



GREAT ENDEAVORS MINED & SHARED

from an International Adult Faith Formation Best Practices Study

#150 – September 15, 2021

A Best Practice: Resources for Our Time (Part XXI)

In addition to some of our themed issues and/or issues of specific best practices, since April 2020 several **GEMS** issues have looked at some of the many resources available for faith formation today. Many have been related to the times of COVID sheltering-at-home.

Now these resource issues of **GEMS** (which are emailed to you once a month – in the middle of the month) will continue to look at resources for these days of living post-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
- Helps for families
- Technology considerations
- Catholic social teaching
- Formation for an anti-racist society
- Caring for our common home

There are also **GEMS** issues that will come on the first of the month: these will be our themed issues/issues of specific best practices.

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

- [The 5 Kinds of Church Leaders We're Seeing Right Now \(and their Future Prospects\)](#)
- [Reimagining House Blessings as Pastoral Care in the Time of Covid-19](#)
- [How to Lead when You're Facing Constant Loss and Continual Bad News](#)
- [Pandemic Times in a Small Church: Using Our Gifts to Celebrate Our Gifts](#)
- [What We're Learning: The Engines of Thriving Churches](#)
- [We Cannot Simply Return, We Cannot Go Back](#)

Resources for upcoming feasts/liturgical year/the calendar year

- [A Fall NOT-to-Do List](#)
- [Dear God, We Are Going Back – A Prayer For Back To School](#)
- [ABC Prayer](#)
- [Two 'Back to School' Ways to Encourage Children at Church](#)
- [Handouts for Observing Liturgical Seasons at Home](#)
- [Change: Gearing Up for a New Season](#)
- [Advent Resources](#)
- [Advent Kits Gallery](#) (photos and descriptions of Advent at Home bags, boxes and kits)

Resources for the Year of St. Joseph

- [How Our Parish Is Celebrating the Year of Saint Joseph](#)
- [Saint Joseph: A Parent's Nightmare](#)
- [Honoring Saint Joseph and Celebrating the Family](#)

60th Anniversary of the Second Vatican Council

- [Pope John XXIII: A breath of fresh air](#)

Resources for Formation Leaders (children, youth and family programming)

- [Five Hints to Setting Up a Good Classroom](#)
- [5 Simple Steps for Successful Volunteer Onboarding](#)
- [Coloring Page Bible Verse – “Do Not Worry”](#)
- [Faithful Imagination For Such a Time as This](#)
- [Try the Volunteer Onboarding Kit for free](#)

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- [Living Like Jesus: Service as a Faith Practice](#)
- [Grief, we all feel it, but do you know what to do with it?](#) (October 16th webinar exploring the impacts of grief and loss on adolescents)
- [2022 Children of God: Catholic Children's Activity Calendar](#)
- [How to Empower Students to Take Action for Social Change](#)

Once the storm is over,
you won't remember how you made it through,
how you managed to survive...
But one thing is certain.
When you come out of the storm,
you won't be the same person who walked in.
That's what this storm's all about.

~ Haruki Murakami

Resources for Faith Formation Leaders (adult faith formation)

- [How Small Groups Bring Connection to the Post-Pandemic Church](#)
- [Graffiti of Lament: An Activity for Finding Hope in Art](#)
- [Dignity and the Death Penalty: Evolution of Catholic Teaching](#)
- [What, Me Holy?](#)
- [Conversation Starter Series](#)
- [The Difficult Words of Jesus](#)
- [Women in Conversation: Why Women Tell Their Stories](#)
- [We are all Human - Be Kind](#) (A short film that encourages us to remember that every person, regardless of their situation, has

a name, a story, a family, and a history worthy of consideration.)

- [Community Outreach to Veterans: 5 Ways You Can Help](#)
- [Commonweal discussion guide for September article](#) ("Separate Challenges: The bishops, the Eucharist, and abortion")
- [Gratitude, Wonder and our Moral Principles](#)
- [Sparking Intergenerational Relationships](#)

Resources for Ministry with Maturing/Eldering Adults

- [Resources from the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston](#)
- [Resources from the Archdiocese of Atlanta](#)
- [Sharing the Wisdom of Time](#) (A collection of personal stories in which grandparents and elders {including Pope Francis} from around the world share from their "reservoirs of wisdom" to inspire and guide.)
- [The lies of ageism: Who told you that about aging?](#)
- [Stronger Together: Working With My Dad With Alzheimer's Taught Me About Inclusivity](#)
- [Retirement taught me this hard truth: We are all replaceable.](#)

Resources for the RCIA Process

- [Teaching the RCIA seekers how to live the paschal mystery](#)
- [Why the role of "sponsor" is so important in the RCIA](#)
- [9 tasks for RCIA sponsors on Sunday](#)
- [Why is the dismissal of the RCIA catechumens important?](#)
- [The symbolic importance of the RCIA dismissal](#)
- [How neophytes learn to participate in the Mass](#)

And at the very heart of finding our lost selves is relocating our hearts in and with God. There is a journey beyond the pandemic, and we will find the way a step at a time. We haven't been to this particular future before. And we will need one another to get there.

Dr. Diana Butler Bass



- [Once Upon a Time Not So Long Ago](#) (The story of the COVID-19 pandemic and the changes it brought into our homes, schedules, and social lives, with journal pages to record your own memories.)
- [A Different Way to Respond When Kids Do Something Wrong](#)
- [A Prayer for Back to School](#)
- [Six Ways to Deal With Parental Burnout](#)
- [Your home oratory: A little place for family prayer](#)

Suggestions and Reflections for All of Us

- [This tension is a holy thing](#)
- [What's Happening in Our Nervous Systems?](#)
- [What is revealed when I endeavor to see through the eyes of others?](#)
- [Why You Need to Protect Your Sense of Wonder — Especially Now](#)
- [One Upside to the Feeling of Uncertainty](#)
- [Stumbling Into the Next Stage of Your Pandemic Life](#)
- [No, How Are You, Really?](#)
- [Learning and Teaching from the Heart in Troubled Times](#)

Technology Considerations

- [5 Ways to Improve Your Livestream](#)
- [Deepening Your Online Worship Experience](#)
- [Is God on TikTok?](#)

Ideas and Suggestions for Families

- [Notes to give your child a little back to school encouragement](#)
- [Prayer Sticks: A Holy Home Activity](#)
- [Incorporating Faith in Your Kid's Lives](#)

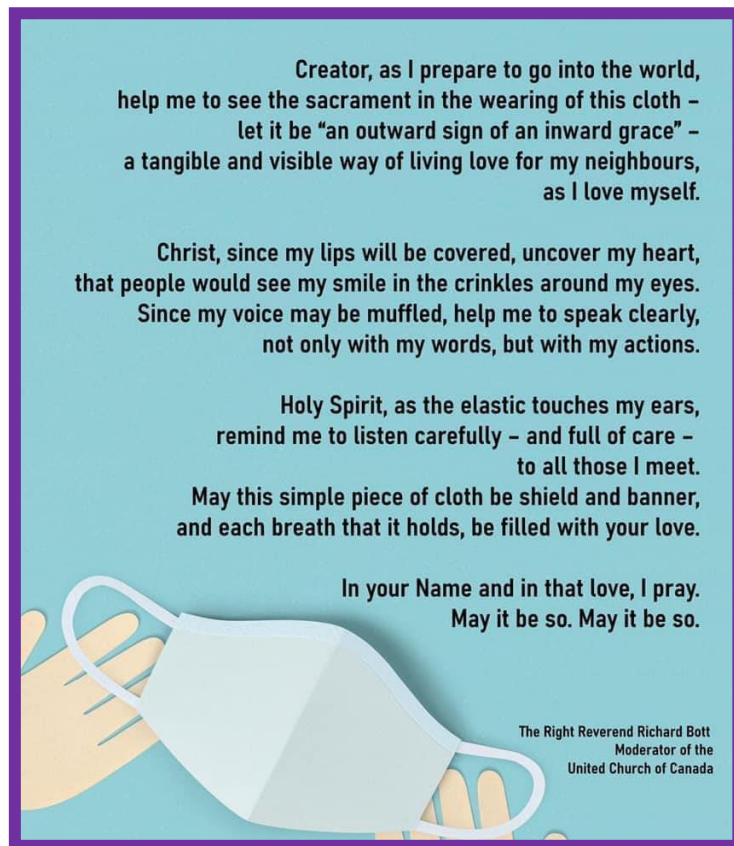
Resources for and about Prayer and Reflection

- [A Poem for Those Who Are Struggling](#)
- [This Jewish Blessing for Special Occasions Is Great for Catholics, Too](#)
- [The Hands of Jesus Prayer Practice](#)
- [How to Build in Time to Pray](#)
- [A Healing Journal Exercise](#) (In honor of this year's Catechetical Sunday theme of "Say the Word and My Soul Shall Be Healed," a spiritual journaling exercise to help teachers, catechists, and

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parents reflect on the tensions of life and identify places in need of healing.

- [Little Free Prayer Library: A Neighborhood Prayer-Sharing Box for Children and Adults](#)
- [Pandemic prayers](#)
- [Finding God in Beauty: Visio Divina](#)
- [Prayer Journaling](#)
- [Praying in Color](#) (new website)
- [How To Grieve In An Unfeeling World – Resources For Creating Space For Lament](#)



Music

- [Love Rescue Me](#)
- [Canticle of the Creatures](#)

Church

- [A closer look at synodality and its promise for a more inclusive church](#)
- [Vatican releases guidance for dioceses to begin synodal path](#)
- [Synod 2021-2023 for a Synodal Church](#) (This site will accompany the two-year journey (2021-2023) of reflection and sharing of the whole Church.)
- [Beatification of ‘the Smiling Pope’ likely to be approved this fall](#)

Catholic Social Teaching

- [Let’s really go in peace](#)

Work toward Anti-Racism

- [Sister Thea Bowman and Catholic Spirituality](#)
- [Race in the Catholic Imagination](#)
- [How Long, O Lord?](#)
- [The Face of Our Lady of Guadalupe](#)
- [Discerning Justice](#)
- [Towards a Framework for Repair](#)
- [What critical race theory is — and is not](#)

Caring for our Common Home

- [How to change the moral climate](#)
- [Season of Creation: A Home for All?](#) (Resources for celebrating each of the Sundays of the season from September 1st, the World Day for Prayer for Creation through October 4th, the feast of

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St. Francis. It offers penitential rite suggestions, prayers for the liturgy, scriptural reflections and more.)

- [How To Write A Land Acknowledgement For Your Parish](#)
- [Creation Care: Sermons, Bible Studies, and Discussion Starters](#)
- [Creation Care Prayers](#)
- [Eco-Conversion: Called to Tend to a Flourishing Garden of Life:](#)
(Designed to assist parishes to discern how to engage with the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform. The program contains prayers, readings, reflection/discussion questions, a short video, and suggested activities.)
- [Season of Creation Prayer](#) (video)
- [All Things Praise Thee](#)
- [A prayer for our earth](#)
- [How to Live Like a Backyard Psalmist](#)
- [Re-inhabiting the World](#)
- [Nature is a Jazz Band, Not a Machine](#)
- [Cool Climate Network](#)
- [Call for churches to respond as humans warm the planet](#)
- [Calculate Your Carbon Footprint](#)
- [Change begins today](#)

"We will not emerge from the present crisis (pandemic) as we were before, but either better or worse. If only we might discover once for all that we need one another, and that in this way our human frailty can experience a rebirth."

- Pope Francis

Reaching out

- [Putting a Human Face on Suffering](#)

Successful people recognize crisis as a time for change
- from lesser to greater, smaller to bigger.

~ Edwin Louis Cole



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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*
o <https://www.lifelongfaith.com/books.html>
- o https://www.lifelongfaith.com/uploads/5/1/6/4/5164069/seasons_of_faith_journal_special_issue.pdf