

GRANDPARENTS NEWS



March 2020

Saint Joseph, earthly Father of Jesus, protector of the Church, patron of Fathers, guardian of the Eucharist and all families





Dearest Grandparents and Friends,

Though we may not delight in considering our own mortality, we know that our days on Earth are numbered. The Season of Lent and the ashes we receive on Ash Wednesday remind us that our bodies will return to dust, but we can rest assured knowing that our souls will forever live – thanks to Christ’s supreme sacrifice for us.

As we continue this Lenten journey, let’s pause and remember – What are our memories of Lents past? Did your family of origin have any special traditions or preparations for the Easter Season? Did you attend stations of the Cross? Most of our Grandchildren would be surprised to learn that we didn’t just abstain from meat of Friday’s during Lent but all year round. Do we know and have we shared with our Grandchildren, the meaningful reasons to observe Friday abstinence from meat?

The US Bishops note: “We freely, and out of love for Christ Crucified, show our solidarity with the generations of believers to whom this practice became, especially in times of persecution and great poverty, a means of fidelity to Christ and His Church”. By continuing the practice of abstaining from meat on Fridays, we not only share in a joint sacrifice but remain connected to the spiritual values of generations past. This small act of obedience can speak volumes. It’s a way of telling others, “this is our thing – it’s what we do as Catholics”.

What kind of Lent will you have this year? What traditions will you try and pass on? Tell your stories. It’s been said that, “when an elderly person dies, a library closes”. At the end of January, we were blessed to speak at the Vatican Conference, The Elderly: The Blessing of Many Years of Life. Our talk and photos are on the following pages.

Always remember, what a blessing you are to your family and Our Church. Now more than ever, during this challenging time worldwide, we need to pray for each other, support each other and look out for each other. Please listen to advice and do not take unnecessary risks.

We ask for the intercession of Saint Joachim and Saint Anne to bless and protect our families. Let us be filled with hope as we look forward to the rebirth through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Love and Prayers,
Catherine Wiley



“From dust you came and to dust you shall return”.



In This Issue

The Season of Lent

The Richness of Many Years of Life

The Best Is Yet To Come

Children’s Activity Page

Resources, Ideas and Discussion Topics for Feb/March

New CGA items for purchase

Forthcoming Events

In memorium of Grandparents





The Season of Lent



Dearest Grandparents and Friends,

For me, Lent is The beginning of the end, a reminder of our own mortality . Our holy Father told us we should become reconciled to death, to prepare for it. Nobody likes to talk about death or think of it , this is the best time, as we Journey with our Lord Jesus Christ towards the glory of our resurrection

Lent is a time of waiting, reflecting and prayer. It is a time when you can truly be the best version of yourself. By taking stock of your life, what you have done what you have failed to do. What you would like to do. You will be amazed at what you remember with a loving heart.

I count down the days to Good Friday 'CRUCIFIXION DAY" as I reflect on my life and the countless ways that I have contributed to the suffering and death of my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I pray for forgiveness and reconciliation with all those alive and dead whom I may have hurt, offended, injured or neglected in any way.

I earnestly pray for the suffering souls in Purgatory, particularly those who have nobody to pray for them. I pray for anyone I might be keeping out of heaven, by being unable to forgive them for some hurt they may have caused me in this world. I pray for their forgiveness and reconciliation.

Every morning going to Mass, I pass a rehab center for addiction, where many young people are gathered outside. My heart goes out to them and I pray that someone somewhere today will have the courage and the strength to say NO. I pray for the families who are feeling despair and pain as they continue to hope and pray.

I pray for people in prison, that they may feel the love and mercy of Jesus, like the good thief, the companion of Jesus on the cross. I pray for grandparents who have been separated from their grandchildren for whatever reason .

I pray for the grace to help my children and grandchildren to make their Easter duty. To try and help them to go to confession and to receive Holy Communion.

I pray for all Grandparents and families that they may find ways to peace, forgiveness and reconciliation during this beautiful season of promise. I look forward to meeting all of you one day in our heavenly homeland where all our troubles cease in eternal peace with our risen living Lord Jesus Christ.

May St. Joachim and St. Anne, parents of Mary, Grandparents of Jesus, bless you and your families all the days of your life. Wishing you a wonderful, happy, joyous St. Patrick's Day.

Love and Prayers,

Catherine





The Richness of Many Years of Life

International Conference

On the pastoral care of the elderly

Rome, January 29-31, 2020

Sharing our Mission, making new friends

Catherine Wiley, Founder, along with leaders of the Catholic Grandparents Association, were blessed and honoured to meet with Pope Francis, at the conclusion of the International Conference, at the Vatican, for The Richness of Many Years of Life.



“Blessed Are We among Women” Catherine, Jane, Marilyn & Connie from the CGA Office



Joan Lewis, EWTN Rome Bureau Chief and friend of the CGA

"I'm Joan and this is My Rome!"



**Archbishop Stanislaw Gadecki
Archbishop of Poznan, Poland**



Three Amigas in Rome



Catherine's interview with Vatican Radio



PRAYER FOR THE ELDERLY

Lord Jesus Christ,

*You gave us life by making it shine with Your divine reflection
and You reserve a special gift to the elderly who benefit from a long life.*

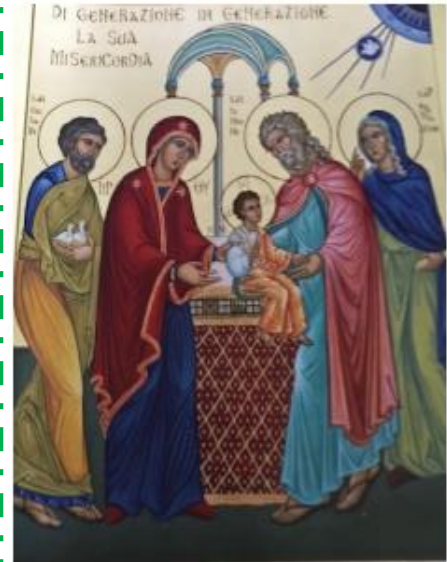
*We entrust and consecrate them to You: make them witnesses
of the Gospel values and devoted custodians of Christian traditions.
Protect them and preserve their spirit with Your loving gaze and Your mercy.*

*Make them sure of Your faithfulness, messengers of Your love
humble apostles of Your forgiveness, welcoming and life-giving arms
for children and young people who seek in the eyes of their grandparents
a safe guide in their pilgrimage to eternal life.*

*Make us capable of giving them the love, care and respect
they deserve in our families and communities.*

*And grant each of us the blessing of a long life
in order to one day be able to unite with You, in Heaven
You who live, and reign in love forever and ever.*

Amen



PRAYER FOR THE GIFT OF LIFE

*God of all goodness, You
have entrusted us with
the gift of life. Help us to
appreciate that gift from
the first moments of
conception to the last
breaths of old age.*

*Send Your strength to all
those who defend the
unborn, the weak and the
dying against attempts to
cut short their lives.*

*May Your Holy Spirit
touch the hearts of those
who are tempted to
choose the way of death
rather than life.*

*Grant that your people
may always be a sign of
Your love in the world.*

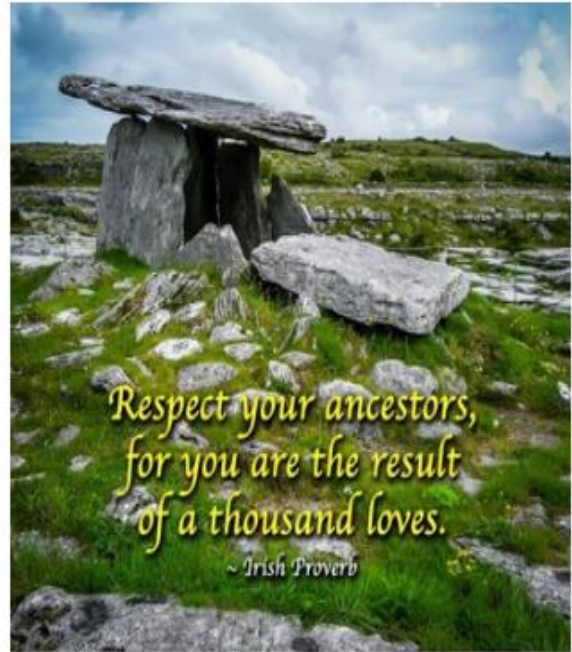
Amen.



Saint Joseph, earthly Father of Jesus, protector of the Church, patron of Fathers, guardian of the Eucharist and all families



A Reminder & A Reward



When you think they're not paying attention



Dearest Grandparents,
Happy St Patrick's Day from the Catholic Grandparents Association. We are growing from strength to strength with your support and we thank you most sincerely for all you do to help us.

The Holy sacrifice of the Mass has been offered for your intentions. Peace be with you and your families and may God bless and keep you safe and healthy.

Love and Prayers
Catherine Wiley.



Happy St. Patrick's Day

There is a candle lighting for your intentions at the Shrine of Our Lady of Knock in Ireland

Luck o' The Irish

An Irish Blessing
May the road rise up to meet you
May the wind be always at your back
May the sun shine warm upon your face
May the rain fall soft upon your fields
And until we meet again
May God hold you in the palm of His hand!

With Love & Prayers
Catherine Wiley.
& all of us at the CGA





Hot off the Press! The Best is Yet to Come. A New Book by Lorene Hanley Duquin, author of the Catholic Grandparents Handbook.

Here is what the author told us about her new book, which was released this month by Word Among Us Press:

“When my editor asked me to write a follow-up book to the Catholic Grandparents Handbook, I feared that there would be nothing new to say. But then I started interviewing people – including Marilyn Henry and her husband, Deacon Ken Henry – and I discovered that people had a lot of amazing insights about growing older with grace, joy and fulfillment.

People told me that there are good and bad things about every stage of life, but the later stages of life offer the opportunity to be the person they always wanted to be and the chance to do things they always wanted to do. These folks are smashing the negative stereotypes about older people as grouchy, feeble-minded and unattractive. They are living lives that are productive, happy and healthy. They find great joy in being parents and grandparents – even when bad things happen. And they are discovering that their faith in God not only sustains them but inspires them in ways they never dreamed possible.

I began to see this book as a kind of travelogue that highlights the wide variety of things people experience on their journey through what many call their “wisdom years.” It explores the joys, the sorrows, the fears people face, the risks they take and the decisions they make.

Some people will read only the chapters that apply to them. Others will read the book from beginning to end. There are also questions for reflection at the end of each chapter for those who want to use the book as part of a discussion group.

It is my hope and prayer that this book will inspire people in ways that will increase their joy and fulfillment throughout the rest of their lives. Lorene Hanley Duquin

The Best is Yet to Come: Growing Older with Joy and Fulfillment can be ordered through Amazon or Word Among Us Press <https://bookstore.wau.org/The-Best-Is-Yet-To-Come-Growing-Older-with-Joy-and-Fulfillment-P400.aspx>





Excerpt from Gabriella Gamboni's Talk

The concluding remarks were entrusted to the Undersecretary of our Dicastery, Gabriella Gambino, who "considering the wide variety of the life situations of the elderly in the hundreds of dioceses throughout the whole world, along with the different cultural and social contexts," concluded by summarizing some guidelines:

- "Regard the great population of the elderly as part of the people of God—they have particular needs which must be taken into account, and for this reason it is necessary that dioceses create offices dedicated to the pastoral care of the elderly;"

- "The pastoral care of the elderly, like every other pastoral ministry, is to be inserted into the new missionary season inaugurated by Pope Francis with *Evangelii Gaudium*. This means: announcing the presence of Christ to elderly people, since the call to holiness is for everyone, even for grandparents. Not every elderly person has already encountered Christ and, even if this encounter has taken place, it is crucial to help them rediscover the significance of their baptism in this special phase of life;"

- "Do not establish pastoral ministry to the elderly as an isolated sector, but rather establish it according to a collaborative pastoral approach;"

- "Value the gifts and charisms of elderly people, in charitable activity, in the apostolate, and in the liturgy;"

- "Support families and be present to them when they need to look after elderly grandparents;"

- "Stem the tide of the 'throw-away' culture." Many elderly people, she explained, "ask to be put away in institutions so as not to be a burden," and, "in some countries they are already proposing euthanasia—explicitly condemned by the Church—for elderly people who are lonely and tired of living." Therefore, she clarified, "wherever there are people questioning whether their life is still useful or whether anybody cares...well, there is a void that the pastoral ministry of the Church must fill."

- "Care for the spirituality of the elderly, so that alongside piety and devotional practices, they may be immersed in an authentic, deep spiritual relationship with God. The ageing person is not approaching an end; rather, he must draw near to God and the mystery of eternity."

Finally, the Undersecretary promised the numerous participants accompaniment and support on the part of the Dicastery: "It is not strategies that are needed, but rather human relationships that grow into networks of collaboration and solidarity between dioceses, parishes, lay communities, associations, and families. What is needed are solid networks with strong roots, not fragmented and fragile initiatives. And sometimes it is from the smallest of seeds," she concluded, "that the greatest projects are born."



Excerpt from Catherine's Talk—Vatican Conference on the Elderly

Pope Francis said that “being old is no time to rest, but a chance for a new mission in the world”

I feel truly privileged to be here with you today at the beginning of this new mission sharing ideas and speaking on a topic I feel I know something about - Family challenges and opportunities and also as founder of the Catholic Grandparents Association.

My husband Stewart, a convert to the Catholic faith, and I have been married for over fifty years. We have four children and ten grandchildren who despite being brought up carefully in the catholic faith yet sadly have drifted away from the faith. We have divorce and addiction in our family, some of my grandchildren have not been baptized, so like many of you here today we are no strangers to the difficulties, heartaches and challenges of modern day Catholic family life.

So, here I am speaking to you as an elderly Irish Grandmother, but I feel I have to tell you I don't feel elderly, I don't act elderly, and I certainly don't look elderly, God forbid. In fact at 73, I would say that I am blessed to be in the prime of my life.

Many Grandparents that I know of, my age, are multi-tasking, playing an indispensable role in helping their children to bring up our grandchildren, sometimes looking after or caring for their own aging parents which we all know can be both gratifying and very stressful.

Many are still holding down a job and many older people are contributing to the community and to our parishes, keeping our Church doors open. In fact many of our older people are running our parishes these days. Look at Pope Francis and the Queen, one is 83 and one is 93 and they're still doing fantastic work. One is still running the Church in his 80's and the other is still sorting out family crisis in her 90's and showing everyone the meaning of duty. When people are so much more inclined to put their own personal choices first, neither the Pope nor the Queen is sitting back.

Pope Francis said “there is a true vocation, a mission for older people who have a lot more free time now at their disposal than before”. Since the beginning of his papacy, Pope Francis, has constantly reminded us of the gifts that Grandparents and the Elderly have to offer and seem to be ignored. We need to listen and to help him in any way we can.

We need to help Grandparents to help themselves to recognize their vocation - which is to pass on their faith to future generations and to keep prayer at the heart of family life. This is the Mission statement of the Catholic Grandparents Association. This is our only purpose and the reason that we exist.



The Holy See

**ADDRESS OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS
TO PARTICIPANTS IN THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS
"THE RICHNESS OF MANY YEARS OF LIFE"**

*Sala Regia
Friday, 31 January 2020*

[Multimedia]

Dear brothers and sisters,

I cordially welcome you, participants in the first International Congress on the pastoral care of the elderly, "The richness of many years", organized by the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life, and I thank Cardinal Farrell for his kind words.

The "richness of many years" is a richness of people, of each individual person who has many years of life, experience and history behind them. It is the precious treasure that takes form in the journey of life of each man and woman, whatever their origins, provenance, and economic or social conditions. Life is a gift, and when it is long it is a privilege, for oneself and for others. Always, it is always this way.

In the twenty-first century, old age has become one of the distinctive features of humanity. Over a period of just a few decades, the demographic pyramid - which once rested upon a large number of children and young people and had at the top just a few elderly people - has been inverted. If once the elderly could have populated a small state, nowadays they could populate an entire continent. In this regard, the enormous presence of the elderly constitutes a novelty for every social and geographic environment worldwide. In addition, different seasons of life correspond to old age: for many, it is the age in which productive efforts cease, strength declines and the signs of illness, the need for help, and social isolation appear; but for many it is the beginning of a long period of psycho-physical well-being and freedom from work commitments.

Link to the entire Address:-

http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2020/january/documents/papa-francesco_20200131_congresso-pastoraleanziani.html





Pope Francis has asked our Holy Mother to come to our aid during this worldwide crisis

Oh Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you. Health of the sick.
At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain with steadfast faith.

You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need.
We are certain that you will provide as you did at Cana of Galilee,
Joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love
To conform ourselves to the Father's will
And to do what Jesus tells us.

He who took our sufferings upon Himself
And bore our sorrows bring us
through to the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection.

Amen

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.
Do not despise our plea – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from
every danger, O glorious and Blessed Virgin.





Children's Activity Page



- Saint Joseph -



www.CatholicPlayground.com

We please ask Ministry Leaders and members to submit pictures and stories of events, meetings and relevant happenings to info@catholicgrandparentsassociation.org





Resources, Ideas, Discussion Topics – March

4 Steps Grandparents Can Take When Relationships Are Broken

From: the article by the same name by Cavin Harper in Family Life (www.familylife.com/articles/topicsw/life-issues/relationships...4steps-grandparents-can-take-when-relationships-are-broken/)

- 1. Never Give up.** Never stop looking for opportunities to mend fences and reconnect with your children and grandchildren. Remember what is at stake – the grandchildren.
- 2. Pray.** It doesn't matter whether you are in a situation that seems hopeless or not, Grandparents on their knees praying for their grandchildren (and adult children) make a difference. Prayer is aligning your heart with the Father's.
- 3. Cultivate a trusting relationship with your grown children.**

Humility: Remember that pride and humility cannot coexist.
Forgiveness: Is reconciliation in your family worth the effort to lay aside your pride and hurt...and forgive?
Blessings: When you bless you act as a conduit of God's grace and truth that communicates high value, purpose and personal commitment that says, "I believe in you and value you."

- 4. Find appropriate ways to stay connected.**
 For younger grandchildren, use Skype or Facetime to stay connected as much as you can if you are long distance. Use LuvYaReader.com to record stories and messages for your grandchildren with your own voice. For grandchildren who are teens and young adults, using technology like texting allows you to send messages expressing encouragement and your interest in them. You can even include a Scripture verse from time to time.

Whatever the relationship with your grown children or grandchildren, there's too much at stake if Grandparents are not willing to fight for their grandchildren and adult children. Never stop praying, never stop trying, never give up. God never does.

Catholic Grandparents Association at St. Peter - Kirkwood
2019 CGA Pilgrimage
 Saturday, August 10
 9:00 am - 5:30 pm

ALL Grandkids, Adult or Child, with Grandparents are welcome!
 ALL Grandparents are welcome!
 Fr. Jack will enrich the day with his wealth of history as we:
 ★ Tour Historic Sainte Genevieve Catholic Church, Sainte Genevieve MO
 ★ Discover the Liberty Bell of the West, Kaskaskia IL
 ★ Lunch: Mary Jane's Burgers, Perryville MO
 ★ Group Reservations, Individual Payment
 ★ Tour the Shrine of the Miraculous Medal, Perryville, MO
 ★ Explore Fort De Chartres, near Prairie du Rocher IL
 Transportation via Air-Conditioned Bus, with Restroom
 Water & Light Snacks Provided!

Registration: \$25 Adult \$15 Child
 EARLY BIRD: \$20 Adult \$12 Child
 Register/Pay ON or BEFORE 7/17/19
 Go to stpeterkirkwood.org > Online Giving & Event Registration Under News

CGA St. Peter, Kirkwood, Missouri, US

Grandparents and ALL who love & pray for a child

Media for Grands & Grandchildren
 Using Technology to Form Faith

FORMED.ORG
 The Catholic Faith on demand!
 Get to know this wonderful resource;
 Please bring your Smartphone or iPad.

10:00 am Saturday Sept. 14, 2019 Location: Ursuline Hall Deutschmann Room

ALL are WELCOME!
 Catholic Grandparents Association - St. Peter, Kirkwood MO

Family Event for ALL!
Advent Bash
 6 - 7:30 pm
 Wednesday, November 13th
 Parish Dining Hall

Photos with Baby Jesus
 Fun Advent Craft Projects
 Visit with St. Nicholas
 Advent Candles - Heritage Girls
 Items & Books - Pauline Bookstore
 Catholic Grandparents Association - St. Peter, Kirkwood MO

For All Grandparents & Children with an Adult
 Join us for the children's movie
The Star
 10 - 11:30 am
 Saturday, December 14th
 Parish Dining Hall

This film tells an imaginative and sweet version of Jesus' birth - from the point of view of the animals - while remaining faithful to the biblical narrative.

Catholic Grandparents Association - St. Peter, Kirkwood MO

ALL are Invited!
Prayer Meeting
 10 - 11:30 am
 Saturday, January 11th
 Ursuline Hall

We will hold up our Children & Grandchildren in Prayer, Reflect on our Holy Vocation of Passing On The Faith, Offer Petitions, Recite the Rosary & Pope Benedict's Prayer for Grandparents

Catholic Grandparents Association - St. Peter, Kirkwood MO

Grandparents and ALL who love & pray for a child

Importance of Grandparents
 in the faith lives of their children & grandchildren

We will be viewing & discussing an excerpt from Fr. James Mallon's Grandparent Series with a focus on Long Distance Grandparenting.

10:00 am Saturday June 8, 2019 Location: Ursuline Hall

ALL are WELCOME!
 Catholic Grandparents Association - St. Peter, Kirkwood MO

For Discussion – What are your memories of Lent growing up?
 What prayer do you have for your Grandchildren this Lent?

CGA Ministry Leaders

By invitation only, we have a new Facebook Page for CGA Ministry Leaders only. Please request to be included in the closed group. The page will allow us to share prayer, ideas, events, etc.

[Catholic Grandparents Association Ministry Leaders](#)



CGA Ministry Leaders & Members

Our beautiful, exclusive new medal of Saint Joachim and Saint Anne with their grandson, Jesus is now available.

In Keeping with the charism which is the Catholic Grandparents Association, our exclusive medal has at its' center, the Child Jesus holding a Red rose representing the Blessed Virgin Mary as the Mystic rose. Jesus is surrounded by His Grandparents, St. Joachim and St. Anne so that together, three generations, Grandparents, parents and children are represented as one family symbolizing the communion of the Holy Trinity. Working with renowned arts and craftsmen in Rome, this exquisite design came to fruition after many years of searching for the image that would truly depict the beauty, selfless love and devotion that Grandparents have for their grandchildren. It is our hope that this beautiful image signifying God's plan for the sanctity and unity of familial generational bonds will bring great joy, encouragement and support to Grandparents in passing on their faith.



Sterling Silver - €20, \$20 *Silver Plated €10, \$10 *
Gold Plated - €10, \$10
Plus shipping, medal only

To order please visit our website or contact us at info@catholicgrandparentsassociation.org



Recently, in Rome, Catherine & Marilyn were able to meet in person the amazing Vatican artist, Daniela Longo, who designed our exclusive medal of St. Joachim & St. Anne with their grandson, Jesus. Daniela was presented with a crystal-mounted presentation medal of her work.



Forthcoming Events



July 25th 2020 - National Grandparents Pilgrimage – Shrine of Our Lady in Walsingham

September 13th 2020 – National Grandparents Pilgrimage – Shrine of Lady in Knock

In Remembrance of Grandparents who have been called home – forever in our hearts...

Weep Not For Me

Unknown Author

Weep not for me though I have gone
Into that gentle night
Grieve if you will, but not for long
Upon my soul's sweet flight

I am at peace, my soul's at rest
There is no need for tears
For with your love I was so blessed
For all those many years

There is no pain, I suffer not
The fear is now all gone
Put now these things out of your thoughts
In your memory I live on

Remember not my fight for breath
Remember not the strife
Please do not dwell upon my death
But celebrate my life



If you would like to send names of loved ones/members who you would like to have remembered in an issue contact us via our email address info@catholicgrandparentsassociation.com

Please print this newsletter and share it with friends

