



GREAT ENDEAVORS MINED & SHARED

from an International Adult Faith Formation Best Practices Study

#130 – November 13, 2020

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

Since April, in addition to some of our themed issues and/or issues of specific best practices, we have done several issues to look at some resources for this time. Thus far, most of them have been related to these times of COVID and the challenge of working toward an anti-racist society:

- **GEMS #111-114, #116, #118, #119, #121, #126 and #129** have looked at a variety of resources for parishes, faith formation, parents as well as prayer/music ideas and technology hints and suggestions related to these pandemic times.
- **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 eleventh one which continues to list some of the continuing resources to assist us during this pandemic time; it also contains resources related to other realities of our time.

This one especially contains resources for the coming seasons: Thanksgiving and Advent/Christmas. (Some of these are listed in a specific category; others are interspersed within some of the categories.)

Some Practices, Resources and Reflections for Parishes

- [We Know this Stuff!](#)
- [Reimagining U.S. Catholicism Today](#) (4 webinars)
- [Leading through COVID-19](#)
- [5 Simple Questions about the Future Every Leader should be Asking Right Now](#)
- [The 5 Cs of Innovation for Your Church](#)
- [The Ministry Fear Seizing Church Leaders Right Now](#)
- [Psychology & Technology During COVID-19](#)
- [Fighting the Pandemic with Our Hearts and Our Smarts](#)

- [Pastors, Here's Why Everyone's Mad at You Right Now](#)
- [Pandemic Blessings for the Church](#)

May we realize that we may not all be in the same boat, but we're in the same storm. We are in this together and there's room enough for everyone's experience.

May we take time to go outside and let nature heal us. To let God's creation remind us of the rhythms and cycles of life.

May we choose to live with both/and. Remembering that we can feel both gratitude and grief, anger and joy, sadness and happiness. We can have a day that is good and then one that's not so good. Everything belongs.

May we go throughout the day with open hands. Receiving the love, blessings, and lessons that are there for us to accept.

May we know and trust the peace that surpasses all understanding.

May we seek each day to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength and love our neighbor or family or roommates as ourselves even if they're driving us crazy.

May we extend acceptance and compassion to others remembering that everyone is trying to do the best they can and extend that same acceptance and compassion to ourselves.

May we remember that Jesus said to love our neighbor as ourself, not in spite of ourselves and that we can practice radical love and hospitality to our own selves right now too. Listening to our bodies, taking deep breaths, and getting quiet enough to hear that still, small, voice.

May you remember that you are loved. That you are a child of God. That you have everything you need and that God is with you.

Written by Abby Buter

<https://ministryarchitects.com/covid19/a-blessing-for-pandemic-times/?utm>

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Resources for upcoming feasts/liturgical year

- [36 Thanksgiving Games, Crafts, and Snacks to Delight Kids](#)
- [10 Uplifting Ways Kids Can Bless Others This Thanksgiving](#)
- [The Thanksgiving Reader](#)

- [Advent Calendars for 2020](#)
- [Advent Calendar](#) (download)
- [Advent and Christmas Resources](#)

- [Re:Think Advent and Christmas Webinar](#)

- [Symbols and Customs of Advent](#)
- [13 \(and counting\) Free Family Advent Activities](#)
- [Catholic Relief Services Advent Calendar](#)

- [Miracles Abound](#)
- [Jesse Tree Whole Family Event Kit](#)
- [Jesse Tree Ornament Set](#)

- [A Season of Gracious Gifts: Advent Retreat Kit](#)
- [Advent Conspiracy](#)
- [Advent Activities](#)

- [Advent Roll Call: 50+ Resources to Add Creativity & Inspiration to the Advent Season](#)

- [Advent Resources for 2020 from Four Publishers](#)
- [Ignatian Spirituality Advent Resources](#)
- [Advent Resources](#) from St. Mary's Press

- [Advent at Home Handout](#)
- [5 Ways to Simplify and Encourage Families this Christmas](#)
- [Digital crèche calendar for Advent and Christmas seasons](#) (from the University of Notre Dame)

- [Advent Digital Resources](#)
- [Advent Resources](#) collated by Strong Catholic Family Faith
- [Advent Resources](#) from BuildFaith

- [Joy Is on the Way: Advent & Christmas Day-by-Day with Pope Francis](#)
- [Relational Gift Ideas](#)

Resources for Faith Formation Leaders

- [Zoom in Abundance! Building Vibrant Faith Communities](#) (Access Passcode: Bnau2elx)

It's so much easier, to learn to love what you have instead of yearning always for what you're missing or what you imagine you're missing. It's so much more peaceful.

~ Anna Quindlen

Resources for Faith Formation Leaders (children and youth programming)

- [Spiritual Disciplines: Helping Faith Communities, Families, and Individuals Build their Faith Formation Toolbox](#)
- [Engaging Children Online](#)
- [Faith Formation at Home: Creating Engaging Videos for Kids](#)

- [The Fire of Your Love: A Virtual Confirmation Retreat](#)
- [A Future with Hope Confirmation Starter Kit](#)

- [Free Children's Ministry Resources](#)
- [Little Dreamers: Children's Lessons for Advent through Epiphany](#)

- [Home for the Holidays: What to Include in an Advent At-Home Kit](#)
- [Grow in Greatness](#) (webinar)

What the Pandemic Is Saying to the World.

Humanity, you are all One.
You are one beloved community,
and you are one global sickness.

You are all contagious—and always have been,
unconsciously infecting and yet able to also bless one another.
There are no higher and lower in this world.
There is no smart or stupid; no totally right or totally wrong.

The only meaningful division is between those who serve
and those who allow themselves to be served.
All the rest is temporary posturing.

Many to whom you look for power and leadership
have shown themselves to have empty hands, minds, and hearts.
We are bereft of all satisfying explanations,
all ledgers of deserving and undeserving.
There are no perfect answers or absolute heroes.

We must all wear a mask to protect the other from “me.”
Don’t play the victim!
Victimhood is always a waste of time—God’s time and yours.
Instead, try to learn the important lessons.
We are all in the same elementary school now.
Here, we must learn to stand in two different places
and to change places often.

The served must also be the servants,
and the servants must also be the served.

Just stay in the eternal circle of the Suffering and the Servants.
Christians call it the Body of Christ.
We are not the first or the last generation
that gets to suffer and to serve on this earth.

~ Richard Rohr

Resources for Faith Formation Leaders (adult faith formation)

- [After the election is the time to form consciences for faithful citizenship](#)

Resources for Reflection and Prayer

- [Take Time to Breathe](#)
- [The Gentle Art of Blessing](#)

Prayers and Reflections

- [Tiny Prayers for the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [Tiny Prayers for Protesters and Prophets](#)

Music

- [There is a Longing](#)
- [Do Not Fear to Hope](#)

- [World Peace Prayer](#)
- [We Are Waiting for You](#)

- [The Journey](#)
- [Canticle of the Turning](#)

- [Benedictus](#)
- [Lean Towards the Light](#)

- [Change our Hearts this Time](#)
- [All Will Be Well](#)

- [Peace Prayer](#)
- [At this Table](#)

- [From a Distance](#)

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Work toward Anti-Racism

- [Church doesn't need to say more about racism, it needs to do more](#)
- [Seeing the Other: Hope for a Hospitable Church from a Black Catholic](#)
- [Working to Build A Table for All: A Personal Approach to Systemic Racism](#)
- [Picture Books for Antiracists](#)

Caring for our Common Home

- [Pope: Compassion for earth is vaccine against epidemic of indifference](#)

One mustn't close one's eyes to difficulty and to shortcomings;
the more one recognizes them,
the less they upset one.

~Teilhard de Chardin

Reaching out

- [Giving Kids a Heart of Compassion in a Me-Focused World](#)
- [I Can Help Others: COVID-19 Lesson and Resources for Kids](#)

Ideas and Suggestions for Families

- [God Cares About My Grief: COVID-19 Lesson and Resources for Kids](#)

10 WAYS TO COPE DURING A PERIOD OF LAMENT



Grieve

Release the emotions holding you down.

Walk

Engage in light exercise, if able.

Journal

Don't avoid facing your experience and pain.

Talk

Share your feelings with someone you trust.

Breathe

Inhale and exhale slowly and deeply.

Connect

Find others' inspiring stories.

Mental Picture

Envision a stop sign to halt painful thoughts.

Music

Listen to, or sing, a soothing song.

Rest

Give your body permission to recover.

Entertainment

Let yourself laugh or learn.

For more information, check out...

spiritualfirstaidhub.com



Suggestions and Reflections for All of Us

- [Managing Your Mental Health During COVID-19](#)
- [Wisdom in Times of Crisis](#)
- [Waking Up to What Is: Grateful in the Face of It All](#)
- [Amanda Kloots on Grief, Covid-19, and How We Can All Make a Difference](#)
- [Self-care in a Pandemic](#)
- [God of Our Weary Years: 2020](#)

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- [Ten Ideas to See You Through the Holidays](#)
- [We're All Going through a 'Lifquake': Here's How to Get Through It](#)
- [Setting Out for the New Normal](#)
- [Practical Ways to Navigate a Hyper-Anxious World](#)
- [Missing Novelty In Your Life? Here's How to Get it Back](#)
- [Preparing for the Holidays after a Loss](#)

Thoughts and Helps regarding the Use of Technology

- [Take Back the Internet: How Good People can Beat the Cynics and the Trolls](#)



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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>