



# GREAT ENDEAVORS MINED & SHARED

*from an International Adult Faith Formation Best Practices Study*

#158 – January 15, 2022

## A Best Practice: Resources for Our Time (#25)

On **the first of each month**, our **GEMS** issues focus on specific best practices.

The issues which come on **the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month** highlight some of the many resources available for faith formation today - resources for these days of pandemic living **as well as other resources for these times** (all of 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

- [How to Guard Yourself from Ministry Burnout](#)
- [Faithful Science: Integrating Science & Faith](#)
  
- [Resolved for 2022: Lean Forward](#)
- [Review, Rethink, Re-Invent](#)
  
- [Life After COVID-19: History Doesn't Repeat Itself](#)
- [Now? What If? What Now?](#)

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

- [Pancakes to Ashes—An Ash Wednesday Service on Shrove Tuesday](#)
- [What Does This Day Mean? Handout for Ash Wednesday at Home](#)
  
- [Lent & Easter at Home Kits](#)
- [Finding The Way of The Cross in Nature](#)

- [Seven Last Words: An Immersive and Interactive Experience for Children And Youth](#)

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/>

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

- [Why Parents Matter MORE Than Ever, Part 2](#)
- [Discerning Your Spiritual Gifts toolkit](#) (for middle school and high school)

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- [Hospitality for Online & Onsite Participants During Hybrid Formation](#)
- [Teaching the Saints](#)
- [30 Collaborative Art Projects That Bring Out Everyone's Creative Side](#) (How might you use these techniques within faith formation settings ...What about the bottle cap one for Easter or Pentecost...?)
- [Children's Books on Death, Loss, and Grieving](#)
- [Death, Loss, and Grieving: Resources for Ministry Leaders and Parents](#)
- [Baptismal Promises Stations](#)
- [Why Parents Matter More Than Ever: One More Thing...](#)

## Resources for the RCIA Process

- [Sponsors and godparents in the Christian initiation process](#)
- [13 New Year's resolutions for RCIA leaders and teams](#)
- [How to Lead a 90-Minute Catechetical Session on Holiday Dinners](#)
- [Why conversion is so important in the Rite \(Order\) of Christian Initiation of Adults](#)
- [Are you fluent in "RCIA seeker language"?](#)
- [You get what you measure: What the new translation of the Rite \(Order\) of Christian Initiation of Adults means by "conversion"](#)
- [50 Hours to Make a Friend](#)
- [How do we foster conversion in the seekers, according the Rite \(Order\) of Christian Initiation of Adults?](#)

## Ideas and Suggestions for Parents and Families

- [How to Deepen Your Relationships With Children](#)
- [Family spirituality benefits everyone, says this theologian](#)
- [Home is a sacred place. How might you bless yours?](#)
- [Creating a family mission statement](#)

It is in collectivities that we find reservoirs of hope and optimism.

~ Angela Davis

## Suggestions and Reflections for All of Us

- [10 Happiness Practices a Doctor Prescribes to His Patients](#)
- [How Gratitude Renews Us](#)
- [Six Ways to Find Your Courage During Challenging Times](#)
- [The eight secrets to a \(fairly\) fulfilled life](#)
- [How to Keep Your Empathy Switched On](#)

## Resources for and about Prayer and Reflection

- [Resolving to pray more in 2022? Here are 5 tips for following through.](#)
- [Ten Prayers for the New Year](#)
- [The Value of Praying a Doxology](#)

## Music

- [Be Still And Know](#)
- [Victory Is Ours](#)

## Church

- [Find a Synod meeting near you!](#)
- [Encuentros: Learning from 50 years of synodal experience — if we've been paying attention](#)
- [Synod Resources](#)

What we have before us are some breathtaking opportunities disguised as insoluble problems.

~ John W. Gardner

## Catholic Social Teaching

- [To ease social strife, practice social humility](#)

## Work toward Anti-Racism

- [Women Witnesses for Racial Justice](#)
- [Defining racism: Individuals and institutions, systems and structures](#)
- [Racial Justice](#) (February 12<sup>th</sup> webinar)

## Caring for our Common Home

- [2021 in review: Pope calls world to act on impact of climate change on poorest countries](#)



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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*
  - 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](https://www.lifelongfaith.com/uploads/5/1/6/4/5164069/seasons_of_faith_journal_special_issue.pdf)