



# GREAT ENDEAVORS MINED & SHARED

*from an International Adult Faith Formation Best Practices Study*

#140 – April 15, 2021

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

Since April 2020, in addition to some of our themed issues and/or issues of specific best practices, there have been several **GEMS** issues which looked at some of the many resources available today. Many have been related to these times of COVID.

Now these issues (which come to you once a month – in the middle of the month) will continue to look at resources for these days of living in and through the pandemic as well as other resources for these times (which can be used in adult faith formation), such as:

- The up-coming liturgical seasons/calendar year
- Catholic social teaching
- Formation for an anti-racist society
- Caring for our common home

## Some Practices, Resources and Reflections for Pastoral Leaders and Faith Formation Leaders

- [Hybrid Church - A Way Forward for Church Leaders](#)
- [Why the Current Crisis You're Leading through Isn't a Marathon; It's the Future](#)
- [It's Good to Be Childlike, With One Exception](#)
- [After the pandemic: What kind of worship community will we return to?](#)
- [Marking One Year of Pandemic Ministry: What I've Learned](#)
- [How Life Could Get Better \(or Worse\) After COVID](#)
- [Digital Ministry Is Here to Stay](#)
- [7 Things There Will Never Be Enough Time For](#)
- [Greeting our return when the old is gone and the new is here](#)
- [How the Crisis Probably Killed your Vision \(And How to Get It Back\)](#)

- [13 Articles for Leading Volunteers in Ministry Now](#)
- [Roadmap to Post-Pandemic Recovery: Faith Formation Planning for the Future](#)
- [Where Are We After a Year of Ministry through a Pandemic?](#)
- [How Shall We Live Now? – Part One](#)
- [How Shall We Live Now? - Part Two](#)

Yearning for a new way will not produce it.  
Only ending the old way can do that.  
You cannot hold onto the old all the while declaring that you  
want something new.  
The old will defy the new; the old will deny the new;  
the old will decry the new.  
There is only one way to bring in the new.  
You must make room for it.

~ Neale Donald Walsh

## Resources for upcoming feasts/liturgical year/the calendar year

- [God's Big Pentecost Story: A Celebration for Families](#)
- [A Fabulous \(and Free!\) Idea to Help Families Celebrate Pentecost at Home](#)

## Resources for the Year of St. Joseph

- [Year of St. Joseph](#)
- [Saint Joseph and the Christ Child](#)

# GREAT ENDEAVORS MINED & SHARED

- [What Would Joseph Do?](#)
- [Mary and Joseph](#)
- [Celebrating the Year of St. Joseph](#)
- [Walking with Saint Joseph: 30 Days of Reflections and Prayers with Pope Francis](#)
- [Uncovering the great gift of St. Joseph's fatherhood](#)
- [Getting to know St. Joseph through his roles in the Joyful Mysteries](#)
- [St. Joseph in Art](#)
- [Worried about your children? Place them under the protection of St. Joseph with this prayer](#)

A time of crisis is not just a time of anxiety and worry.  
It gives a chance, an opportunity, to choose well or to choose badly.

~ Desmond Tutu

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

- [Learning from Faith Formation during the Pandemic: Reflection and Evaluation](#)
- [Religious Parenting](#) (A webinar with Dr. Christian Smith)
- [Mixing It Up: Creating a Seasonal Spotify Playlist for Your Parish](#)
- [Naming the Crazy and Forging Ahead in Family Faith Formation](#)
- [Saints of Color: Downloadable Coloring Book](#)
- [Faith Formation at Home](#)
- [Gifts of a Digital Confirmation Class: Embracing a Family-Based Model](#)

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

- [Moving Beyond Good-Bye: A Parish Grief Ministry Kit](#)
- [Christ in the Storm](#): Anniversary of Pope Francis' Extraordinary Urbi et Orbi Blessing
- [Searching for a New Normal](#)
- [A Journey Into God's Resurrection-created World](#)
- [Real Presence: What Does It Mean and Why Does It Matter?](#) (with free discussion guide)
- [Illuminating Christ: How to be a mystagogue](#)
- [Reflection Questions for RCIA Seekers — Eastertime](#)
- [Why the RCIA period of mystagogy is crucial for your neophyte](#)
- [RCIA mystagogy when there have been no baptisms](#)
- [Why your RCIA team needs a mystagogue](#)
- [Look for RCIA catechists who are good at these three things](#)

Life does not get easier or more forgiving,  
we get stronger and more resilient.

~ Dr. Steve Maraboli

## Resources for and about Prayer and Reflection

- [Co-Creating a Prayer](#) (This was done for Lent; could we do it for other seasons/themes?)
- [How to Be Resilient](#)
- [Simple Prayers for Complicated Times](#)
- [A Liturgy for the Ritual of Morning Coffee](#)
- [Walking a Labyrinth in a Distanced Manner](#)

# GREAT ENDEAVORS MINED & SHARED

- [Be the One](#)
- [There is a Light](#)
  
- [Labyrinth](#) (A simple and effective labyrinth made outdoors with chalk paint. Be sure to click through the pictures for step by step instructions and details.)

## Music

- [Release](#)
- [Live in Hope](#)
  
- [Music is fundamentally joy](#)
- [The Planets: Jupiter](#) (Berklee Contemporary Symphony Orchestra)

## Catholic Social Teaching

- [Workers deserve a living wage, not just a minimum wage](#)
- [Immigration 101 for Catholics: Welcome The Suffering Neighbor](#)
  
- [Just Faith Formation: Liberative Practices for Faith Communities with Justice at the Center](#) (April 22<sup>nd</sup> webinar)

## Work toward Anti-Racism

- [3 ways to work for racial justice as a family](#)
- [Mapping Systemic Racism in Your Community](#) (April 21st webinar)
  
- [Stop Asian hate. It's a sin.](#)
- [Our Skin: A First Conversation About Race](#)

## Caring for our Common Home

- [Preaching Climate Justice: Homiletic Reflection for a Planet in Peril](#)

- [Creation Care](#)
- [Do It Yourself Energy Audit for Congregations](#)
  
- [Climate Change, Environment & Your Congregation: A Data-Grounded Approach](#) (June 23 webinar)
- [The Condor and the Eagle: Protectors of Sacred Places](#) (April 20<sup>th</sup> screening and discussion)
  
- [Creation: A Catholic's Guide to God and the Universe](#)
- [Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Climate Justice: Urgent Explorations of Global Climate Change and the Consistent Ethic of Life](#) (April 22<sup>nd</sup> webinar)
  
- [Time to Love and Restore our Earth](#)
- [A Prayer Service for Earth Day: Creation at the Crossroads](#) (April 22<sup>nd</sup>)
  
- [Creation at the Crossroads: Faith-Sharing Resource on Pope Francis' \*Laudato Si\*](#)

The future is not a result of choices among alternative paths offered by the present, but a place that is created – created first in the mind and will, created next in activity.

The future is not some place we are going to, but one we are creating.

The paths are not to be found, but made, and the activity of marking them, changes both the maker and the destination.

~ John Schaar

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## Reaching out

- [31 Ways to Build Community in Your Neighborhood](#)
- [Turn At-Home Savings into Helpful Donations](#)

## Ideas and Suggestions for Families

- [5 Ways to Celebrate With Your Family](#)
- [5 Ways to Practice Listening with Your Family](#)
- [How to Support Teens' Mental Health During COVID and Beyond](#)

## Suggestions and Reflections for All of Us

- [The Final Word Is Love: A Year In Review](#)
- [100 little things that bring us joy during the coronavirus pandemic](#)
- [Why we're scared for the pandemic to end](#)
- [World Happiness Report Shows How We Weathered the Pandemic](#)
- [10 Blessings From Living at Such a Time As This](#)
- [Four Surprising Ways to Get a Better Night's Sleep](#)
- [Our Nervous Systems in the Time of COVID](#)

## Technology Considerations

- [Making Connections in Online Learning](#)

## Humor during these times

"Alright, does everyone have sound?"



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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>