



# GREAT ENDEAVORS MINED & SHARED

*from an International Adult Faith Formation Best Practices Study*

#126 – October 1, 2020

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

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, #118, #119 and #121** 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 ninth 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 5 Kinds of Church Leaders We're Seeing Right Now \(and their Future Prospects\)](#)
- [Six Months In And The Creativity Is Gone](#)
- [Counting Sabbath days in pandemic days](#)

## Some Practices, Resources and Reflections for Parishes

- [Embracing a New Future](#)
- [7 Shifts Churches Need to Make Because of the Coronavirus](#)
- [Clergy Leadership in Uncertain Times](#)
- [Why Major Events Matter Now](#) (webinar)
- [To Open or Not to Open](#)
- [My Top 10 Insights on Burnout](#)
- [Pandemic Blessings for the Church](#)
- [Helping the Bereaved During a Pandemic](#)
- [How To Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going](#)

- [Finding Our New Normal](#)
- [10 Questions to Ask Now](#)
- [Five Assumptions Failing Us Now](#)
- [7 Weird Lies about Online Church Pastors Need to Stop Believing](#)

The church has left the building  
The church is not a place; it is a people.  
The church is not only a steeple above the treeline, streets, and cars.  
Rather, it is a people proclaiming to the world that  
we are here for the work of healing and of justice.

The church is not walls built stone upon stone, held together by  
mortar  
but rather person, linked with person, linked with person:  
all ages and genders and abilities—  
a community built on the foundation of reason, faith, and love.

The church is not just a set of doors open on Sunday morning,  
but the commitment day after day, and moment after moment,  
of our hearts creaking open the doors of welcome to the possibility of  
new experience and radical welcome.

The church is not simply a building, a steeple, a pew.  
The church is the gathering together of all the people, and  
experiences,  
and fear, and love, and hope in our resilient hearts;  
gathering, however we can, to say to the world:  
welcome, come in, lay down your heartache, and pick up hope and  
love.  
For the church is us - each and every one of us - together,  
a beacon of hope to this world that so sorely needs it.

~Margaret Weis

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## Resources for Faith Formation Leaders

- [A Framework for Intergenerational Worship or Family Worship Online](#)
- [Stewardship 2020: Pastoral Approaches and Practical Steps](#)
- [Faith Formation for People with Special Needs Toolkit](#)
- [Strengthening Families to Nurture Faith](#) (webinar)
- [Faith Practices Project](#) (Beginning in September 2020, each month they'll release a new set of resources focusing on one of twelve faith practices. For each practice you'll find creative ideas for individual and communal practices, Scripture passages to read, a helpful intro article, thought or discussion questions, and a list of resources for going deeper.)
- [Resources and Encouragement for You, Your Ministry, and the Families You Serve](#)
- [Bitmoji Classrooms and Play lists, oh my!](#)
- [Faith Practices Toolkit](#) (Christian practices and formative rituals. Cross denominational lines and provide solid information for families practicing faith at home)
- [Faith Practices Project](#)
- [Am I Supposed to Close My Eyes? Leading Prayer Online](#) (webinar)  
Passcode: bM@?2e+4
- [Building Faith](#)
- [Treasure Box Tuesday](#)
- [Reimagining Virtual Catechesis in 2020-2021](#)
- [Creating Moments of Genuine Connection Online](#)
- [Lectio Tube](#) (A curation of many sites with information about the Sunday readings {children and adults})
- [Be Not Afraid](#)
- [52 At-Home Faith Formation Tips 2020-21](#)

- [The New Normal: Faith Formation in the Home](#)
- [Candlewalk: An Interactive Evening Prayer Practice](#)

If you want something new,  
you have to stop doing something old.

~ Peter Drucker

## Resources for Faith Formation Leaders for upcoming feasts/liturgical year

- [Blessing of the Backpacks](#)
- [Inclusive St Francis Celebrations](#)
- [Ideas & Resources for Halloween & All Saints' Day](#)
- [Activities for All Saints](#)
- [The Promise of Advent: Preparing for a Season of Hope during Unparalleled Times](#) (4 webinars)
- [Creating Advent & Christmas Faith Practices in a Box for Your Congregation](#)
- [Seasons and Blessings](#)

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

- [Have Faith: Sustaining the Spirit for Confirmation & Beyond](#)
- [Liturgy out of the Box](#)
- [Youth Ministry in a Pandemic](#)
- [Resources on Ministering to Youth During the Coronavirus](#)

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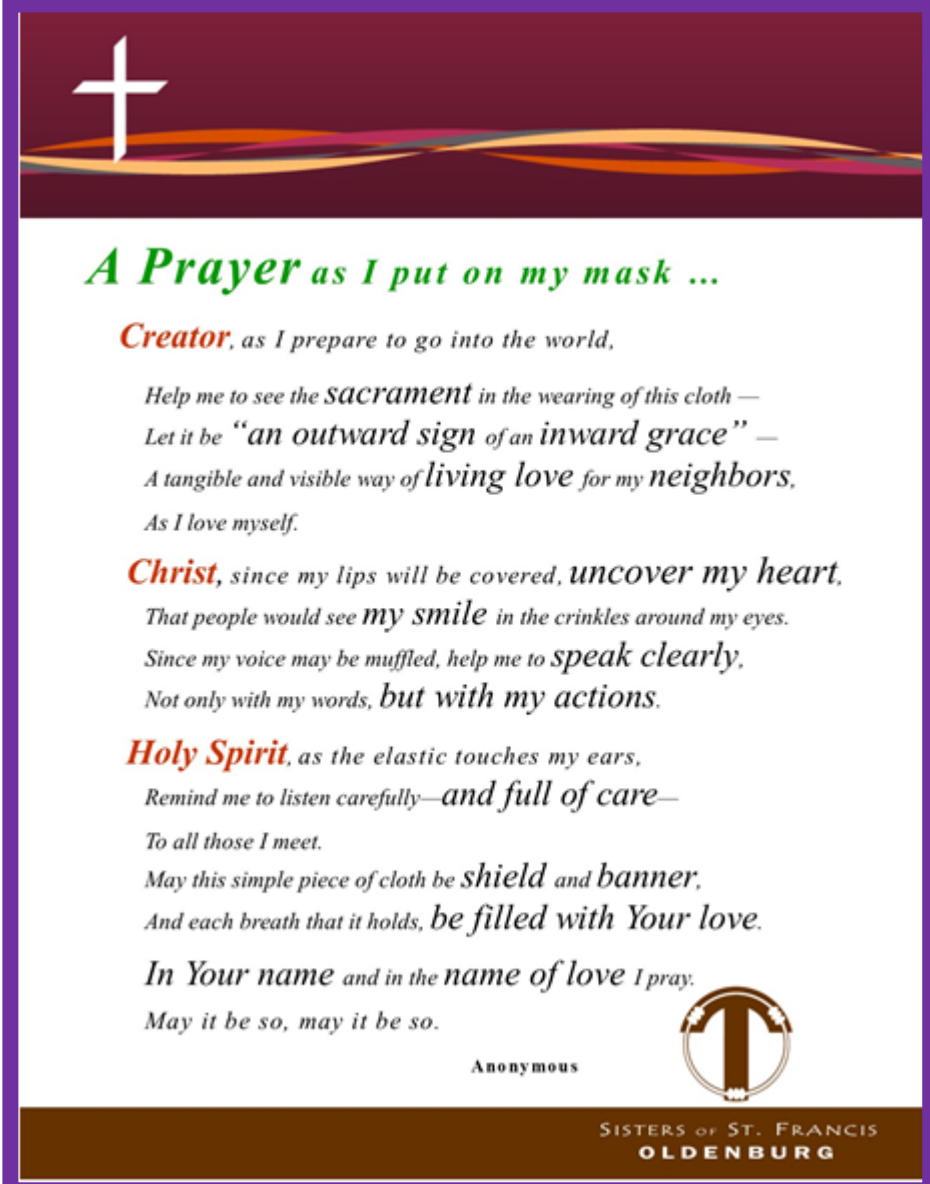
- [A Future with Hope Confirmation Starter Kit](#)
- [Growing Up Catholic](#) (Some parishes are using these resources for the fall)
- [Faith Stories](#): An "offline" tool to send home to help parents tell their kids stories. Our Faith Stories program connects stories from our tradition with our family and personal stories. Step-by-step instructions coach parents along the way.
- [Short, creative, learning center style activities](#) that parents can easily share with their children
- [The Kids Are Not Fine: Engaging the Pandemic Generation](#)

I have a great belief in the fact that whenever there is chaos,  
it creates wonderful thinking.  
I consider chaos a gift.

~ Septima Poinsette Clark

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

- [Online Program for Adult Faith-Sharing](#)
- [Creating Meaningful Connections Online](#)
- [Sunday by Sunday Online](#)
- [The school model is a chokehold on the RCIA](#)
- [RENEW Your Connections](#)
- [Caring for Wellbeing of Older Adults During COVID-19: Connecting While Social Distancing](#)
- [50 ideas for RCIA teams during the pandemic](#)
- [Seasons and Blessings](#)
- [Faith Practices Project: Sabbath](#)
- [Faith Practices Project: Gratitude](#)



**A Prayer as I put on my mask ...**

**Creator**, as I prepare to go into the world,  
*Help me to see the **sacrament** in the wearing of this cloth —  
Let it be “an outward sign of an inward grace” —  
A tangible and visible way of living love for my neighbors,  
As I love myself.*

**Christ**, since my lips will be covered, **uncover my heart**.  
*That people would see **my smile** in the crinkles around my eyes.  
Since my voice may be muffled, help me to **speak clearly**,  
Not only with my words, **but with my actions**.*

**Holy Spirit**, as the elastic touches my ears,  
*Remind me to listen carefully—and full of care—  
To all those I meet.  
May this simple piece of cloth be **shield** and banner,  
And each breath that it holds, **be filled with Your love**.*

*In Your name and in the name of love I pray.  
May it be so, may it be so.*

Anonymous

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## Resources for Reflection and Prayer

- [Pray As You Go](#)

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- [Watching for Signs ... Let God Get your Attention](#)
- [Remember](#)
- [Contemplation's value amid pandemic](#)
- [Spiritual Practices for the Coronavirus Pandemic](#)
- [Amazon Box Prayer Practices](#)
- [Gratitude](#)

## Prayers and Reflections

- [Back to School Prayers](#)
- Prayer Walks: Usually done in pairs, walk around a particular site or neighborhood offering prayers to God to protect the people in buildings and bless families in homes. Follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit offering memorized and spontaneous prayers, asking God for protection, strength and peace.
- [With Jesus in the Storm: Rembrandt's Meditation](#)

Most of the time, the phrase is, "it's time to get back to work." This means it's time to stop being creative, stop dancing with possibility, stop acquiring new insights and inspiration—and go back to the measurable grind instead. Maybe we'd be better off saying, "I need to get back to making magic." Because that's what we'd actually like to be getting paid to create.

~ Seth Godin

## Music

- [Hymns Created For/During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [Create in Me](#)
- [I Believe](#)
- [From a Distance](#)
- [How Can I Keep from Singing](#)
- [The Deer's Cry](#)

### Blessing in the Chaos

To all that is chaotic in you,  
let there come silence.

Let there be a calming of the clamoring,  
a stilling of the voices  
that have laid their claim on you,  
that have made their home in you  
that go with you even to the holy places  
but will not let you rest,  
will not let you hear your life with wholeness.

~ Jan Richardson from *The Cure for Sorrow*

## Reaching out

- [How Teens Are Making Meaning Out of the Pandemic](#)
- [Building Community in a Pandemic?](#)

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## Ideas and Suggestions for Families

- [Back to School Prayers and Blessings for Families](#)
- [15 Questions to Ask Kids at Dinner](#)
- [Fall Equinox Activity for Families](#)
- [Praying with School Supplies](#)
- [“Table Talk” is the New Normal: Supporting Faith Conversations at Home](#)
- [Prayers Before Zoom School](#)
- [Return to School During COVID-19](#)
- [5 Ways to Practice Sabbath With Kids](#)

## Suggestions and Reflections for All of Us

- [When I Feel the Ground Disappearing Beneath Me](#)
- [Your ‘Surge Capacity’ Is Depleted — It’s Why You Feel Awful](#)
- [When Savoring a Pleasant Moment Is a Radical Act](#)
- [How to Keep Your Sanity During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [A Holy Quarantine: Spiritual Practices Amid Pandemic](#)
- [Five Practices of Ignatian Spirituality That Foster Resilience](#)
- [Seven Ways to Cope with Uncertainty](#)

## Thoughts and Helps regarding the Use of Technology

- [Resource List for Online Church](#)
- [Technology for Virtual Church](#)
- [Zoom Drama Tips: Using Technology for Biblical Storytelling](#)

What if Zoom’s 40 minute time limit is not an encouragement to upgrade to the paid version but an act of divine mercy, since no Zoom should ever be more than 40 minutes long?



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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>