



# GREAT ENDEAVORS MINED & SHARED

*from an International Adult Faith Formation Best Practices Study*

#119 – August 11, 2020

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

Since April we have taken a pause in our regularly-scheduled issues of **GEMS** to look at some resources for this time:

- **GEMS #111-114, #116** and **#118** have looked at a variety of resources for parishes, faith formation, parents as well as prayer/music ideas and technology hints and suggestions.
- **GEMS #115** looked at some of the many resources available to help parishes and all parishioners (children, youth and adults) to study, pray and act for a society free from racism.

This issue is the seventh one which lists some of the continuing resources to assist us during this time which still contains many questions.

## A Few Articles-Webinars for Reflection and Guidance

- [The pandemic's lessons on the importance of our common life](#)
- [A way through the woods](#)
- [Ten commandments for a pandemic moment in American history](#)

## Some Practices, Resources and Reflections for Parishes

- [COVID-19 Spiritual First Aid: Faithful Preparedness, not Fearful Panic](#)
- [Coping and caring for oneself during COVID-19: Practical steps for Pastors and Christian Leaders](#)
- [Spiritual First Aid Manual](#)
- [The Virus and the Church](#)
- [We will need courage for parishes of the future](#)
- [Free practical resources to move your church forward](#)
- [Don't Make These 8 Reopening Mistakes](#)
- [Every Pastor Should Use Social Media: Here's Why](#)

- [Ministering in a Time of COVID-19: Five practices to guide your decisions in a demanding and uncertain time](#)

## 4 Social Media Tips for Parishes

1



### Prayer Intentions

Ask your parishioners to post their prayer intentions in the comments and let them know how you're praying for them.

2



### Live FAQ

Schedule a time to go live and answer parishioners' questions with your priest, deacon, or staff member.

3



### Behind the scenes

Take a tour of your church or office and show them an inside look at day-to-day operations. Instagram stories are perfect for this!

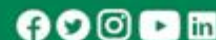
4



### Personal Testimonies

Ask parishioners to submit testimonials of how your parish has transformed or touched them in a profound way.

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## Resources for Faith Formation Leaders

- [Making Programming Decisions in 2020-21](#)
- [Stay the Course!](#) (webinar)
- [In-Person Attendance V. Online Attendance and the Emerging Trap of Doing Nothing Well](#)
- [Mapping the Decisions for Faith Formation 2020-21](#)
- [Considerations for Communities of Faith](#) (from the CDC)
- [Mass/Sunday Worship and Lectionary Resources](#)
- [Faith Over Fragmentation: How to Move Forward as the Church \(Part 1\)](#)
- [Faith Over Fragmentation: How to Move Forward as the Church \(Part 2\)](#)
- [Catechetical Leadership: On Family Faith Formation in the Parish](#)
- [Resources During Coronavirus Pandemic](#)
- [Resources for Covid-19 Crisis in English and Spanish](#) (V Encuentro)
- [Creating a Plan for Your Ministry Post-COVID-19](#)

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

- [Re-Starting Religious Education This Fall: Loyola Press Digital Resources to Assist Parents and Parishes](#)
- [Six Online Activities to Help Students Cope with COVID-19](#)
- [Children's Ministry in Partial Reopening](#)
- [Youth Ministry and Partial Reopening](#)
- [Ministry Amidst a Crisis: COVID-19 and Ministering to and with the Young Church and Their Families](#)
- [Resources for Children's Ministry to Lead Through Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

- [COVID-19 ministry resources](#) (from NFCYM)
- [Catechesis of the Good Shepherd at Home with the Family](#)
- [3 Ways to Reduce Stress and Build Connections During Distance Learning](#)

### Opportunities for New Things

1. Is it the time to get to know your children, youth and families better? Or time to write notes, make phone calls, create new projects and opportunities?
2. Is it the freedom to let go of what wasn't really working like you had hoped and try to build something that will touch hearts and bring people closer to Jesus?
3. Is it the possibility that parents as primary catechists is coming true and we need to find all sorts of creative ways to support, encourage, affirm and equip them?
4. Is it time for prayer - just for you and your team to really focus on the needs of your community and pray intentionally for renewal and grace?
5. Is it time to assess everything in your ministry from the spaces to the volunteers, the curriculum to the methods used?
6. Is this the opportunity to include and invite more people in to meet the needs of your children, youth, young adults and families?
7. Is it time to really put accompaniment, mentorship and relationship building into full speed?

*- Jane Angha  
Ministry Blueprints*

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

- [How the RCIA will renew our parishes after the pandemic](#)
- [RCIA Will Never Be the Same Again](#)
- [How the RCIA will renew our parishes after the pandemic](#)
- [Vibrant Faith Catalyst](#)
- [Vibrant Faith Catalyst: Adult Ministry](#)
- [Landings International](#)
- [Caring for Wellbeing of Older Adults During COVID-19: Connecting While Social Distancing](#)

## Resources for Reflection and Prayer

- [Reflections for a Troubled Age](#) (These 15 short videos are beautiful, peaceful, and provide insightful questions for reflection.)
- [Three Bible Readings Perfect for Difficult Times](#)
- [Discerning with God our Divine Friend](#)
- [Finding Direction in a Confusing Landscape](#)

## Prayers and Reflections

- [Learning the Tender Gravity of Kindness](#)
- [The Potluck Rosary](#)
- [COVID-19 Prayer of Solidarity](#)
- [Pray2gether](#) is an app that offers families an opportunity to connect and build their relationship with God and each other through prayer. Each participant can read and reflect on a selection of scripture or an aspect of the Catholic faith and share their reflection with the other members of the family.

## Music

- [Holy Spirit, We're calling You](#)
- [Be Not Afraid](#) by Catholic Artists from Home
- [My Peace I give unto you](#)
- [Somewhere to Begin](#)
- [The Journey](#)



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## Ideas and Suggestions for Families

- [How to Talk to Your Kids About COVID-19: 7 practical steps for helping your children feel safe, not scared](#)
- [Youth and Internet Safety During COVID-19](#)
- [Helping Families Find New Rhythms: Intentional Ways to Spend Our Time in Quarantine](#)
- [5 Habits for Working and Schooling Under One Roof](#)
- [A guide for families considering home schooling](#)
- [Prayer and Worship in Our Homes](#) (free course)
- [Forty Ways to Foster Prayer in Your Home](#)
- [Parents' Ultimate Guide to Zoom](#)
- [10 Family Activities for When You Can't Leave the House](#)
- [Coronavirus, Anxiety, Children And The Church](#)
- [Resources for Families During the Coronavirus Pandemic](#)
- [Return to School During COVID-19](#)
- [Family COVID-19 Toolkit](#)
- [Spiritual and Mental Health for Children and Teens](#)
- [Faith at Home](#)

## Suggestions and Reflections for All of Us

- [Facing Loss during COVID-19: How to Care for Your Whole Self](#)
- [Coping with COVID-19: Managing Stress and Anxiety](#)
- [August 2020 Happiness Calendar](#)
- [A Covid-19 Spiritual Survival Kit](#) (free course)
- [I'm Traveling, Even Though I'm Stuck at Home](#)

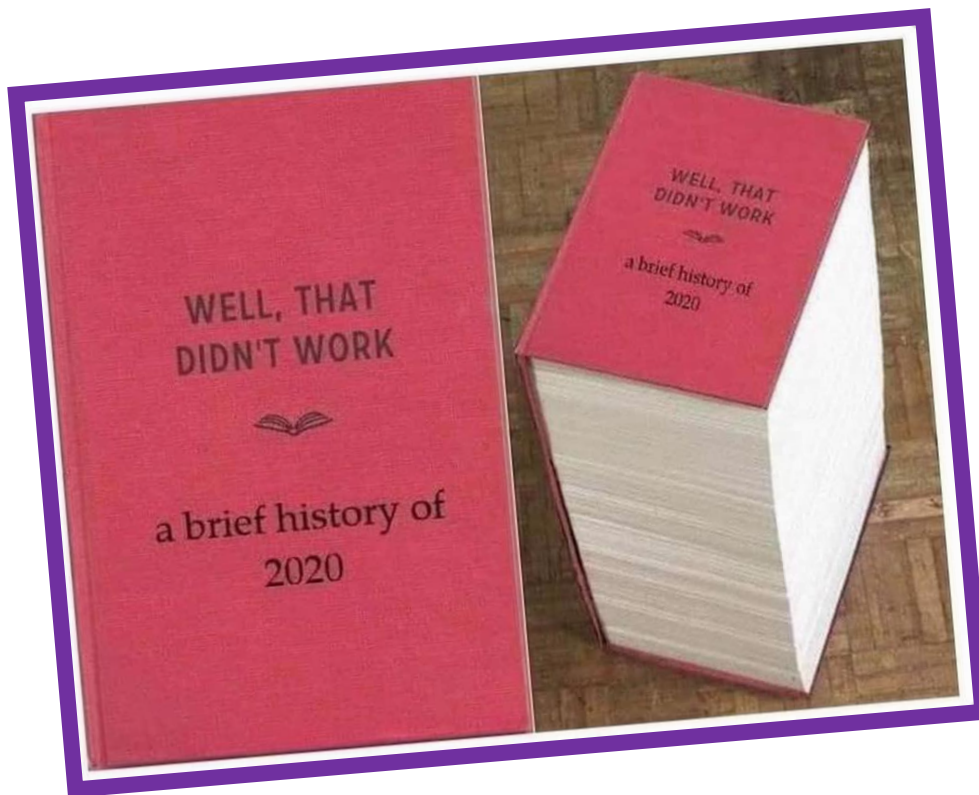
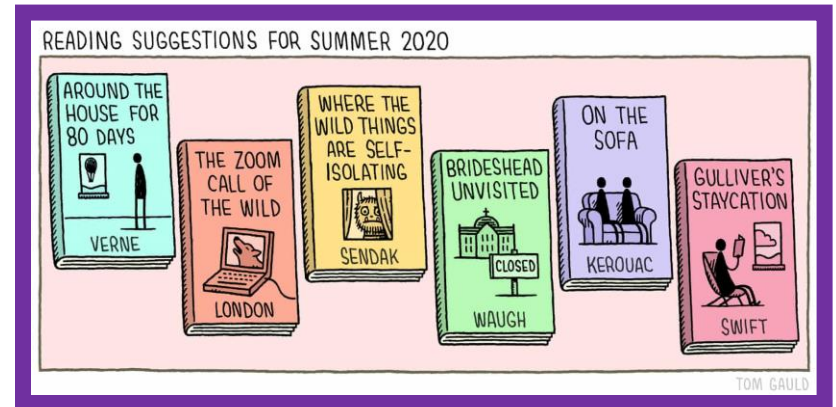
- [Living the Questions: It's really settling in now, the losses large and small](#)
- [4 daily practices that foster emotional resilience](#)
- [Seven Ways to Cope with Uncertainty: What should we do when everything feels so out of control?](#)
- [Tips for Calming Your Pandemic Stress](#)



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## Thoughts and Helps regarding the Use of Technology

- [Learn How Leading Institutions of Faith Are Growing their Congregations through Effective Social Media Strategies](#)
- [10 Tips for Leading a Small Group on Zoom](#)
- [Faith on Facebook Toolkit](#) (from USCCB)
- [Building Up Your Digital Repertoire](#)
- [Flipgrid](#) is a simple, free, and accessible video discussion experience for PreK to PhD educators, learners and families.
- [Nearpod](#): Make every lesson interactive. Upload and make any of your favorite PowerPoints, Google Slides, and video interactive.



Janet Schaeffler, OP  
[www.janetschaeffler.com](http://www.janetschaeffler.com)  
[jschaeffler@adriandominicans.org](mailto:jschaeffler@adriandominicans.org)

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>