



GREAT ENDEAVORS MINED & SHARED

from an International Adult Faith Formation Best Practices Study

#116 - July 9, 2020

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

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 our fifth issue of **some of the many resources** to assist, accompany and guide us through these unprecedented times.

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

A Few Articles-Webinars for Reflection and Guidance

- [Wisdom in Times of Crisis](#) (A free 20-video series featuring Richard Rohr, Cynthia Bourgeault, Brian McLaren, Barbara Holmes, and James Finley exploring what this moment has to teach us, relevant practices, and the contemplative wisdom to be found in death.)
- [During pandemic, the Trinity provides new hope](#)
- [10 Blessings From Living at Such a Time As This](#)
- [The Scarlet C: My Adventures with COVID-19](#)
- [Quarantine has changed us — and it's not all bad](#)
- [Julian of Norwich believed 'All will be well.' Would she say so today?](#)
- [The world after Covid-19: a typology of crises](#)
- [COVID-19 & the Clerical Church](#)
- [Vatican COVID-19 commission seeks to 'prepare the future'](#)
- [Wisdom in Times of Crisis](#)

Cultivate personal rituals of solitude.
Learn to be with it all.
Become immense inside.
Set your prayers on fire.

~ Mary Ellen Lough

Some Practices and Suggestions for Parishes

- [Learn from people's suffering, forge new ways of living, pope says](#)
- [5 Ways COVID-19 is Refining My Church \(and hopefully yours too\)](#)
- [Reopening the Parish: A Case Study](#)
- [ReOpening the Parish: Part 2](#)
- [Checklist for Reopening](#)
- [Critical Questions as Members Return](#)
- [COVID-19 Pastoral Resources](#) (Archdiocese of Chicago)
- [Ministry During and After A Crisis Webinar](#)
- [Resuming Care-filled Worship and Sacramental Life during a Pandemic](#)
- [Five Ways to Encourage Safe Behavior During the Pandemic](#)
- [Committing to a Hybrid Model of Ministry](#)
- [Resources for Planning in a COVID-19 World](#)
- [In-person Attendance v. Online Attendance and the Emerging Trap of Doing Nothing Well](#)

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- [Parishes must change post-pandemic, say authors of study](#)
- [A Reminder that We're Not Alone](#)



Resources for Parishes

- **GEMS** #86-88 explored parish gardens. [“Gardens Have Pulled America Out of Some of Its Darkest Times. We Need Another Revival”](#) explores gardens for these times.
- An idea for connection during the summer: People drive up in their cars to receive a popsicle from a masked volunteer. They can wave to one another and sit out in lawn chairs (6 feet apart and masked!) to talk with friends.
- [Questions to Ask Before Re-Opening your Church Building](#)

Resources for Faith Formation Leaders

- [Creating Lifelong Faith Formation for Today's World](#)
- [Digital Parish Faith Formation: Planning for the Fall](#) (Webinar)
- [A Glimpse: What Fall Ministry Might Look Like](#)
- [Formation & Mission in a Digital World](#)
- [Digital Faith Formation](#) (Podcast)
- [5 Steps for Building Faith Formation 2.0](#)
- [Digital Faith Formation Innovation Lab](#)
- [Questions to Ensure You're Prepared for Families](#)
- [Five Questions to Ensure Volunteers Are Ready](#)
- [A Guide to Transforming Faith Formation for a New World](#)
- [What to be curious about, Part I: The shape of future ministry](#)
- [Four things you need to begin planning for reopening](#)
- [Teaching about Truth in a Time of Doubt and Discord](#)

“The very vulnerability and openness
of liminal space
allows room for something genuinely new to happen.

- Richard Rohr

Resources for Faith Formation Leaders (children and youth programming)

- [Prayers for the Future](#)
- [Confirmation Programs](#)
- [Connecting with Middle Schoolers on Zoom](#)

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- [Creating Sacred Space for Children Online: Sample Expectations & Covenant](#)
- [Free coloring pages](#) (for younger Catholic children)
- [Creating Sacred Space For Children Online: Sample Expectations & Covenant](#)
- [Covid-19 resources](#) (from NFCYM)

“The vision of our hearts adjusts
just like that of our eyes.
Whether the outlook is bleak and foggy or bright and clear,
we have been given eyes to see
and hearts to weather all conditions.”

- Colleen Gibson

Resources for Faith Formation Leaders (adult faith formation)

- [Resources for Adult Faith Formation](#)
- [Recovering from Crisis Mode](#) (a plan for a small group discussion from CFM)
- [Live Without Fear](#) (a plan for a small group discussion from CFM)
- [GEMS #59 - Using Technology for Adult Faith Formation](#)
- [GEMS #70 - Video Content from the Internet for Adult Faith Formation](#)
- [A Social Media Session for Parents](#)
- [Is your RCIA open all year-round? Managing expectations in a changing world](#)
- [What is the correct RCIA rite to use for baptizing the elect outside the Easter Vigil?](#)

- [Can we pass the RCIA test?](#)
- [Meeting Students \(Virtually\) Where They Are: How Catholic Campus Ministry Has Adapted Amidst a Pandemic](#)



Prayer, Reflection and Scripture Readings Resources

- [Mindful Pause](#) (Meditations to help us stop and become aware of our own breathing to cultivate the quality of patience with ourselves and others. We can remember to trust that our life unfolds in its own unique rhythm, understanding that in patience lies our wisdom and joy.)
- [So Many Names, There is Barely Room on the Walls of the Heart](#)
- [Pray while you walk with St. Dominic de Guzman](#)
- [Pray As You Go](#)
- [Praying Facebook](#)
- [Paying Attention to the Ps](#)



A Prayer When One Cannot Receive Communion

My Jesus,

I believe that even before I was born, you have been with me knitting my very being, day by day, into the garment of your love, clothing me with grace every moment of my life.

And on the day of my baptism you poured your love into my heart through the Holy Spirit who unites me eternally to you.

Through that same Spirit I pledge my love and adore you, present in your Most Holy Body and Blood.

Though I cannot consume you in this sacred banquet let me be consumed by your complete desire for me so that my longing for you may be filled by your love alone and your mercy overflow through me into this world so in need.

On that joyful day when I do receive you in the Eucharist, may I remember that this precious gift is still but a foretaste of the holy gifts that await your holy people at your heavenly altar. There, with the saints and angels, we shall see you face to face and give you perfect praise for ever. Amen.

Diana Macalintal
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Prayers and Reflections

- [A prayer for Pentecost \(and anytime\) in the pandemic](#)
- [It's Where You Need to Be](#)

- [If the Moon Came Out Only Once a Month](#)
- [Services for Contemplation and Lament](#)
- [A Litany for Parents in these Hard Times](#)
- [A Prayer For Uncertain Times](#)
- [Which Appointment Were You Born to Keep?](#)
- [ThinPlace Liturgy Matthew 10](#)
- [A Blessing for Face Masks](#)
- [A Pandemic Poem-Prayer](#)
- [Let Jesus hold Stuff for You](#)
- [The Enormousness of Small Kindnesses](#)
- [There We are in the World Together](#)

“Change will only come about when each of takes up the daily struggle ourselves to be more forgiving, compassionate, loving, and above all, joyful in the knowledge that, by some miracle of grace, we can change as those around us can change too.”

- Mairead Corrigan Maguire

Music

- [All for your glory](#)
- [In the Arms of God](#)
- [Holy Breath of God](#)
- [God Of Wonders](#)
- [I Will Never Forget You, My People](#)
- [Everyday God](#)

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- [Ordinary Miracle](#)
- [Holy Now](#)
- [Blessings](#)
- [Thank You](#)
- [Simple Gifts](#)
- [The Servant Song](#)
- [The Irish Blessing](#)
- [Veni Sancte Spiritus](#)
- [You Alone](#)
- [There Is A Balm In Gilead](#)

“In times of profound change,
the learners inherit the earth,
while the learned find themselves
beautifully equipped to deal with a world
that no longer exists.”

- Eric Hoffer

Ideas and Suggestions for Families

- [Invite Kids to Thank Essential Workers With These Free Coloring & Writing Pages](#)
- [Ten Family Ways for Quarantine Days](#)
- [Caring for the Environment—A Family Faith-Sharing Guide](#)
- [10 Hands-On Nature Activities for Kids](#)

- A mom bought [this birthday sign](#), and then made a sign up genius for all the dates in the summer and sent the link around town. If you signed up, you could have the sign for that date. All she asked was that you make a \$25.00 donation to the charity of your choice. She coordinated the drop offs and pick-ups. A great idea to raise money and to make use of the sign that would, otherwise, be used only a few days a year. (Parishes might also do this.)
- [Games For All Ages Via Zoom](#)
- [How the Pandemic Can Teach Kids About Compassion](#)
- [My Kids Have Nothing to Do This Summer. Now What?](#)
- [10 Everyday Rituals that Mean a Lot to Kids](#)

“Granma said when you come on something good,
first thing to do is share it
with whoever you can find;
that way, the good spreads out
where no telling it will go.
Which is right.”

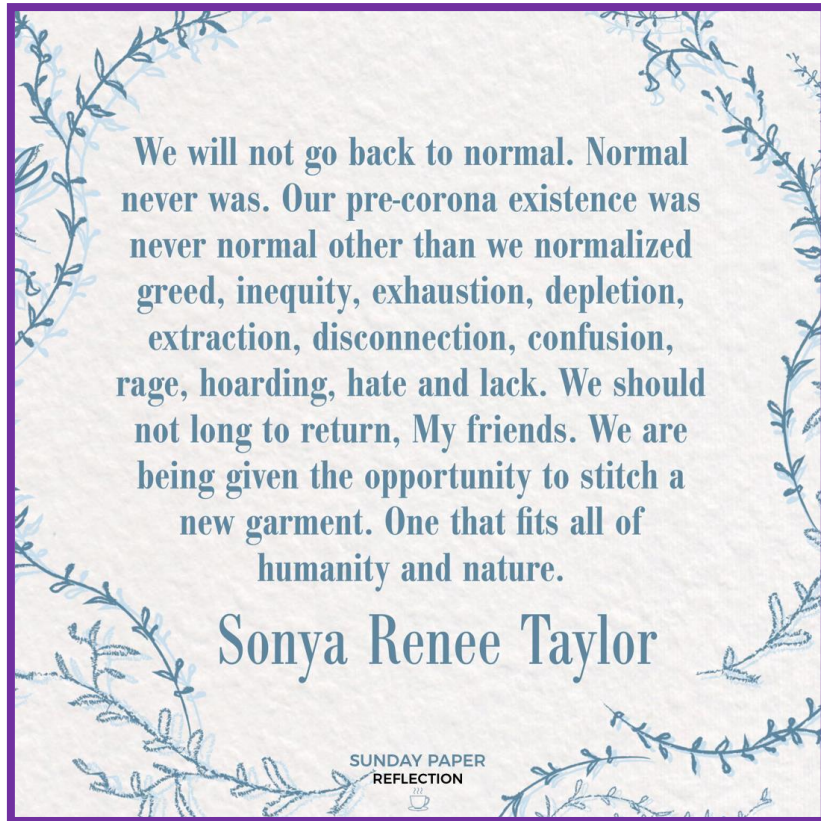
(The Education of Little Tree)

Reaching out

- [Kindness Calendar](#) (June 2020)
- [Kindness Calendar](#) (July 2020)
- [Responding to the Needs of All](#) (a plan for a small group discussion from CFM)
- [50 good things that have happened during the pandemic](#)
- [These 8 People Prove You Can't Quarantine Kindness](#)

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- [Emptied by coronavirus, churches convert their sacred spaces into food pantries](#)



Suggestions-Reflections for All of Us

- [Stepping Toward the Future in the Time of the Coronavirus](#) (A four-part series which examines the supportive spirituality of the first three Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous, reflecting on how they can help us deal with the daunting sense of powerlessness many of us are feeling right now.)
- [How to deal with Uncertainty best, according to your Myers-Briggs Personality Type](#)
- [4 Tips for Healthy Minds During Coronavirus Quarantine](#)

- [Recovering Purpose in Pandemic](#)
- [Afraid of Life After Quarantine? Here's How to Manage Your Anxiety](#)
- [Don't Panic If You Feel Fear](#)
- [Practices for a Distant Socializing Difference](#)
- [Strengthening Your Inner Life in Challenging Times: The Simple Care of a Hopeful Heart](#) (webinar with Robert Wicks)
- [Caring for Yourself when You Care for Others](#) (webinar)
- [When distance closes in](#)

Helps regarding the Use of Technology

- [Simple Steps to Protect Your Zoom Meetings](#)



Janet Schaeffler, OP
www.janetschaeffler.com
jschaeffler@adriandominicans.org

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>