

Links for Teachers

Different than most pages on this site, Links for Teachers is one long post that will be added to as I stumble upon new and noteworthy links.

Check it by date to see what's new.

October, 2015

[Rhythm and Beads](#) Growing up post-Vatican II as we did, the rosaries in our home lay dusty on shelves or deeply buried in drawers. Jeffery Esssmann's reflection is part memory and part re-discovery, and struck close to home. Recalling the role (and non-role) of the rosary in his own life, it's Essmann's experience in an Alzheimer's unit that offers the true epiphany: the Hail Mary, if "pursued long enough, cherished long enough, could actually become part of your biology, a marvelous incarnation."

September, 2015

[Dear Pope Francis...](#) Two hundred and twenty-five Catholic women from 16 high schools, colleges, and universities wrote Pope Francis letters sharing their love for the Church and ideas to help her reach out effectively to young women. This article is a summary.

July, 2015

[Catholics Care About Gays?: The Myth Debunked](#) Life Teen blog that answers some common questions and debunks some common

misconceptions about the what the Catholic Church teaches about homosexuality and gay marriage.

June, 2015

[The Gospel According To the 'Nones'](#) The rapidly growing population of self-reporting "spiritual but no religious affiliation" Americans simultaneously report a deep attraction to Jesus and the Gospels. Read how the 'nones' remind us about the real power of our faith.

May, 2015

[5 Reasons Millennials Stay Connected to the Church](#) Research-based, easy to read article that illuminates what *is* working –and what we can do to engage the young church. While today's teens aren't "Millennials," they are living in a culture that is increasingly driven by them.

[7 Reasons Why Young Adults Quit the Church](#) Food for thought about mindsets we need to be ready to receive, welcome, and evangelize!

[A Closer Look at America's Rapidly Growing Religious Nones](#) Check out the statistics over the last few decades. The status quo in religious education isn't working. Our teens need something different than what our schools and churches are offering if we are going to cause a shift in this trajectory! [Go here](#) if you want to see the Pew Research Center's 2014 Religious Landscape Study in its entirety.

[Four Questions About College](#) A brief article outlining the four questions nobody asks, but should, of the college-bound senior. The questions address "the core meaning of a student's education and development."

[Life Long Faith Journal](#) Free online journal covering the best thinking and practices in faith formation across the whole life span. Each issue focuses on a particular aspect of lifelong faith formation and includes major articles by national experts, book reviews, and practical strategies and program models.

[Life Teen](#) Terrific webpage for teens but great fodder for the catechist. Blogs about faith, prayer, relationships, and culture. You can also use the search engine to find something specific (for example, saints for guys, adoration, pornography, why go to confession)

[Living Easter](#) For your own personal reflection as you approach Holy Week. Just beautiful.

[Furious Mysteries](#) James Martin, S.J. postulates a new set of rosary mysteries that meditate on the times Jesus became angry. Awesomeness. Help your teens frame anger within a faith context.

[Navigating the Tween Years](#) Year-by-year developmental overview of tweens. Good for teachers, catechists and parents.

[Take Up Your Cross](#) An excerpt from James Martin, S.J.'s "Jesus: A Pilgrimage." He is truly gifted at making the mysterious somehow imaginable and approachable.

[The 'Nones' Are Alright](#) Brief article considering what we can learn from a generation of seekers.

[Whom Do You Follow?](#) Terrific little article about Christian life in the age of Social Media. A must read.

[Why Hands-on Learning Works](#) Though written about earlier learners, this begs the question: "Why do we think that older learners don't need this stuff anymore?"