



GREAT ENDEAVORS MINED & SHARED

from an International Adult Faith Formation Best Practices Study

#156 – December 15, 2021

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

On **the first of each month**, our **GEMS** issues focus on 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 pandemic/post-pandemic living **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

- [5 Shifts Every Leader Needs to Figure Out to Lead into the Future](#)
- [If You Are Exhausted, Of Course You Are.](#)
- [The Power of Reset](#)
- [Attending vs. Belonging](#)

Resources for upcoming feasts/liturgical year/the calendar year

- [Say Yes, As Mary Did](#) (An hour of reflection)
- [Inventing While Advent-ing](#)
- [12 Ideas for Sharing Peace and Joining God in Your Neighborhood This Advent](#)
- [Here's How to Avoid 6 of the Most Common Sources of Holiday Stress, from Supply Chain Issues to Awkward Dinner Table Convos](#)

- [Free Christmas Resources](#)
- [What Are Your Mission-Driven Christmas Traditions?](#)
- [Sharing God's Wonder Through Service at Christmastime](#)
- [43 Colorful Christmas Crafts to Celebrate Jesus' Birth](#)
- [Grief Is Never Easy, but During the Holidays, It's Especially Tough—Here's How Others Got Through It](#)
- [Telling The Story of Epiphany with Puppets](#)
- [Epiphany Journaling Novena Booklet](#)

As a new future begins to emerge,
good leaders look for ways of engaging people
in new and exciting activities and projects.

“Innovation happens naturally when we empower people
to solve problems they care about,
when we let go of our obsessions with right order
and proper channels,
and when we let everyone have equal access to information
and communication channels.

When we let go of our need to feel in control
of what happens next, remarkable things begin to occur.”

*(How To Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going,
Leading in a Liminal Season, p.147)*

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

- [Create Your Own Justice Drive: Helping Families Learn, Share, and Pray about God's Work in the World](#)

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- [The Medium Is \(Part of\) the Message: Digital Resources for Faith Formation](#)
- [New children's Bibles rethink how Christians share old, old story with young readers](#)
- [Why Parents Matter More Than Ever](#)
- [Creating a StoryWalk® for Faith Formation](#)

For some 7 million years we have been unfolding
as human creatures.

The creative life force of God and creation
has been with us throughout that entire time.
We have been graced at every stage of the journey.

~ Diarmuid O'Murchu in *Ancestral Grace*

Resources for Faith Formation Leaders (adult faith formation)

- [A Call for Asynchronous Small Group Ministry](#)

Resources for Ministry with Maturing/Eldering Adults

- [Grief and Gratitude in the Christian Life](#)
- [How Feeling Old Could Make You Kinder](#)
- [Grandmothers may be more connected to grandchildren than to own offspring](#)
- [Journey to a Family Legacy](#)
- [6 Things That You Can Do Now to Prevent Alzheimer's Disease](#)
- [3 Reminders for Grandparents During the Holidays](#)

Resources for the RCIA Process

- [Preparing for the new translation of the Order \(Rite\) of Christian Initiation of Adults](#)
- [Is your RCIA open all year-round? Treating adults as adults](#)
- [Forget RCIA, meet OCIA: U.S. bishops approve big name change](#)
- [RCIA or OCIA? Rite vs. Order in the catechumenate](#)
- [What to say instead of "OCIA"](#)
- [The journey toward becoming an RCIA catechist](#)
- [How to fit in square pegs when our formation process is a round hole](#)
- [Uncover the hidden gem of RCIA formation—celebrations of the word](#)
- [15 occasions to bless an RCIA catechumen](#)
- [What are celebrations of the word?](#)
- [How to celebrate the Presentation of the Creed and Lord's Prayer](#)

Ideas and Suggestions for Parents and Families

- [Alma's Way is the Ignatian Way](#)
- [3 Fun \(and Intergenerational!\) Ways to Practice Gratitude](#)
- [Tips for raising committed Catholic children](#)
- [6 ways to teach your children the faith](#)

Suggestions and Reflections for All of Us

- [Have the Holiday Craziest Set In? This Simple Gratitude Practice Can Help You Reset and Remember What's Most Important](#)
- [How to cope with SAD, or seasonal affective disorder](#)
- [Can Any Good Come of Our COVID Lockdowns?](#)

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Technology Considerations

- [The Downside of Social Media, and What Your Church Can About It](#)
- [It's Time to Start Using Social Media for Good](#)
- [Six Ways your Church Can Use Texting to Engage More People](#)
- [Digital Faith Formation: 7 Practices for Intentional Gatherings](#)
- [Parents of the social media generation are not OK](#)

Resources for and about Prayer and Reflection

- [A Prayer to Listen to the Holy Spirit](#)
- [Breath prayer helps you meditate in the moment](#)
- [The Funeral We Never Got to Have: A Service of Prayer, Remembrance, and Hope](#)

Music

- [I Wonder as I Wander](#)
- [For The Beauty of the Earth](#)
- [The Lantern](#)
- [Breath Of Heaven](#) (Mary's Song)
- [We The Kingdom - Light of the World](#)
- [The contemporary Catholic's Christmas playlist](#)

Church

- [Materials for the Synod from the Vatican](#)
- [Process for Facilitating Synodal Consultations](#) from the Leadership Roundtable
- [Synod 2021-2023](#) (Diocese of Paterson)
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- [Synod on Synodality: Communion, Participation, and Mission](#) (Archdiocese of Newark)
- [Synod 2021 – 2023](#) (Archdiocese of Washington)
- [Synod on Synodality](#) (Diocese of Charleston)
- [A Synodal Church](#) (Recording of a webinar)
- [The Church's radical reform – what is a synod?](#)
- [An unprecedented gathering in Latin America is putting Pope Francis' vision for the church into action](#)
- [Remembering and Misremembering Vatican II](#)

Leading people through the “in between time” means providing reasons for the change.
“In the absence of meaning and purpose, people become fearful.

Fearful people will attach themselves to anyone who promises to reduce their anxiety.
Often, this involves attachment to one who promises a return to the past.”

(How To Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going, Leading in a Liminal Season, p. 113)

Reminding people again and again why this is happening reduces the fear and anxiety.

~ <http://www.pepparish.org/>

Catholic Social Teaching

- [Your Kingdom Is Built on Truth and Justice](#) (YouTube video of lecture by Ann Garrido)

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Caring for our Common Home

- [Official launch of Laudato Si' Action Platform offers Catholics concrete steps toward sustainable lifestyles](#)
- [The Beauty of Planet Earth](#)

A good leader not only names what must be left behind,
but points out what is coming to life,
what new avenues are opening up for them.

“Leading a congregation whose identity is shifting
is difficult work.

The process is an exercise in attending and surrendering. . . .

We surrender the loss of that identity without fully knowing
what will replace it. . . .

We attend to what is emerging as we walk forward in faith,
trusting that a new identity is unfolding.”

*(How To Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going,
Leading in a Liminal Season, p. 116)*

A leader who is aware of this movement is critical
in keeping the gaze forward towards new possibilities
rather than backwards to what is no more.

~ <http://www.pepparish.org/>



Janet Schaeffler, OP
www.janetschaeffler.com
jschaeffler@adriandominicans.org

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