



# GREAT ENDEAVORS MINED & SHARED

*from an International Adult Faith Formation Best Practices Study*

#114 - June 2020

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

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
- to assist, accompany and guide us through these unprecedented times.

“In the rush to return to normal,  
use this time to consider which parts of normal  
are worth rushing back to.”  
- Dave Hollis

## A Few Articles-Webinars for Reflection and Guidance

- [That Discomfort You're Feeling Is Grief](#)
- [Our Time: Resilience Now and Into the Future](#)
  
- [Take It Personally](#)
- [Co-creators of a better world](#)
  
- [Alone \(Together\)](#) contains films, stories, reflections and guidance.
- [The nation needs to mourn what—and who—have been lost](#)
  
- [Saying goodbye: Unable to gather in grief, we must find new ways to mourn](#)
- [Church After COVID: 7 Predictions for How the Church Will Change by 2025](#)
  
- [The Coming Pastoral Crash](#)
- [Tips for Improving Staff Wellbeing During COVID-19](#)

- [Cardinal Cupich: How Vatican II can help us navigate the politics of a pandemic](#)
- [Instead of a 'return to normal,' let's pursue a profound transformation](#)

“... (W)hat we human beings potentially have to bring to the situation (pandemic) ... are the gifts that actually lie close at hand in the human spirit: courage, self-sacrifice, equanimity, forbearance, joy, gentleness, humility, compassion; conscious labor, intentional suffering, substituted love, recollection, purity of heart.

Jesus names these qualities in the beatitudes. Paul talks about them as “the fruits of the spirit.”

- From the *Eagle's Nest*, March 24, 2020,  
Cynthia Bourgeault

## Some Practices, Resources and Reflections for Parishes

- [State of the Church COVID-19 Report](#)
- [Churches \(cautiously\) prepare to reopen as states lift COVID-19 restrictions](#)
  
- [How do we do this? Exploring guidelines for resuming public worship](#) (webinar)
- [Discussion: Guidelines on returning to public liturgy](#)
  
- [Reopening the Parish: A National Discussion](#) (webinar)
- [7 Reflections on Re-entry After COVID-19](#)
  
- [Reopening small and mid-sized churches: A discussion on leading after COVID-19](#)

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- [Idea Roundtable, part 2: More ideas for fostering full, conscious, and active participation](#)
- [When is church coming back? With no national guidelines, look for a hodgepodge of procedures](#)
- [Should Churches Reopen? The Answer Lies in Thinking of This as a Time of Exile](#)
- [What we give up when we give up the cup](#)
- [Do we need another televised Mass? Liturgy in the time of coronavirus](#)
- [Liturgical Resources during the Pandemic \(from FDLC\)](#)
- [Five Ways to Worship with Music Beyond Singing](#)
- [Thoughts from a Virtual Church Visitor: Getting People to Worship](#)
- [Thoughts from a Virtual Church Visitor: Welcoming and Gathering](#)
- [Thoughts from a Virtual Church Visitor: Third and Final Installment](#)
- [Dear fellow Catholics: As churches reopen, let's not go back to the old 'normal'](#)
- [Will you join those enabling Gen Y and Gen Z to launch their lives and make a difference in these turbulent 2020s?](#)
- [When your Church Reopens, What will be left and who will still come?](#)
- [We are in a sacramental desert, but we can still perceive the Holy Spirit](#)
- [Reflections on our experience of the absence of the Eucharist which continues... and invites us to live the Eucharist in a different way](#)
- [Panelists admit sacramental life is hard without the dimension of touch](#)
- [Would prayer services during pandemic be more helpful than livestreamed Masses?](#)
- [Ministry during and after a crisis](#)

- [Five Critical Changes Needed in your Ministry as you Plan the Return To "Normal"](#)
- [Can You Gather With God Over Zoom?](#)
- [The Differentiated Leaders Are Those Who Are Able To Manage Ambiguity](#)
- [The nation needs to mourn what—and who—have been lost](#)
- [Social distancing and the sacraments: How the coronavirus pandemic has changed our sense of communion](#)
- ["Homecoming" Sunday Roundtable: Sharing solutions for full, conscious, and active participation](#)
- [Prayer unites us, even if we are socially distant](#)
- [Ten Ways To Keep Your Church Healthy and Disciplined During the Outbreak](#)
- [A PEACE Plan Approach to COVID-19](#)

“Do not worry that your life is turning upside down.  
How do you know that the side you are used to  
is better than the one to come?”

~ Rumi

## Resources for Faith Formation Leaders

- [Religious Education in the Age of Google, Facebook, Netflix, and SpaceX](#)
- [Resources for Worship and Teaching at Home](#)
- [Living as Missionary Disciples: June 2 Webinar on New USCCB Video Series](#)
- [Summer Opportunities for Formation](#)
- [Family and Faith Summer Kit](#)
- [Partnering with Parents](#)

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- [Engaging Parents when Engaging Parents is Hard](#) (Presentation, PowerPoint and free resources)
- [Supporting Families during These Stay at Home Orders](#)
- [June-July Resources](#)
- [June-July Breaking Open the Word](#)
- [Peacemakers sign 'Pledge to Protect' during pandemic as economy reopens](#)

And people stayed at home  
And read books  
And listened  
And they rested  
And did exercises  
And made art and played  
And learned new ways of being  
And stopped and listened  
More deeply  
Someone meditated, someone prayed  
Someone met their shadow  
And people began to think differently  
And people healed.  
And in the absence of people who  
Lived in ignorant ways  
Dangerous, meaningless and heartless,  
The earth also began to heal  
And when the danger ended and  
People found themselves  
They grieved for the dead  
And made new choices  
And dreamed of new visions  
And created new ways of living  
And completely healed the earth  
Just as they were healed.

*~ Written in 1869 by Kathleen O'Mara  
Reprinted during Spanish flu Pandemic, 1919*

## Resources for Faith Formation Leaders (children and youth programming)

- [Family Formation Resources](#)
- [Considerations for Reopening your Kids Ministry](#)
- [Helping Families Stay Engaged past First Communion](#)
- [Reimagine VBS this summer](#)
- [Morning Prayer Live](#) (from Sadlier)
- A [Sunday Liturgy for families](#) with children of primary school age has been created by Ten Ten Resources to help enable Sunday prayer and worship during the period of church closures.

In times of turmoil and danger,  
gratitude helps to steady and ground us.  
It brings us into presence,  
and our full presence is perhaps the best offering  
we can make to our world.

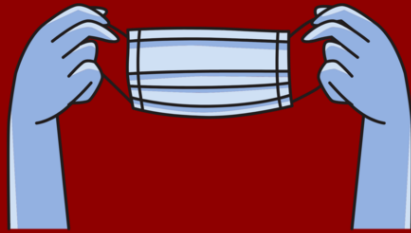
*~ Joanna Macy*

## Resources for Faith Formation Leaders (adult faith formation)

- [Understanding COVID-19](#) This 3-credit course will be offered free of charge this summer by Loyola University New Orleans. This is a team taught course bringing the best of Loyola's experts to help people understand various aspects and implications of COVID-19.
- [Virtual Ignatian retreats show 'God transcends physical place and time'](#)
- [Help during the coronavirus](#) (for those in their maturing years)

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- [Pause for Faith](#) features videos of Catholic Life and conversation with Fr Stephen Wang. Live streaming and video library on YouTube. Many of the recent videos feature ways of coping with the lockdown.
- [Experiencing Transitions](#): Reflections with Joyce Rupp
- [Small Group Resources](#)
- [4 Keys to Leading a Small Group Ministry during Quarantine](#)
- [Learning to pray in front of the television](#)



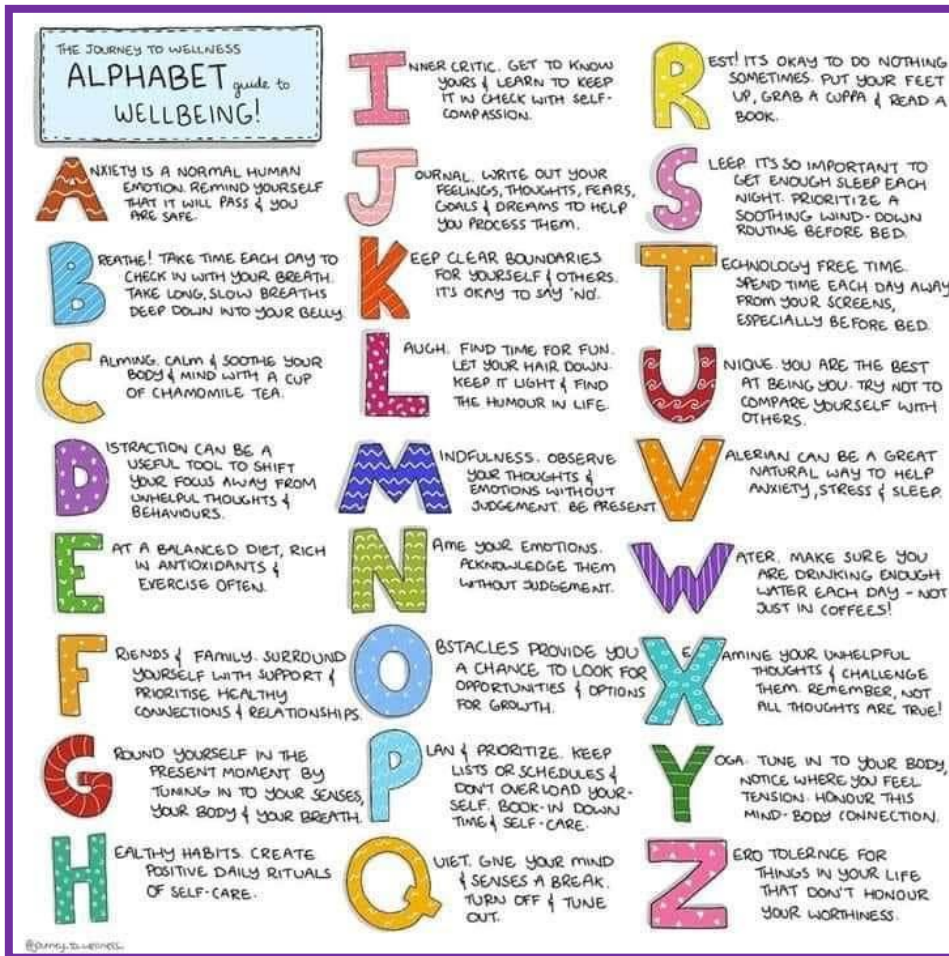
**We bless you and we praise you,  
Lord Christ, for commanding us  
to love one another. Let this mask  
be a sign of your love, and let my  
behavior be filled with love for  
my neighbor. Amen.**

## Resources for Reflection and Prayer

- [Coloring during COVID-19](#)
- [Mindful Pause](#)
- [An Open Letter to COVID-19](#)

- [A Care Package for Uncertain Times](#)
- [Praying with the English Mystics, Conference 1: Evelyn Underhill](#)
- [Praying with the English Mystics, Conference 2: Julian of Norwich](#)
- [Praying with the English Mystics, Conference 3: The Cloud of Unknowing](#)
- [PsalmSeason: A Playlist for a Time of Upheaval](#)
- [To Live with the Spirit](#)
- [\(Virtual\) Retreat on the Mystics](#) (if asked for a password, just click on cancel)
- ['Imagine'](#) is a Zoom Ignatian meditation session from Jesuits in Britain. All are welcome to join on Wednesdays at 8pm GMT. Please note, this session uses break out rooms for small group sharing. [us02web.zoom.us/j/83997700895](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83997700895) - Meeting ID: 839 9770 0895
- Every Monday evening, [Taizé streams live on Facebook](#) prayers with a small group of brothers from the community. The community puts up the live link just before it starts at 8.30 pm CET, and also posts the songs for the evening in advance.
- [Magnificat](#) is offering free access to streaming and other resources online to help Catholics to pray at home.
- During the Coronavirus crisis thousands of Christians across Britain are [praying together at 7.00 pm every Sunday evening](#) in their homes. How might we do that in our parishes, our (arch)dioceses?
- [CCC - Christ, Covid, Community](#). This public Facebook group offers a forum for prayer and spirituality during the Covid-19 crisis.
- [This Sunday](#). These reflections on the scripture readings for each week are written and designed especially for scripture prayer groups but they can be used by anyone, either individually, or in groups, to deepen their prayer life, consider the Liturgy of the Word, prepare for the Sunday Mass, or if they cannot get to Mass for any reason. A new reflection sheet is published each Monday for the following Sunday.

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“Let everything happen to you:  
beauty and terror.  
Just keep going. No feeling is final.  
~ Rainer Maria Rilke

## Music

- [The Hawai'i Blessing](#)
- [Morning Has Broken](#)
- [The Lord Bless You and Keep You](#)
- [Litany of the Holy Spirit](#)
- [O God Be the Music](#)
- [Shepherd Me O God](#)
- [Stand By Me](#)
- [By our Love](#)
- [Send Us Your Spirit](#)
- [How Can I Repay](#)
- [I Found the Treasure](#)
- [Litany of Peace](#)
- [The Blessing](#)
- [Send Us Your Spirit](#)
- [Shelter Me](#) (A Covid-19 song by Michael Joncas)
- [In God's Perfect Time](#)
- [Let Your Light Shine](#)
- [Songs of Comfort](#)
- [So the Lord Is to Me](#)
- [The Wind](#)

## Prayers and Reflections

- [The Coronavirus Prayer](#)
- [Prayers for Community in a Time of Pandemic](#)
- [Breath Prayers](#)
- [Prayers for Hope and Solidarity in a Time of Pandemic](#)
- [Healing Hands: prayer guide for healthcare workers](#)
- [Let Your God Love You](#)
- [A Prayer of Lament over the Coronavirus Pandemic](#)



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“Difficult times have helped me to understand better than before how infinitely rich and beautiful life is in every way, and that so many things that one goes worrying about are of no importance whatsoever.”  
~ Isak Denison

## Ideas and Suggestions for Families

- [11 Opportunities to grow during the COVID-19 Conundrum](#)
- [Getting to Know Your Bible Better](#)
- [Me, God and Covid-19](#) (a journal for children)
- [Father's Day Questionnaires](#)
- [Sunday Resource for Families](#)
- [Bringing Forth: A podcast on parenting and spirituality](#)
- [Unexpected Blessings during Social Distance: 3 Reminders for Grandparents](#)
- [Will the Pandemic Have a Lasting Impact on My Kids?](#)
- [Handling Your Kid's Disappointment When Everything Is Canceled](#)
- [How Reading Science Fiction Can Build Resilience in Kids](#)
- [Praying the Daily Examen](#)
- [Faith Resources at Home](#)
- [Kids and Family Resources](#)
- [7 Mindfulness Exercises for Young Children](#)
- [The Ickabog](#) by J. K. Rowling
- [Sharing Family Stories](#)

## Reaching out and Good News

- [DC parish fills pews with food for parishioners in need](#)
- [12 Unique Ways to Love Your Neighbor During COVID-19](#)
- [The Barn Raising Lineage](#)
- [How I am Finding Purpose and Connection in a Pandemic](#)



## Suggestions and Reflections for All of Us

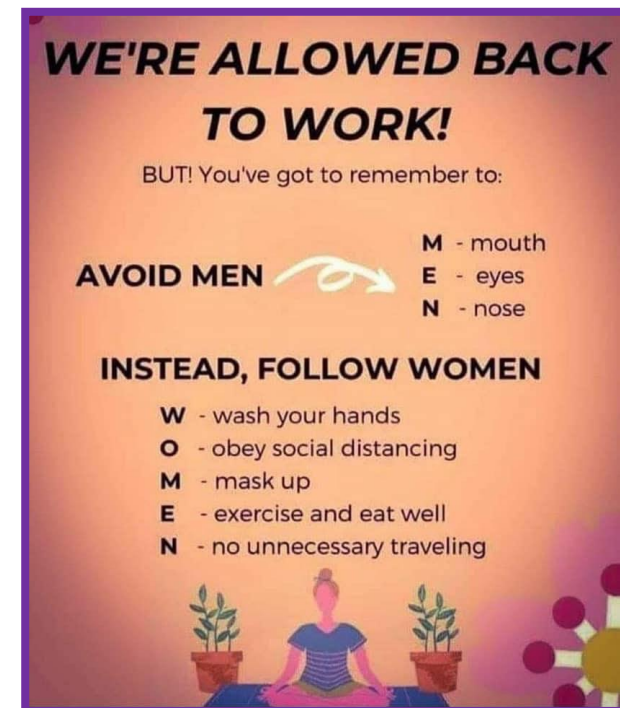
- [Life in and After the Pandemic: Grieving What Was and Welcoming What Will Be](#)

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- [Intimacy, rituals, tears are the gifts and desire this moment brings](#)
- [A Guide to Dealing with the Growing Tiredness & Boredom of the New Normal](#)
- [Self-Care Strategies and Reminders](#)
- [Energy Boosters](#)
- [How to be your best self in times of crisis](#)
- [How to Have a Fun Conversation Again](#)
- [Your Coronavirus Coping Kit](#)
- [A Pandemic Care Package](#)
- [Yes, 'Quarantine Fatigue' Is Real. Here's How to Cope](#)
- [Spiritual Health in Loneliness](#) (Fr. Ron Rolheiser)
- [A New Song for a New Day](#)
- [Grief Resources for this Time](#)
- [No, How Are You, Really? Acceptable answers to this suddenly complicated question](#)
- [Five Lessons to Remember When Lockdown Ends](#)

## Thoughts and Helps regarding the Use of Technology

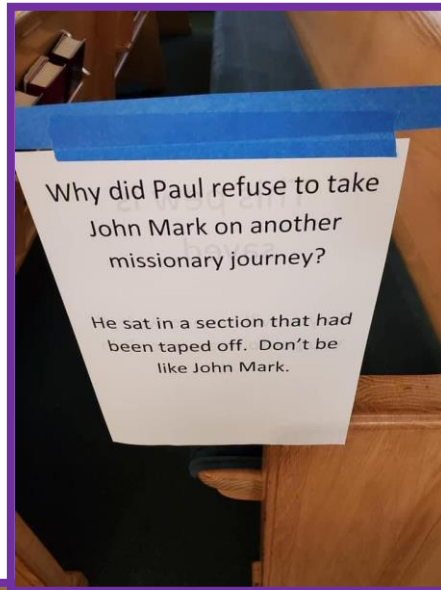
- [Virtual Evangelism](#)
- [Free Webinar Planning Kit](#)
- [7 Steps to Creating and Launching Your Own Profitable Online Course](#)
- [11 Online Church Ideas during the Coronavirus Outbreak](#)
- [The Best Live-Streaming Video Solutions for Churches](#)
- [Doing Church Online](#)
- [The Ultimate Guide to Church Live-Streaming During Crisis](#)
- [There's No Going Back: Taking Digital Practices into the Future](#)
- [Building Up your Digital Repertoire](#)



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## Some Comedic Relief

- [Super Nasty Cataclysmic Covid-19 Virus](#)
- ["Stayin' Inside" - Coronavirus Bee Gees Parody](#)



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Past issues of **GEMS** are archived at [www.janetschaeffler.com](http://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](http://www.lifelongfaith.com/store/p25/The_Seasons_of_Adult_Faith_Formation.html) and <http://www.lifelongfaith.com/2015-adult-faith-formation-symposium.html>