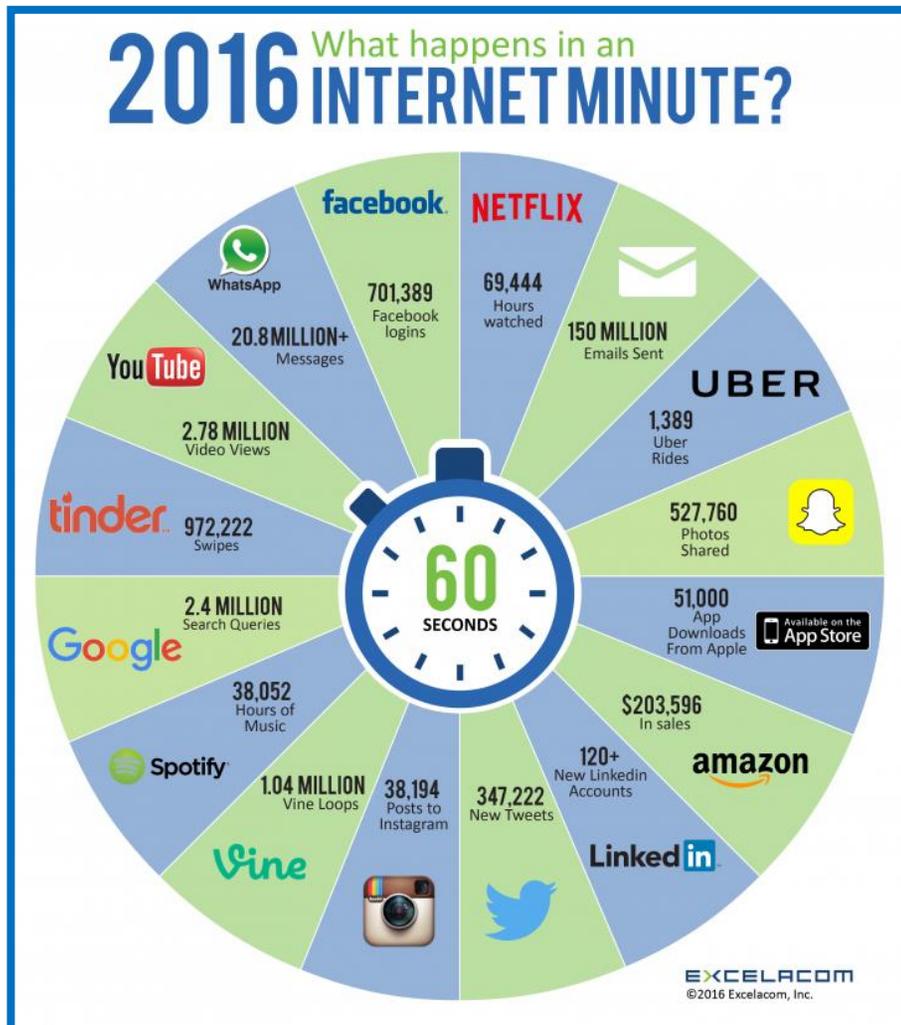


A Best Practice: Video Content from the Internet for Adult Faith Formation



As Jake Taylor (an online content marketing specialist) mentions <http://www.littlejackmarketing.com/blog/2015/04/this-is-how-much-online-content-is-created-every-minute/> “...by the time you’re done reading over the list, a minute has passed and you might as well start the list from the top again. That’s the relentless power of content on the Internet. This process repeats 1,440 times a day, 7 days a week, 52 weeks a year.”

This infographic could spark several different topics/themes for conversation! For us, in this issue, it reminds us of how much time people today spend on the internet.

- Are we there for today’s Catholic adult?
- How do we use the content that is available to us digitally?

This issue will begin to explore one aspect of the second question. Many people spend a great deal of time on the web. They can be inundated with digital content (print, audio, video). Exploring print and audio content on the internet might take pages and pages. For this issue, let us take a beginning look at video content. What are some possible

- **sources of video content** for our adult faith formation?
- **ways and methods of using video content** within various adult faith formation settings?

Some Ways and Methods

First, let’s explore some **ways and methods of using video content** for and within today’s adult faith formation:

- Every week (or month) place a different link in your bulletin/website; encourage parishioners to utilize these sites as they continue to “learn on their own”
- After watching together a “presentation,” invite the gathered adults to a conversation which applies the content/messages to their life
- During Advent or Lent suggest several sites for personal and/or family use (You may want to revisit [GEMS #60.](#))
- Clip a segment of a presentation and broadcast it through social media as a “message for today”

GREAT ENDEAVORS MINED & SHARED

- At times, invite your book club(s) to view a video for discussion rather than reading a book
- Use a segment of a talk to create conversation in a catechist formation session, RCIA gathering, parent gatherings, etc.
- Enjoy a presentation as part of our own professional development
- Send a link of a site that is helpful to you to your parishioners, colleagues, and/or friends

A GEMS Request

What are some other ways you are using video content from the internet for adult faith formation? Let me know so that we can pass on your always-new ideas.

Some Sources of Video Content

Various types of video content for adult faith formation are available:

- professional development for pastoral leaders as well as resources for the person-in-the-pew
- resources for individual learning and resources for group learning

The reality, of course, is that, with tweaking and creativity, there are several possibilities, diverse options, and numerous opportunities for using the wealth of digital content that is available to us today. As you peruse the following sources (just a few among many), dream and imagine the countless ways they might be used in your parish/(arch)diocese.



The free [Leadership Institute](http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/catechesis/leadership-institute/index.cfm) from the U.S. Bishops is available to all interested individuals. It continues to serve the needs of diocesan leaders; at the same time, many of the webinars and Q&A's are also of interest to parish catechetical leaders and catechists, Catholic school principals and teachers, and other individuals who provide faith formation to diverse age groups and settings (<http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/catechesis/leadership-institute/index.cfm>).

There are various categories to choose from; one that might be especially helpful at this time is [Prayer: The Faith Prayed](#) which offers webinars and

vignettes on our rich heritage of prayer, the theme for this year's (2016-17) Catechetical Sunday.



[Salt and Light Catholic Media Foundation](#) comes to us from Canada. Their goal is to share the joys and hopes of the Gospel through television, radio, print, and online media.

They seek to unite people together through prayer, celebration, reflection, education, authentic dialogue and enquiry, thought-provoking reporting and stories of faith and action; their efforts desire to challenge believers to grow in the knowledge of the faith and the Catholic tradition in its many expressions. Their many resources strive to offer an invitation to all peoples, especially those on the peripheries of faith and the Church, to draw closer to the Lord and experience the community of the Church.

Salt and Light (<http://www.saltandlighttv.org/>) offers free resources, videos for rent and/or purchase.



[Encore](#) is a video archive of lectures presented during the last eight years at Boston College. (<https://www.bc.edu/bc-web/schools/stm/sites/encore/topics.html>) For some of the video collections, print resources are also included. [Encore Access](#) is a guide to using an Encore Events presentation as a conversation starter with members of a faith community. <https://www.bc.edu/bc-web/schools/stm/sites/encore/encore-access.html>

Alerts for the latest additions to Encore (www.bc.edu/encore) can be received by subscribing to <https://www.facebook.com/bcstmce/>.

Boston College also offers two other opportunities of archived video presentations:

- C21 Videos from The Church in the 21st Century Center: <http://www.bc.edu/church21/webcast.html>
- Boston College Front Row Video Archives: <http://frontrow.bc.edu/>

GREAT ENDEAVORS MINED & SHARED



Our Sunday Visitor shares several videos through YouTube. Some that might be used in various ways:

- Pope Francis in Word and Pictures:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h4HKJh_7sUA&list=PL29AF6B9796A79EC9&index=12

- Celebrate a Catholic Lent
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o8YAEXvjmww>

Some of OSV's short videos – trailers for their books – can be used as “thoughts for the day” and/or introductions to adult faith formation presentations, such as: *Immigration and the Next America: Renewing the Soul of our Nation* (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=krlbexmzm5M>).



[Busted Halo](https://www.vimeo.com/bustedhalo/videos) is the Paulist ministry and media outreach to young adults and spiritual seekers. They have produced a number of videos, especially their series on the sacraments and their well-known “_____ (Advent; Ash Wednesday and Lent; Holy Week; Pentecost; Mary; etc.) in Two Minutes” videos <https://www.vimeo.com/bustedhalo/videos>.



St. Mary's Press has curated a distinctive library of videos from many sources across the internet (<https://www.smp.org/resourcecenter/category/Video/35/>).

In addition to the exploration of various topics, many of the videos are Scripture passages and/or religious songs and hymns. You might want to explore:

- The Angel Speaks to Mary:
<https://www.smp.org/resourcecenter/resource/11735/>
- St. Theresa's Prayer:
<https://www.smp.org/resourcecenter/resource/11367/>
- The Trinity Explained:
<https://www.smp.org/resourcecenter/resource/11151/>



[Learn@CTU \(Educational Resources from Catholic Theological Union\)](http://www.learn@ctu.org), provides another experience of ongoing learning for adults. Videos, podcasts, articles and essays, and theological education from Catholic Theological Union in Chicago is archived here. Some of the many speakers and authors are Sr. Diane Bergant, CSA; Fr. Timothy Radcliffe, OP; Fr. Richard Fragomeni; Fr. Thomas Rosica, CSB; Fr Don Senior, CP; Dr. C. Vanessa White; and Sr. Barbara Reid, OP.



The U.S. Catholic bishops offer us video reflections on the daily Scripture readings ([Daily Reflections Video](https://www.usccb.org/daily-reflections)). Podcasts of the daily readings are also available.



Videos for Your Soul (<http://videosforyoursoul.com/>) adds a video each day beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending on Easter. Most of the videos are not “religious,” but are connected with the day's Scripture readings – linking faith and life. The videos are collected from all across the web. They are funny, sad, moving and amazing. Each reminds us to see the Christ in all people.

Suggestions are given on how to use the videos individually and with a small group.



TED is a global community, welcoming people from every discipline and culture who seek a deeper understanding of the world. The [TED talks](http://www.ted.com/talks) explore various themes and topics; many of which can be explored within various faith and life topics/themes (<http://www.ted.com/talks>), such as:

- Reconnecting with Compassion:
http://www.ted.com/talks/krista_tippett_reconnecting_with_compassion
- Drawings that Show the Beauty and Fragility of the Earth
http://www.ted.com/talks/zaria_forman_drawings_that_show_the_beauty_and_fragility_of_earth

GREAT ENDEAVORS MINED & SHARED

- How to Combat Modern Slavery
http://www.ted.com/talks/kevin_bales_how_to_combat_modern_slavery



For a while, [Good News Ministries](#) developed RE-TED (Religious Education using TED.com videos), a faith formation discussion using videos from the huge pool of wisdom found on TED.com. Good News Ministries mentions that “While TED videos are not religious and they do not offer the Christian viewpoint per se, the wisdom provided by the experts who are showcased on TED.com comes ultimately from God through the speakers' talents, education, insights learned from personal experience, and in-depth study. Good News Ministries uses specially selected TED videos to provide food for Christian thought and spiritual growth. ...we invite catechists, youth directors, and adult faith group facilitators to download the videos from TED.com and the discussion questions from our website as Religious Education tools in your own ministries.”

They seem to have not continued to update their site with current TED talks, but the ones listed on [Good News Ministries](#) are helpful in themselves as well as providing examples of ways we can integrate TED with our adult faith formation opportunities.



YouTube, of course, is a host of countless videos that can be used in multiple ways in adult faith formation. Search for your topic or theme and often you will be surprised by all that is available, for instance:

- What is Lent?: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eT2sYonS7oM>
- Catholic Social Teaching in 3 Minutes:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ELyLdMIFdzA>
- The Creed: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0YNeTwWU1RE>
- The Summons: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V0aAkOe87mo>



Many of our colleges and universities offer courses for pastoral and catechist certification; many of the possibilities are also available for ongoing adult faith formation: parishioners can participate individually or within a “closed group” of other parishioners. These combine digital content of video, print and audio with, of course, group conversations.

- STM Online Crossroads:
<http://www.bc.edu/schools/stm/crossroads/homepage.html>
Crossroads has a few courses which are free and self-directed; and available in English and Spanish.
- Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation:
<https://vlcff.udayton.edu/>
- STEP at Notre Dame University: <https://step.nd.edu/>



Likewise, several of our nation’s universities offer free online classes to the public, including Harvard University (<https://www.extension.harvard.edu/open-learning-initiative>) and Yale (<http://oyc.yale.edu/>). The classes aren't offered for credit, but can be resources for people who want to learn more on the subjects that they cover. Some of the many offerings include:

- World Religions through their Scriptures:
<http://online-learning.harvard.edu/course/world-religions-through-their-scriptures?keywords=religion>
- Introduction to the Old Testament:
<http://oyc.yale.edu/religious-studies/rfst-145>

Some Examples for Various Themes/Topics

To further illustrate the possibilities, let’s look at three examples of resources which are related to some specific themes and topics for today’s adults within our parishes and (arch)dioceses.

Laudato Si’

As we continue to explore the challenges of the encyclical, *Laudato Si’*, numerous videos are available. A few:

GREAT ENDEAVORS MINED & SHARED

- Top Ten Things You Need to Know about *Laudato Si'*:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a_lqFTYLc_4
- Pope Francis' Encyclical on the Environment: A Dialogue on its Moral and Policy Challenges (from Georgetown University)
<http://www.ustream.tv/recorded/65820332>
- Understanding *Laudato Si'* Series:
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLO2W1tFFtdJn9V9_DvEbz9Bygt7XsYXRj
- *Laudato Si'* - On Care for Our Common Home Video/Podcast Series
<http://learn.ctu.edu/common-home>

Year of Mercy

Filled with resources – as well as serving as an example of what (arch)dioceses/parishes can create – is Year of Mercy from the diocese of St. Cloud (<http://visitor.stcdio.org/year-of-mercy/>). Don't miss "Mercy Minutes."

Marriage Preparation

Marriage Ministries has provided a comprehensive online Catholic marriage preparation program that is available to couples (and parishes) anytime, anywhere (<http://catholicmarriageprepclass.com/>). Twenty-six different presenters discuss nineteen topics.

A GEMS Reminder

Before using anything (video, audio, print, etc.) in faith formation, take time to preview it. Talk with others about how to discern what is the best video (and other resources) to use for the needs of your parishioners. (Who do you have to help you discern?)

Some GEMS Wonderings

- What other sources have you found with video content for adult faith formation within the parish and (arch)diocese today?

- What are some other ways you are using video content from the internet for adult faith formation? Let me know so that we can pass on your always-new ideas.
- Are you using [myParish App](#) to connect with your parishioners, sharing with them?



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 at:

- *The Seasons of Adult Faith Formation*
http://www.lifelongfaith.com/store/p25/The_Seasons_of_Adult_Faith_Formation.html
- *The Seasons of Adult Faith Formation website*
<http://www.lifelongfaith.com/2015-adult-faith-formation-symposium.html>