



GREAT ENDEAVORS MINED & SHARED

from an International Adult Faith Formation Best Practices Study

#154 – November 15, 2021

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

On **the first of each month**, our **GEMS** issues focus on themed issues and a look at specific best practices.

The issues which come on **the 15th of each month** highlight some of the many resources available for faith formation today - 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

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

- [7 Questions Every Volunteer Asks but Never Says Out Loud](#)
- [The Secret We're Afraid to Admit](#)
- [New Exodus? 4 Reasons So Many People Have Suddenly Left the Church](#)
- [How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going: Leading in a Liminal Season](#)
- [They're Not Coming Back](#)
- [My Church Doesn't Know What to Do Anymore](#)
- [Self-Care or Self-Medication. Which Path are You On?](#)
- [Weaving Sabbath Moments Into Daily Life](#)
- [A Flexible Approach to Failure](#)
- [Amid COVID-19, most churches provide hybrid worship](#)

Life is not about “or” — it is about “and.”
It is magical and messy.
It is heartwarming and heartbreaking.
It is delight and disappointment.
Grace and grief.
Exquisite and excruciating,
often at the exact same time.

~Kristi Nelson

Resources for upcoming feasts/liturgical year/the calendar year

- [Halloween Candy Prayers](#) (which can be done anytime)
- [Gratitude Jar Kit](#)
- [Meet God with gratitude this November](#)
- [This Thanksgiving, give thanks for the gift of gathering](#)
- [The Thanksgiving Reader](#)
- [10 Uplifting Ways Kids Can Bless Others This Thanksgiving](#)
- [Trees of Thanksgiving](#)
- [Advent Waiting](#)
- [Praying with Icons for Advent with Rowan Williams](#)
- [Journey with St. Joseph](#)
- [Three Teaching Points for Advent](#)
- [Celebrate Advent with Ornaments and Coloring](#)
- [Creating a Corporate Response Advent Wreath](#)
- [What Does This Season Mean? Handout for Advent at Home](#)

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- [Colour Your Way Through Advent and Christmas](#)
- [Advent: Something is Coming! A Five-Week Intergenerational Resource](#)
- [Advent In A Jar](#)

- [ADVENTure Calendar 2021](#)
- [Advent Wreath on a Budget](#)

- [2 Book Inspired Advent Kits with Templates](#)
- [Christmas Pageants 2020: Recorded, Zoomed, Live Outside](#)

- [What Color Was Baby Jesus' Hair? Representing The Christ Child Multiculturally](#)
- [St. Nicholas Activities, Crafts, Skits & More](#)

- [Advent is a pilgrimage. Wear comfortable shoes.](#)
- [A Jesus-Centered Holiday Prime](#)

- [Preparing for the Holidays after a Loss](#)
- [Digital Nativity Story from Shapes of Ministry](#)

60th Anniversary of the Second Vatican Council

- [The Vision of Vatican II: Its Fundamental Principles](#)

Our brokenness is also the source of our common humanity,
the basis for our shared search for comfort, meaning,
and healing.

Our shared vulnerability and imperfection nurtures
and sustains our capacity for compassion.

~ Bryan Stevenson

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

- [You Are Revolutionary](#)
- [Asking Better Questions to Spark Faith Formation](#)

- [3 Fun \(And Intergenerational!\) Ways to Practice Gratitude](#)
- [The Power of Catechetical Experiences](#)

- [Preparing Prayer Experiences That Are Authentically Catholic](#)
- [Cultivating Mentoring Relationships for Formation](#) (November 18th webinar)

Resources for Faith Formation Leaders (adult faith formation)

- [Asking Better Questions to Spark Faith Formation](#)
- [Commonweal Conversation Starter Series](#)
- [The Bible Project](#)

Resources for Ministry with Maturing/Eldering Adults

- [Grandkids Can Renew & Give Purpose](#)
- [Shut Down the Bus Tours: What Older Church Members Should Really be Doing](#)

- [Honoring \(and Learning from\) Our Elders](#)
- [Grandparents and Grandchildren Go to Faith Camp](#)

- [Celebrating the Wisdom of Elders](#)
- [Let This Be the Time – Spiritual Essentials for Life's Second Act](#)

- [Involving Our Elders in Faith Formation](#)
- [4 ways to age with grace](#)
- [Spirituality and the Second Half of Life](#)

Resources for the RCIA Process

- [Give your RCIA seekers a reason to stay](#)
- [How your RCIA team can build the future of the church](#)

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- [46 ways to accompany seekers even if you're not in charge of the RCIA process](#)
- [Have you asked all four of these questions about your RCIA teaching process?](#)
- [What do we do about RCIA seekers who don't go to Mass?](#)

Gratitude is resilience of sorts, the defiance of kindness in the face of anger, of connection in the face of division, and of hope in the face of fear. . .

Gratitude empowers us.

It makes joy and love possible.

It rearranges the way we see and experience what is all around us.

Gratitude makes all things new.

It transforms how we understand what is broken and gives us the ability to act more joyfully and with hope.

That is why gratitude is central to all the world's religions.

As a practice, it embodies the wisdom of humanity's greatest spiritual teachers: the love of neighbor.

Gratitude takes us from abstract belief to living compassion in the world.

Gratitude is strongest, clearest, most robust, and radical when things are really hard.

Really hard. All-is-lost hard.

~ Diana Butler Bass in *Gratitude*

Ideas and Suggestions for Parents and Families

- [Eat family meals together \(the fun way\)](#)
- [How to model gratitude for your children](#)
- [Five Ways to Relate to Family Members Spiritually](#)

Suggestions and Reflections for All of Us

- [Touch As Nutrition](#)
- [How Nature Helps Us Heal](#)

Technology Considerations

- [There's no shortage of ways to engage faith online](#)
- [Even During the Pandemic, Social Media Didn't Help Mental Health](#)
- [Why Your Teen Should Replace Screen Time With Green Time](#)
- [Why We Need A Social Media Examen](#)

Resources for and about Prayer and Reflection

- [Grab a Coffee Cup and Use it as a prayer tool](#)
- [Words that Abide](#)
- [It's Time to Paint Some Leaves](#)
- [A Liturgy for Holding Everyday Grief](#)
- [When Grief and Gratitude Embrace](#)
- [Draw Your Circle Around Me Lord](#)
- [Why We Need A Social Media Examen](#)

Music

- [In Every Age](#)
- [Open My Eyes](#)
- [Mountain of God](#)
- [Spirit, Be with Us](#)
- [Emmaus Song \(Come Journey With Us\)](#)
- [Holy Mystery](#)
- [Listen with the ear of your heart](#)
- [Colors of the Wind](#)
- [The Brink Of Everything](#)

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Church

- [Pope opens synod journey with reminder it's not a convention or a congress](#)
- [‘There is no need to create another church, but to create a different church,’ Francis says before synod](#)
- [“Without the laity the Church is foolish”](#)
- [Who Are These ‘People?’ - Seeking clarity on synodal participation](#)
- [What is Pope Francis’s plan for dreaming together about the future?](#)
- [We contacted every diocese in the U.S. about their synod plans. Here’s what we found.](#)
- [Synod Theme 1: Journeying Companions](#)
- [Synod Theme 2: Listening](#)
- [Follow Pope Francis' call to be a listening church — but from a 45-degree angle](#)
- [Speak Boldly, Listen Carefully](#)
- [A new beginning? Listening for a synodal church](#)
- [Experts see synod as ‘biggest consultation exercise in human history’](#)
- [Synodality and Lay Leadership from the Magisterium’s Perspective](#)
(November 22nd webinar)

Catholic Social Teaching

- [Pope Francis’ 9 commandments for a just economy](#)
- [Catholic social teaching gives Gospel concrete form](#)
- [Pope Francis’ 9 commandments for a just economy](#)

Work toward Anti-Racism

- [We Are One Body: Race and Catholicism](#)

A study out of Harvard University discovered a way for you to feel more optimistic. Take two minutes a day to write a short positive message to someone close to you or someone who supports you.

People who did this for 21 days scored significantly higher in optimism and life satisfaction.

Caring for our Common Home

- [Laudato Si Action Platform](#)
- [5 reasons why Catholics should care about the COP26 climate summit](#)
- [Faith Leaders on Climate Change: Future Generations Will Never Forgive Us If...](#)
- [5 reasons why Catholics should care about the COP26 climate summit](#)
- [The contemplative vision and *Laudato Si'*](#)
- [Bishops must commit to saving the Earth now](#)
- [Catholics around the country bring ‘Laudato Si’ to life](#)
- [Faced with COVID and climate change, the world needs our Communion](#)



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