Reinventing graduation: 3 ways to honor milestones in the midst of pandemic](#)
- [Say thanks—your life depends on it](#)
- [At Home with Your Faith](#)
- An idea [from one grandfather](#): Each day I draw a picture, take a photograph of the drawing with my smartphone and text it to him via his dad. Sometimes the picture is of the two of us doing something impossible: riding a dragon, diving into an ice cream cone the size of a mountain. Other times I draw a picture with me hiding in the drawing.

I ask him to draw the next drawing: Where does the dragon go, for example; or to find me in the drawing and then draw one in which he is hiding so I can look for him. I am a terrible artist and my drawings are very primitive and silly—which only adds to his delight.
- [Faith@Home](#)
- [Educators for St. Jude](#) (Learning activities, including coronavirus resources developed by experts at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital)
- [How to Reduce the Stress of Homeschooling on Everyone](#)
- [Encouragement for Parents](#)
- [Little by little and day by day](#)
- [Learn@Home](#) (A resource for families with children of different ages and areas of interest)

- [Blessing Your Children and Other Family Rituals](#)
- [Children's Books for Support during the Pandemic](#)
- [Mail a Hug activity](#)
- Using post-it notes, write down (whenever you think of them) your responses to:
 - Where I saw God today...
 - I'm thankful to God for ...Place them on a door in your home (and a second door, a third door...)

A prayer for spring, even now

In the sparrow nesting in the tree
We thank you for reminding us
Our worries are held by a Maker who counts each feather

In the children scrambling underfoot
We thank you for reminding us
That joy is to be found in being banded together

In the lilies peeking from the earth
We thank you for reminding us
Of new life springing forth—a glimpse of something better

In the sun rising over the trees and buildings
We thank you for reminding us
Our hope will be renewed and darkness will not last forever

In a time that feels hopeless, root us in Your presence
And let us remind our children that You are here
Immanuel, God with us
In the nest and the laughs and the dirt and the sky

~by Kayla Craig, Modern Liturgies for Parents

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Reaching out and Good News

- [Save With Stories](#) is a community-driven fundraiser on Instagram. It features authors and others reading their books for kids on camera, all to raise money for [@savethechildren](#) and [@nokidhungry](#).
- [Caring for our Common Home in Lockdown](#)
- [Help Fight Social Isolation](#)
- [Without Casseroles and Crowded Churches: 10 Ways To Support The Grieving While Social Distancing](#)
- [How to Keep the Greater Good in Mind During the Coronavirus Outbreak](#)
- [The Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [Physical Distancing, Not Social Distancing](#)

“There is a hard truth to be told:
before spring becomes beautiful,
it is plug ugly, nothing but mud and muck...

But in that muddy mess,
the conditions for rebirth are being created.

- Parker Palmer

Suggestions and Reflections for All of Us

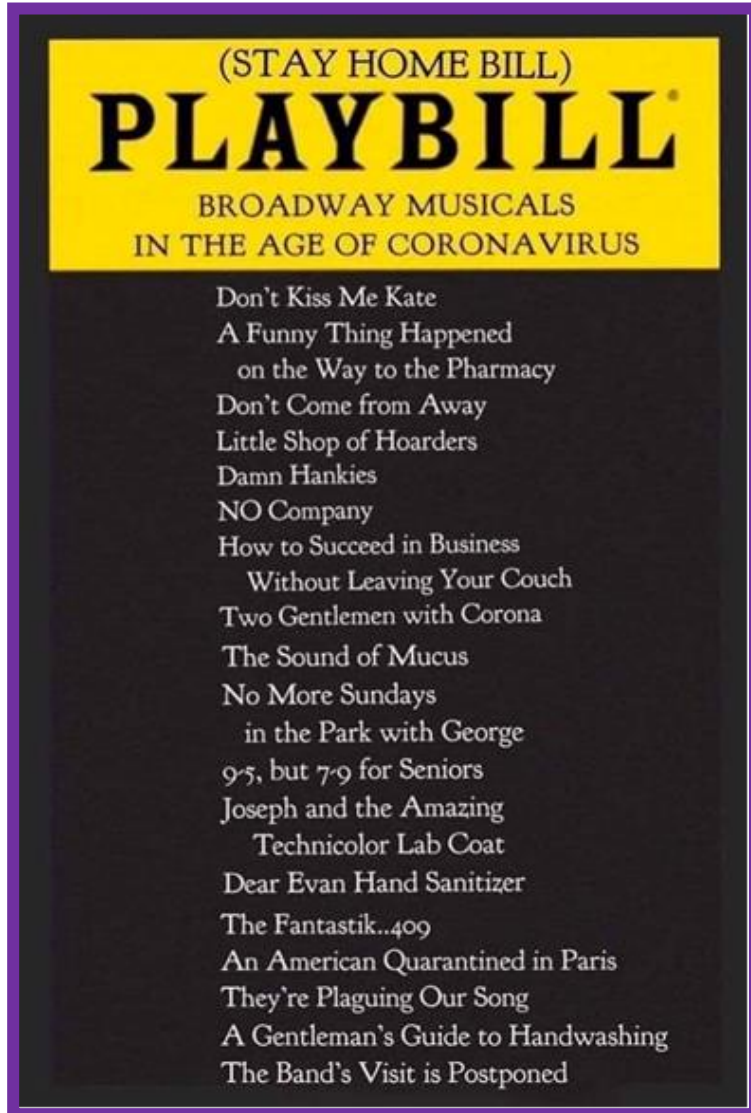
- [Human Touch](#): A new serialized story of hope during the coronavirus pandemic, set in the moment we are all living through together. “Human Touch” is being written by Mitch Albom in the present, one week at a time.

- [The Great Pause or a Complete Reset](#)
- [All the Things We Have to Mourn Now](#)
- [How to Flourish During the Coronavirus Pandemic: Research from the Human Flourishing Program at Harvard](#)
- [Practices of resistance: How not to respond to the lockdown](#)
- [What's Your Time Frame?](#)
- [Living with pre-grief amid a pandemic](#)
- [Together Apart](#) is an Orion web series of letters from isolation. Every week under lockdown, this is an eavesdropping on curious pairs of authors, scientists, and artists, listening in on their emails, texts, and phone calls as they redefine their relationships from afar. The first installment was an exchange between Amy Irvine and Pam Houston.

The second exchange is between Krista Tippett, author and CEO of the On Being Project, and the poet and theologian Pádraig Ó Tuama.
- [How to better manage stress and anxiety in theses uncertain times](#) (webinar)
- [How to Face the Social and Personal Grief](#) (webinar)
- [How to identify the stages of grief in COVID-19 messages](#)
- [Seeking wisdom from masters of social isolation](#)
- [Finding Ease in Aloneness](#)
- [8 Tips From an Introvert on How to Stay Home](#)
- [Roadside Assistance](#)
- [Ancestors, Heirs and Hope](#)
- [Sheltering in Place](#)
- [17 Totally Normal Things to Feel Right Now, According to Therapists](#)
- [Where Fear Meets Hope: Stories from Here and There](#)
- [How to Stop Feeling So Helpless During Quarantine](#)

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- [Podcasts for the Pandemic: A Playlist of Inspiration](#)
- [I Like It Actually: Why So Many Older People Thrive in Lockdown](#)



Helps regarding the Use of Technology

- [Parish Livestreaming Playbook](#)
- [The Piece We're All Forgetting: Digital Church Policies](#)
- [Technology Tips](#)
- [Ten Facilitation Tips for Meeting Online](#)
- [Digital Church: A Practical How-To Guide](#)
- [Best Practices for Monitoring and Engaging with Comments on Your Parish Social Media Accounts](#)
- [Digital Worship: Congregations Find Hope in Unfamiliar Waters](#)
- [Create a YouTube channel](#)
- YouTube livestream videos can be embedded into your website so that parishioners don't have to find them in the YouTube channel.
- Zoom
 - [Has your Mass been 'Zoom-bombed'? Here's what you can do](#)
 - [The Complete Guide to a Secure Zoom Experience](#)
 - [How to Keep Uninvited Guests Out of Your Zoom Event](#)
- [Hippo Video](#) is a personalized video distribution platform that helps you easily create personalized videos and distribute them through multiple channels.
- If you have access to Chrome, [Screencastify](#) is an easy instructional tool that lets teachers and students communicate in new and creative ways.
- [How to Conduct an Online Small Group](#) from RENEW International
- [Faith on Facebook Toolkit](#)
- [Stream your Church Services with Facebook Live](#)

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- When not everyone has Facebook: Vimeo is an option. Make your video and then upload it to Vimeo. The link to the video can be shared via email, Facebook or your parish website. (Videos can set up to be password protected as well.) Google Drive can also be used in the same way.



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Some Comedic Relief

- [Teacher's song about feelings during the pandemic](#)
- [So Far Away](#)
- [When you leave the baby alone with dad](#)
- [Longest Time - Quarantine Edition](#)

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>