



GREAT ENDEAVORS MINED & SHARED

from an International Adult Faith Formation Best Practices Study

#152 – October 15, 2021

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

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

These 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

- [Critical Questions for Faith-Forming Leaders](#)
- [Free Guide: 5 Hiring Mistakes Your Church is Making](#)
- [Who Moved My Cheese](#)
- [Our Iceberg is Melting](#)
- [Finding Your 'Stand For'](#)
- [How Do We Not Live in Despair?](#)
- [Leading in a Liminal Season](#)
- [What We're Learning: The Power of Presence](#)
- [Keys to Reaching Overwhelmed Parents](#)
- [2019 is Dead: Why Every Leader Should Stop Trying to Go Back to the Way It Was](#)
- [4 Steps to Amplify Community Engagement](#)
- [Remaking Gathering: Entering the Mess, Crossing the Thresholds](#)

- [Leading in a Liminal Season](#) (October 20th webinar from Yale Divinity School)
- [Two Pastors Discuss Sabbath Rest](#)
- [6 Stock Expressions Every Leader Should Stop Using](#)
- [What We're Learning: Shifting From Innovation to Reinvention](#)
- [Celebrating Sunday of the Word of God in Catholic Parishes](#)

Resources for upcoming feasts/liturgical year/the calendar year

- [Halloween Candy Prayers](#)
- [Thanksgiving Worship Ideas](#)
- [Gratitude, Advent, and More](#)
- [Drive-Through Journey to Bethlehem](#)
- [2022 Children of God Catholic Children's Activity Calendar](#)

The challenges we confront are so great that we are called to move beyond our personal awakening to our collective awakening – as community, as nations and as a species.

~ Duane Elgin in *The Living Universe*

Resources for the Year of St. Joseph

- [Honoring Saint Joseph and Celebrating the Family](#)

60th Anniversary of the Second Vatican Council

- [For a resource for your parish on the Second Vatican Council](#), contact Sr. Maureen Sullivan who has written two books on the Council and

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exudes a passion, knowledge and expertise on the Council.
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- [What Would Francis Do? A Pope, A Council Full of Surprises](#) (A GEMS issue which looks at a past diocesan program on Vatican II)
- ['Always Together' - The unfinished work of Vatican II](#) by Pope Francis
- [Paradigm Shifts after Vatican II](#)
- ['Always Together' - The unfinished work of Vatican II](#) By Pope Francis

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

- [Resources for Putting Parents First During the Catechetical Year](#)
- [By Word and Example: A Bridge to Sacramental Formation for Parish](#)
- [Helping Young People See a Path by Setting Goals](#)
- [Peace Prayer Coloring Page](#)
- [Symposium on the Spirituality of Children](#) (October 21-22, 2021)
- [3 saints teachers can look to this school year](#)

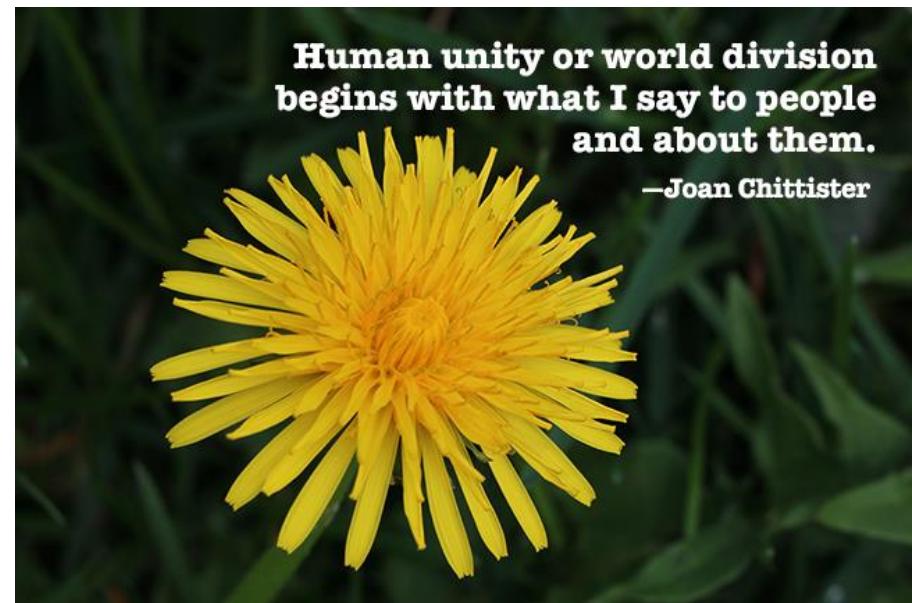
Resources for Faith Formation Leaders (adult faith formation)

- [Why Did He Say That? Examine Jesus' Most Difficult Teachings](#)
- [God: Love Beyond All Limits](#) (An Interview with Elizabeth Johnson, CSJ, Ph.D.)
- [Women in Conversation](#)

Resources for Ministry with Maturing/Eldering Adults

- [Prayers for Aging](#)
- [Bearing Fruit in Old Age](#) (The September/October issue of *The Bible Today*)

- [Senior Adult Ministry Resources](#)
- [Resources for Grandparenting](#)
- [Growing Up Catholic Grandparent Conversations](#)
- [Let This Be the Time: Spiritual Essentials for Life's Second Act](#)
- [What Does the Bible Say About Old Age?](#)
- [Aging with Wisdom and Grace](#)
- [The Spirituality of Caregiving: Sifting and Growth](#)
- [Nourish For Caregivers](#)
- [Godly Play With Senior Adults](#)



Resources for the RCIA Process

- [Frequently asked questions about the RCIA dismissal of catechumens](#)
- [Four ways the RCIA dismissal teaches faith](#)

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- [Six ways to convince others that the RCIA dismissal is a good idea](#)
- [Eight ways to get RCIA buy-in from everyone in the parish—including the pastor](#)
- [Why dreaming together about the future is important for RCIA teams](#)
- [What Pope Francis wants RCIA teams to teach about mercy](#)

Ideas and Suggestions for Parents and Families

- [How Can I Stay Positive for My Kids When I'm So Overwhelmed?](#)
- [Six Ways to Deal With Parental Burnout](#)
- [How to Help Your Student Face Another Pandemic School Year](#)
- [Five overlooked moments for sharing faith](#)
- [Meals strengthen families: Why eating together matters](#)
- [How the Practice of Gratitude Transformed my Family's Weekly Sabbath](#)

Suggestions and Reflections for All of Us

- [Stumbling Into the Next Stage of Your Pandemic Life](#)
- [100 Good Things](#)
- [Happy Camper: Entering a Year of Letting Go](#)
- [Seven Ignatian Tips for Moving Forward in Uncertain Times](#)
- [Are we made to work?](#)
- [Why Walking Helps Us Think](#)
- [How to Communicate When Everyone Is Wearing a Mask](#)
- [On Patience](#)
- [Out of My Head](#)
- [3 Things I Learned From Weaving Gratitude into Sabbath Rest](#)

“We must find a new approach, make a new road, pioneer a new way of living as neighbors in one human community, as brothers and sisters in one family of creation.

That's why the apostle Paul repeatedly describes how in Christ we see humanity as one body and our differences as gifts, not threats, to one another.

In Christ, Paul came to realize that people aren't different because they're trying to be difficult or evil—they're different because the Spirit has given them differing gifts...

More than ever before in our history, we need a new kind of personal and social fuel.

Not fear, but love.

Not prejudice, but openness.

Not supremacy, but service.

Not inferiority, but equality.

Not resentment, but reconciliation.

Not isolation, but connection.

Not the spirit of hostility, but the holy Spirit of hospitality.”

~ Brian McLaren in *We Make the Road by Walking*

Resources for and about Prayer and Reflection

- [Imagination and Praydreaming](#)
- [An Experiment in Praydreaming](#)
- [Co-Creating a Prayer for Lent “Mad Lib” Style](#)
- [Clothesline Collects: Leading Children to Prayer](#)
- [Pillowcase Prayers](#)
- [The Symphony of Your Day](#)

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- [Holding Still](#) is a riveting, candid and insightful short documentary film about practicing centering prayer while incarcerated at Folsom Prison. The film is premiering on October 20th, 2021 at a live zoom event, 7:30pm (ET)/4:30pm (PT). The screening will feature a live Q&A with the men in the film and the filmmakers, moderated by Fr. James Martin, SJ.
- [What about a Global Celebration of Thanksgiving?](#)
- [Video Blessings: An Idea for COVID & Beyond](#)
- [A Finger Labyrinth Project For All Ages](#)
- [Mindfulness grounds us in God and the present](#)
- [Breath prayer helps you meditate in the moment](#)
- [Praying with Art and Photography](#)
- [In the Shape of a Heart](#)
- [Creation-Centered Prayer](#)
- [Creating Prayer Bottles](#)

Riane Eisler is a Holocaust survivor who went on to become a researcher, author, and activist. She founded an organization called The Center of Partnership, where she and her team explore how we might create systems that are more aligned with human thriving.

She challenges our unconscious use of dominating language.
She says:

- Instead of saying 'Fight injustice,' say 'Heal injustice.'
 - Instead of saying 'Killing time,' say 'Filling time.'
- Instead of saying 'Killing two birds with one stone,' say 'Birthing two birds from one egg.'
- Instead of saying 'I really crushed it,' say 'I really brought it to life.'

Church

- [Preparatory Document: For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission](#)
- [Pope Francis wants every Catholic to have a say](#)
- [The Spirit in the Assembly: Preparing for the synod on synodality](#)
- [Let's give the Holy Spirit a chance at synod on synodality](#)
- [Pope Francis's vision of synodality](#)
- [Synod of Bishops will begin in the local Churches](#)
- [Francis is betting a synodal church will be a cure for a clerical church](#)
- [Pope opens Synod on Synodality saying it can't be an 'elitist' exercise](#)
- [As pope opens synod, experts extol 'synodality' but struggle to define it](#)
- [How do we prepare for a synodal process? Start with the documents of Vatican II](#)
- [A theologian's take on how the 2023 Synod is a turning point for the Church](#)

Liturgy and Sacraments

- [A Strategy for Launching a Eucharistic Revival](#)
- [Six suggestions for the Catholic bishops' document on the Eucharist](#)

Catholic Social Teaching

- [Welcoming the Stranger: Immigration and Faith Communities](#)
(November 6th webinar from Yale Divinity School)

Work toward Anti-Racism

- [Anti-Racist Resources](#)
- [What critical race theory is — and is not](#)

Caring for our Common Home

- [Dance with Life](#)
- [Augustine and Francis: The Saints of Laudato Si'](#)
- [Contemplating Creation](#)
- [Sensing Nature](#)

“Some communities don't permit open, honest inquiry about the things that matter most.

Lots of people have voiced a concern, expressed a doubt, or raised a question, only to be told by their family, church, friends, or tribe:
"We don't discuss those things here."

I believe the discussion itself is divine.

Abraham does his best to bargain with God, most of the book of Job consists of arguments by Job and his friends about the deepest questions of human suffering, God is practically on trial in the book of Lamentations, and Jesus responds to almost every question he's asked with ...a question.”

~ Rob Bell



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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_aff - journal_special_issue.pdf