



# GREAT ENDEAVORS MINED & SHARED

*from an International Adult Faith Formation Best Practices Study*

#197 - September 1, 2023

## A Best Practice: What One Parish Can Do

One of the goals of adult faith formation, of course, is to offer multiple opportunities which have the potential to meet the needs of many.

Epiphany Catholic Church in Louisville, KY endeavors to do that (even and especially during the pandemic days).

Do these opportunities spark ideas that you could do – either in-person, online or a blended opportunity of both in-person and online?

## *Fratelli Tutti* Online Study - A 5-week online study of Pope Francis' Encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*

The study was broken into the five weeks, using the *The Pastoral Center's* guide:

- Overview/Two Stories
- Dark Clouds over a Closed World
- A Heart Open to the Whole World
- Peace-making and Nonviolence
- Religions at the Service of Fraternity

Paragraphs were assigned each week. The PowerPoints provided by *The Pastoral Center* were used to break each week's theme open, and then the group moved into small discussion groups. The participants received questions each week prior to the sessions.

Resources Used:

- *Fratelli Tutti*, Pastoral Center kit for *Fratelli Tutti*  
<https://pastoral.center/fratelli-tutti-learning-bundle>
- *Fratelli Tutti and Migration Discussion Guide Justice for Immigrants*  
<https://www.usccb.org/resources/fratelli-tutti-and-migration-discussion-guide>
- *Fratelli Tutti Study Guide* by Franciscan Mission Service,  
<https://www.franciscan.org/fratelli-tutti/>

- “A Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together” by Pope Francis and The Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, Ahmad Al-Tayyeb:

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2019-02/pope-francis-uae-declaration-with-al-azhar-grand-imam.html>



## Taize Prayer

The parish Music Director offered this weekly on Friday morning at 8:30 a.m. using Zoom. A musician played the piano and sang parts; others did the readings.



## Centering Prayer

Two weekly groups meet through Zoom. One is for those learning about and how to pray Centering prayer; the other is designed for those who wish to pray with social justice issues using the Centering Prayer format.



## Spiritual Autobiography

Using *All My Days* by Richard P. Johnson two different groups meet each month for about an hour. The participants receive the chapter at the beginning of the month and then a group of four plus the facilitator meets through Zoom. Each person is invited to share for about ten minutes about what they learned about themselves from the reflection and writing, tell their story as much or as little as they like. The others are asked to just listen. After a person

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is finished, that person is held in prayer for a moment and then the group moves to the next person. Contemplative listening!



## Open Wide our Hearts: Online Racism Study

A 10-week online (Zoom) study in which participants prayerfully considered:

- What is systemic racism?
- How is racism evident in our society today?
- What is the Church's response?
- Moreover, most importantly, how are WE called to respond?

About 35 pages of reading were assigned each week; participants were asked to keep a reading journal and engage in weekly online conversations using breakout rooms in Zoom.

Resources Used:

- [\*Racial Justice and the Catholic Church\*](#) by Fr. Bryan Massingale
- [\*Rising to Common Ground: Overcoming America's Color Lines\*](#) by Danny Duncan Collum
- [\*Living Justice: Catholic Social Teaching in Action\*](#) by Thomas Massaro, SJ



## Vino and Vatican II

A series on Vatican II was live-streamed and then posted to the parish YouTube account.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bp-HK3b-7\\_A&list=UUoh7MAfDD-btzxW7a8qGp\\_A&index=26](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bp-HK3b-7_A&list=UUoh7MAfDD-btzxW7a8qGp_A&index=26)



## Catholic Updates

The digital version of these four-page newsletters - with more than 40 years of tradition - were purchased so that they could be sent via a link through their Epiphany Happenings Eblast. (<https://issuu.com/redemp/docs/2022-2023-liguori-catholic-update-order-form>)



## Sunday Connections on Thursdays

Using Zoom, a *Lectio Divina* group meets on Thursday evenings to reflect on the Sunday readings using the Ponder Series from Little Rock Scripture Study.

<https://litpress.org/little-rock-scripture-study/Products?categoryElanId=LRLECT&name=LectonaryBased-Bible-Study>



## Winter Webinar: Climate Change

Dan Misleh, Executive Director, Catholic Climate Covenant, Washington, DC and Sarah Lynn Cunningham, Executive Director, Louisville Climate Action Network led a webinar to help people explore the questions:

- How serious is the climate crisis?
- How are parishes across the U.S. taking action?
- What can my family do?

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## Soul Life

This prayer group, which meets bimonthly, uses a book where they pray with the text. During the pandemic, they used breakout rooms to for their conversations. Recently they used Fr. Richard Rohr's *The Universal Christ*.



## The Climate for Change is NOW

Another offering through Zoom used:

- [Paris to Pittsburgh: The Climate for Change is NOW](#) - A National Geographic documentary about climate change
- [The disarming case to act right now on climate change](#) a TedTalk by Greta Thunberg

After these resources were used, discussions and questions and answers were facilitated by:

- Sarah Lynn Cunningham, Executive director, the Louisville Climate Action Network
- Luke Henkel, Outreach coordinator, *Laudato Si* Generation, North America; Chair, Creation Care Tem, St. James Cathedral, Seattle, Washington
- George Perkins, a renewable energy advocate with experience in marine biology and environmental studies related to the Trans-Alaska Pipeline terminal in Valdez, AK



## Zoom Scripture Studies

As many parishes did, Epiphany continued their Scripture studies during the pandemic on Zoom, using Little Rock's [3-Week Biblical Faith-Sharing](#) resources.



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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>
- Lifelong Faith Training: <https://www.lifelongfaithtraining.com/>
- Lifelong Faith: <https://www.lifelongfaith.com/>
- Lifelong Faith Studio: <https://www.lifelongfaithstudio.com/>
- Seasons of Adult Faith website: <https://www.seasonsofadultfaith.com>
- The Seasons of Adult Faith Formation:
  - <https://www.lifelongfaith.com/books.html>
  - [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)