



# GREAT ENDEAVORS MINED & SHARED

*from an International Adult Faith Formation Best Practices Study*

#129 – October 26, 2020

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

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, #121 and #126** 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 tenth one which lists some of the continuing resources to assist us during this time which still contains many questions and challenges – in many areas of our lives.

## A Few Articles-Webinars for Reflection and Guidance

- [How to Keep Connecting with Strangers During the Pandemic](#)
- [What Are We Grateful for During COVID-19?](#)
- [Freedom from Bondage of Fear](#)

## Some Practices, Resources and Reflections for Parishes

- [7 Things that will Drive Future Church Growth](#)
- [In for the Long Haul](#)
- [The Weary Well: How do you answer "How Are You?"](#)
- [5 Tips to Fighting Pandemic Fatigue in Ministry](#)
- [After the pandemic: What kind of worship community will we return to?](#)
- [The Blueprint for Hospitality](#)
- [Relationships Begin with Welcome](#) (video of Zoom session)

- [Here Comes 2021: 7 Things Every Leader Should be Preparing for Now](#)
- [Ten ways to reach out to those in your ministry and build on your relationships](#)
- [Now that You're Online Far More: How to Handle the Critics, Trolls and Weirdness](#)
- [7 Ways Top Leaders Stay Encouraged](#)
- [Five Leadership Styles for Weathering Crisis](#)
- [Say More Not Less](#)
- [12 Signs You're a Spiritual Entrepreneur](#)

### Questions for Reflection

~ What has been the impact of COVID for you and your relationships with your family, friends, colleagues in ministry?

~ What has been your experience of fear, loss, anxiety during these days?

~ How has the pandemic affected your experience of God and God's presence?

~ What beckons you/us now?

## Resources for Faith Formation Leaders

- [Faith Formation Playlists](#)

# GREAT ENDEAVORS MINED & SHARED

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

- [Getting Ready for All Saints Day](#)
- [Thanksgiving Resources](#)
- [Gratitude Resources](#)
- [Advent Resources during the Pandemic](#)
- [Blue Christmas Resources](#)
- [Resources for Advent and Christmas](#)
- [Christmas Pageants 2020: Recorded, Zoomed, Live Outside](#)
- [An Intergenerational Epiphany Pageant](#)

Do not be dismayed by the brokenness of the world.  
All things break. And all things can be mended,  
Not with time, as they say, but with intention,  
So go. Live intentionally, extravagantly, unconditionally.  
The broken world waits in darkness for the light that is you.  
-L. R. Knost

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

- [Sensory Spaces for Kids in the COVID-19 Church](#)
- [Tips for Catechists Doing Faith Formation Remotely \(Video\)](#)
- [Children's Ministry Tool Box](#)
- [Pillowcase Prayers](#)

## How to Live

Life is an opportunity, take it.  
Life is beauty, admire it.  
Life is beatitude, taste it.  
Life is a dream, make it a reality.  
Life is a challenge, embrace it.  
Life is a duty, fulfill it.  
Life is a play, play it.  
Life is precious, take care of it.  
Life is riches, keep them.  
Life is love, enjoy it.  
Life is a mystery, discover it.  
Life is a promise, keep it.  
Life is sadness, overcome it.  
Life is a hymn, sing it.  
Life is a fight, accept it.  
Life is an adventure, take the risk.  
Life is happiness, merit it.  
Life is life, defend it.

~ Mother Teresa

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

- [A Pandemic Alphabet](#): Applying the spiritual alphabet of practices to pandemic concerns and activities
- [Spiritual Resources for the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [Conversation Cards on Democracy, Freedom, Equality, and the Common Good](#)

## Resources for Reflection and Prayer

- [Hallow App](#): An app with a number of daily meditations to choose from. Under the Dailies section, you can try the Daily Gospel,

# GREAT ENDEAVORS MINED & SHARED

Meditation, Examen. They have made the entire “Stuck at Home” Praylist freely available.

- [Soulspace Christian Meditation](#): Today’s Meditation is available freely on a daily basis with a quote and beautiful artwork to accompany. Their courses “Stability in Shaky Times” and “Peace in Political Uncertainty” are available free for the moment.
- [Soultime Christian Meditation & Mindfulness](#): Nature backgrounds with peaceful sounds, Bible readings, and several free meditations to listen to along themes such as 6 Days of Soultime, Hope in the Storm, Scripture for Comfort, Scripture for Peace.
- [Pray As You Go](#): Daily meditations with music and scripture plus questions for personal contemplation.
- [A Parable Walk](#)
- [How the medieval practice of stargazing can change your prayer life](#)
- [How has COVID-19 affected your life?](#)

In the final analysis, the questions of why bad things happen to good people transmutes itself into some very different questions, no longer asking why something happened, but asking how we will respond, what we intend to do now that it happened.

- Teilhard de Chardin

## Prayers and Reflections

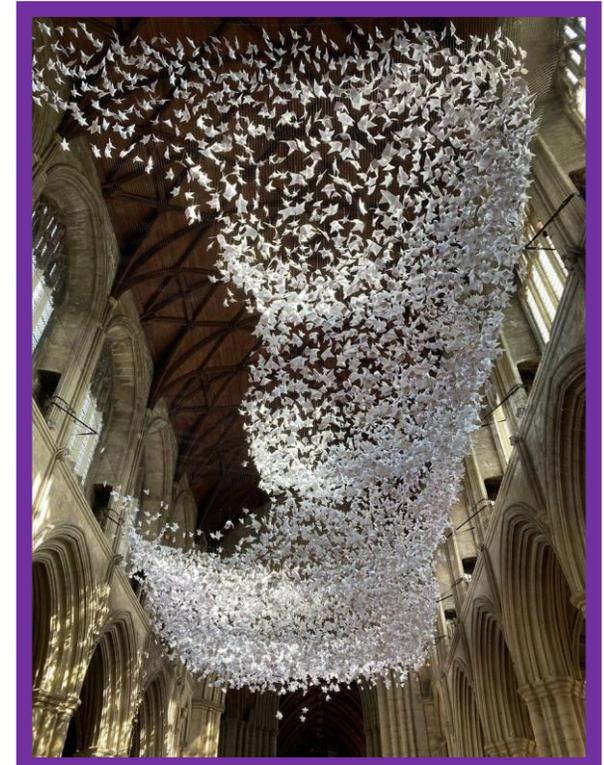
- [If This Time Has Taught Me Anything](#)

## Music

- [Breathe](#)
- [My soul finds rest in God Alone](#)
- [These alone are enough](#)
- [You Raise Me Up](#)
- [Laudare, Benedicere, Praedicare](#)
- [What a Wonderful World](#)
- [Let us give thanks for unknown blessings](#)
- [Be with me, Lord](#)

11,000 angels suspended over the nave of Ripon Cathedral (UK), made by volunteers and school children.

They are a tribute to key workers and those who have died from coronavirus.



## Monday Message:

The past 6+ months I've heard the phrase "our kids have already lost so much" countless times.

And, my friends, I'm over it.

It's a bit pathetic, in my opinion, that as adults we are perpetuating the victim mentality for our kids instead of teaching them the art of grit and pivoting in unexpected or challenging times.

Using a current issue as an example, are kids really going to "suffer" if they don't trick or treat? No. Only if WE (the adults) model a "loss" mindset.

What if, instead, families looked at it as a way to plan a really fun evening? Maybe doing a family art project, bobbing for apples in mixing bowls, packaging up sweet treats to door drop for neighbors, creating a spooky themed meal together.

I assure you, if WE (the adults) started finding the OPPORTUNITY instead of inflating the perceived losses, we may actually find that we have opportunities to create lasting memories for our children. They'll remember that year they had a SPECIAL Halloween instead of trick or treating like every other year.

Shift your OWN perspective so we can look back at this time and remember how much our kids (and ourselves) LEARNED during the pandemic, not lost.

Opportunities are everywhere. For more quality time. For more exploring. For more conversations. For slowing down. Mindset matters, friends. And WE are setting the stage for the next generation. Let's do better...for them and for ourselves.

Facebook post,  
Jesse Brunette, October 19, 2020

## Ideas and Suggestions for Families

- [8 Ideas for Family Prayer](#)

## Suggestions and Reflections for All of Us

- [Simple but Effective Tips to Help You Recover From Pandemic Fatigue](#)
- [Eight Ways to Ease the Pain of Loneliness](#)
- [Finding Joy in 2020? It's not Such an Absurd Idea, Really](#)
- [10 New Movies to Make You Feel Better About Being Stuck at Home](#)
- [A Time Like This](#)



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>