



World Day  
for Grandparents  
and the Elderly  
2025

# CATHOLIC GRANDPARENTS ASSOCIATION

Celebrating the World Day for  
Grandparents & the Elderly

2021 to 2025





Dear Friends in Christ,

Greetings in this Jubilee Year of Hope!

As we prepare to celebrate the **5th World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly** on **27 July 2025**, I write with immense gratitude for your partnership over these past 25 years. Together, we have nurtured a living legacy in the universal Church—one that honors the irreplaceable vocation of Grandparents as pillars of faith, hope, and love.

This year's theme, "**Blessed are those who do not give up hope**" (cf. Sir 14:2) calls us to celebrate the steadfast witness of elders and to create new traditions that unite generations. To assist in planning your celebrations, we've attached **simple, adaptable resources**:

- - **Posters/flyers** for churches and homes.
- - **A grandchild's "Act of Love"** card (with promises to cherish Grandparents).
- - **A Grandparent's Blessing** (with Scripture and prayer).
- - **Newsletter inserts** (including details for the **National Grandparents Pilgrimage to Knock**).

**Three Ways to Participate:**

1. **Promote in Parish Newsletters** (especially in the 3 weeks before 27 July) to give Grandparents time to organize.
2. **Invite Families** to light a candle, share stories, or perform small acts of love (e.g., chores, letters, or memory jars).
3. **Highlight the Jubilee Indulgence** (granted to participants; a beautiful teaching moment for young and old alike).

This World Day is **not just one day**—it's an invitation to build habits of gratitude all year. Let us honor St. Joachim and St. Anne, Grandparents of Jesus, by creating traditions that teach children to cherish their elders' wisdom and sacrifice.

**Thank you** for walking with us these 25 years. Your support has made this universal celebration possible. May our efforts this year bear fruit for generations to come!

With love and prayers,

Catherine Wiley

Founder, Catholic Grandparents Association

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Catholic Grandparents Association  
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Charity number 20074104 Ireland - 501(c)(3) charitable organization in the US



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## World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly 2025

*Theme: "Blessed are those who have not lost hope"*

### Origins of the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

In 2021, Pope Francis—responding to the prayers and petitions of the **Catholic Grandparents Association (CGA)** and the promptings of the Holy Spirit—established the **World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly**, to be celebrated annually on the Sunday closest to the feast of Saints Joachim and Anne (July 26), the parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Grandparents of Jesus. In 2025, this day will be observed on **Sunday, 27 July**, a moment for the entire Church to honor the vocation of Grandparents and the Elderly as pillars of faith, hope, and love.

For **25 years**, the Catholic Grandparents Association (CGA) has been at the forefront of efforts to awaken the world to the sacred calling of Grandparents and their irreplaceable role in the family, the Church, and society. In 2017, the CGA began a prayerful campaign—rooted in years of quiet perseverance—to propose the creation of this World Day to the Holy See. We rejoice that this initiative, born of the Holy Spirit and nurtured by the fidelity of countless Grandparents, was embraced by Pope Francis in 2021 as a gift for the universal Church. Today, this World Day stands as a testament to the Lord's faithfulness and a summons to cherish the wisdom and witness of older generations.

The theme for 2025, "**Blessed Are Those Who Have Not Lost Hope**" (cf. Sir 14:2), honors the steadfast trust in God that Grandparents and the Elderly embody—often amid trials or loneliness. Their lives proclaim that hope in Christ is never in vain, and their prayers and sacrifices quietly sustain the Church's mission. The Church needs Grandparents, and Grandparents need the Church.

### **A Day of Prayer and Grace**

On this day, Grandparents and the Elderly are invited to unite with the Holy Father's intentions, offering their joys and sufferings for their families and the world. As a spiritual gift, the Apostolic Penitentiary grants a **plenary indulgence** (under the usual conditions) to those who participate in the World Day celebrations ([see enclosed details](#)). This World Day is a **fruit of the Church's growing recognition** of what the CGA has long proclaimed: Grandparents are not merely a "past" to remember, but a **living gift** and essential witnesses to the future of faith.

### **Grandparents never give up hope.**



CGA Founder, Catherine Wiley, with Pope Francis



CGA Members in Rome, for General Audience with Pope Leo XIV, 2025





## **Resources and Ideas for Dioceses**

### **Awareness & Promotion**

- - Pastoral letter or message from the Bishop affirming the vocation of Grandparents
- - Feature stories, photos, and testimonies in Diocesan newspapers and on social media
- - Promote and share Papal catechesis and reflections
- - Share logos and posters from the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life and CGA

### **Liturgical Celebrations**

- - Diocesan Mass celebrated by the Bishop
- - Bishop's blessing to all Grandparents and the Elderly
- - Intercessions and homilies focused on the vocation of Grandparents
- - Promote the Prayer for Grandparents by Pope Benedict XVI (available in 32 languages & Braille)
- - Promote the Plenary Indulgence

### **Faith-Inspired Events**

- - Organize Diocesan Pilgrimages for Grandparents and families
- - Host a Diocesan "Faith and Family" celebration with testimonies, music, and fellowship
- - Organize a Holy Hour, Rosary, or Novena for Grandparents
- - Diocesan art or essay contest on the theme
- - Family-friendly post-Mass gatherings





## **Resources and Ideas for Parishes**

### **Liturgical Ideas**

- - Celebrate a special Mass on 27 July honoring Grandparents and the Elderly
- - Include a special blessing for Grandparents and the Elderly
- - Distribute and/or print Pope Benedict's Prayer for Grandparents in Parish bulletin and Diocesan correspondence ([click here for Pope Benedict's prayer](#))
- - Offer intentions for living and deceased Grandparents
- - Highlight the Plenary Indulgence and invite participation ([click here for CGA resource](#))
- - Invite grandchildren to share testimonies

### **Devotional Opportunities**

- - Holy Hour, Rosary, or Novena dedicated to Grandparents ([click here for CGA Novena](#))
- - Children's Prayer Appeal: Invite children to write prayers for their Grandparents
  - Examples: Prayers displayed in the Church; Children recite their prayers during the Mass; Prayers placed on altar
- - Book of Prayer & Remembrance for intentions to be presented at Mass
- - Intergenerational, spiritual bouquets for Vocations. ([click here for CGA Vocations card](#))

### **Outreach and Fellowship**

- - Visit homebound Grandparents and residents in care homes
- - Parish essay or art contest on the theme
- - Plant a tree in honor or memory of Grandparents
- - Offer forget-me-not seeds or flowers as a gift
- - Establish a Phone Tree for prayer and outreach

### **Ongoing Ministry and Community Life Throughout the Year**

- - Create a Parish Ministry for Grandparents
- - Feature Grandparent stories and photos in bulletins or slideshows
- - Highlight the vocation of Grandparents in the bulletin
- - Organize intergenerational activities with teens and youth
- - Recognize special Grandparents at the Mass: oldest, most grandchildren, longest married, etc.
- - Host a parish 'Retreat for Grandparents and the Elderly'
- - Host intergenerational Tea/Coffee hour after Mass
- - Photo Booth for Grandparents and Elderly with grandchildren / children

For information on beginning a Ministry, organizing a Retreat for Grandparents, etc., email us at:  
[info@catholicgrandparentsassociation.org](mailto:info@catholicgrandparentsassociation.org)

*Let us honor, encourage, and support Grandparents and the Elderly—faithful stewards of tradition and hope.*

For downloadable resources, materials, and updated celebration ideas, visit:  
[www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org](http://www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org)





## Resources and Ideas for Families

### Family Ideas

- - Share a Family Meal
  - Include a special Grace for Grandparents & Elderly
  - Enjoy an after meal conversation with Grandparents and grandchildren
    - ([click here for CGA resource materials](#))
- - Light Candle in gratitude for and remembrance
  - ([click here for CGA Light a Candle poster / flyer](#))
- - Exchange CGA "Grandchild's Act of Love" Card (with promises to cherish Grandparents).
  - ([click here for CGA resource materials](#))
- - Exchange the CGA "Peace Offering" Card ([click here for CGA resource materials](#))
- - Plant a Grandparents or St. Joachim & St. Anne memorial Garden
  - ([click here for CGA Plant a Garden poster / flyer](#))
- - Plant a Tree in memory of a Grandparent or elderly family member
  - ([click here for CGA Plant a Garden poster / flyer](#))
- - Day of faith and fun for all the family
  - *For example: Bingo, Karaoke, sing along, trivia*
- - Blessing with Holy Water
- - Pray together for Vocations
  - ([click here for CGA Vocations prayer card](#))
  - Create and gift Spiritual Bouquet Cards for their parish Priest(s), Deacon(s), and Nun(s) in gratitude for their vocation.
    - ([click here for CGA Vocations Spiritual Boquet card](#))





### **Timeline for Diocesan, Parish, and Family Celebrations**

- Adapt timing to suit your Diocese, Parish or home context

#### **6 months to 3 weeks ahead: — "Planting the Seeds of Hope"**

- Share the World Day theme with your parish staff: "Blessed are those who have not lost hope" (Sir 14:2).
- Print and display CGA posters and prayer cards.
- Include an announcement in your weekly parish bulletin or e-newsletter.
- Begin promoting the Plenary Indulgence offered for participation in World Day activities.
- Invite families to share photos of their Grandparents for a bulletin collage or display board.
- At Masses, announce the coming celebration and encourage families to mark their calendars.
- Invite Key Leaders
  - Parish priests, coordinators, and lay elders gather to prayerfully begin local planning. Include intergenerational leaders in brainstorming.
  - Pastoral Reflection Prompt (for homily/team prayer):
  - "How does our parish currently uplift the elderly? Are there elders among us silently carrying faith through suffering?"

#### **3 months to 2 weeks ahead: — "Tending the Garden of Generations"**

- Organize a family storytelling event or intergenerational rosary night.
  - Hold a brief gathering in parish halls for elders to share short "moments of hope."
- Encourage children to write short "Thank you" letters or drawings for their Grandparents.
- Distribute the "Conversation Starters" handout for Grandparents and grandchildren.
- Begin the 9-day CGA Novena to St. Joachim and St. Anne in daily parish liturgies or online.
- Invite school or youth groups to create art or essays honoring Grandparents.
- Schedule a home blessing or anointing for elderly parishioners who are homebound.
- Begin a Parish Exhibit: "Faces of Hope"—Photos of parish elders with quotes.
- Offer a special blessing for Grandparents and elderly at Mass.
- Light a ceremonial candle during liturgy to symbolize intergenerational hope.
- Encourage families to create, and gift, intergenerational spiritual bouquets for vocations.
- Reminders via parish bulletin about special Mass on the 27 July.
- Home Visit Ministry Begins
  - Parish teams and youth bring the Pope's message, flowers, and prayer cards to homebound and elderly members.

#### **2 months to 1 week ahead: — "Harvesting Joy and Honor"**

- Prepare a dedicated space near the altar for families to light candles before or after Mass.
- If possible, display a "Grandparents Garden"—a memory board or floral arrangement.
- Encourage families to visit nursing homes or elderly parishioners with cards from children and caregivers.
- Prepare readers and lectors for any intercessions or readings honoring the elderly.
- Celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving in honor of Grandparents and the Elderly.
- Offer the Plenary Indulgence conditions clearly before Mass begins.
- Encourage families to light a candle at home and pray: "Lord, bless those who taught us to hope in You."
- End with a prayer to St. Joachim & St. Anne, patrons of all Grandparents.



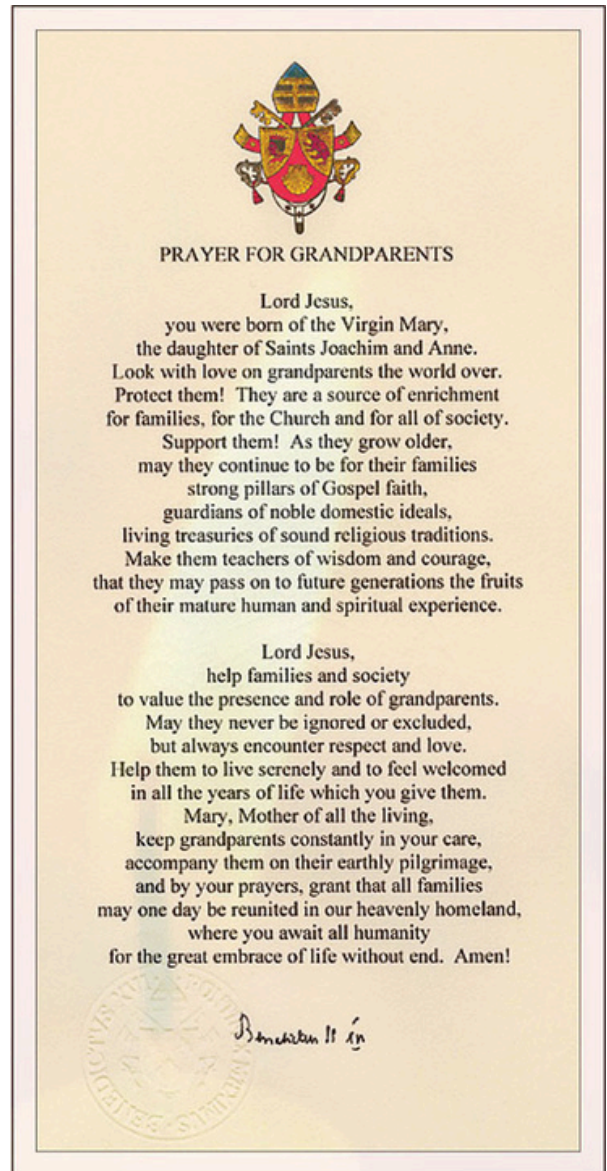


## Pope Benedict XVI's Prayer for Grandparents

Written at the request of the CGA in 2008.

Lord Jesus,  
you were born of the Virgin Mary,  
the daughter of Saints Joachim and Anne.  
Look with love on Grandparents the world over.  
Protect them! They are a source of enrichment  
for families, for the Church and for all of society.  
Support them! As they grow older,  
may they continue to be for their families  
strong pillars of Gospel faith,  
guardians of noble domestic ideals,  
living treasuries of sound religious traditions.  
Make them teachers of wisdom and courage,  
that they may pass on to future generations the fruits  
of their mature human and spiritual experience.

Lord Jesus,  
help families and society  
to value the presence and role of Grandparents.  
May they never be ignored or excluded,  
but always encounter respect and love.  
Help them to live serenely and to feel welcomed  
in all the years of life which you give them.  
Mary, Mother of all the living,  
keep Grandparents constantly in your care,  
accompany them on their earthly pilgrimage,  
and by your prayers, grant that all families  
may one day be reunited in our heavenly homeland,  
where you await all humanity  
for the great embrace of life without end. Amen!



*Note: the Prayer for Grandparents is available on our website, in multiple languages,  
for downloading and printing: [www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org](http://www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org)*






## CGA Resource Materials

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## **CGA Resources Overview and Suggestions**

### **1. Newsletter / Bulletin Insert ([click here](#))**

- A short article to include in parish bulletins or newsletters

### **2. Plenary Indulgence Information ([click here](#))**

- Explains how Catholics can obtain a Plenary Indulgence and Jubilee Indulgence on World Day
  - Use Ideas & Suggestions:
    - Announce at Masses leading up to July 27
    - Include a printed summary in newsletters, bulletins or displayed in Parish Narthex

### **3. Posters / Flyers - Light A Candle, Plant a Garden, Plant a Tree ([click here](#))**

- Visual materials to promote the World Day and CGA's message
  - Use Ideas & Suggestions:
    - Display in parish entrances, schools, and Catholic gift shops
    - Use in newsletters, websites, and social media graphics
    - Send home with school children to engage families

### **4. CGA World Day Novena ([click here](#))**

- A 9-day prayer from July 18–26 focusing on various intentions related to Grandparents, families, and the Church
  - Use Ideas & Suggestions:
    - Incorporate into daily Mass, Rosary, or Holy Hour
    - Email one intention per day to the parish email list
    - Invite families to pray the Novena together at home

### **5. Conversation Starters for Grandparents and Grandchildren ([click here](#))**

- Double-sided prompts—questions Grandparents can ask grandchildren, and vice versa
  - Use Ideas & Suggestions:
    - Print and distribute during school religion classes or parish family events
    - Include with “Act of Love” cards or at intergenerational events
    - Set out on tables during parish teas, coffee hours, or family meals

### **6. Act of Love Card / Prayer Card ([click here](#))**

- A keepsake card for children to write promises or notes to their Grandparents
  - Use Ideas & Suggestions:
    - Distribute during Mass on July 27, especially by children.
    - Share in Catholic schools, Religious classes, and Vacation Bible School with a short activity
    - Include in family mailers with instructions to return them to a Grandparent or Elderly friend

### **7. Peace Offering Card ([click here](#))**

- A simple prayerful card to bring peace between generations.
  - Use Suggestions:
    - Offer during reconciliation services or healing liturgies
    - Use in family therapy or parish counseling contexts
    - Distribute to families experiencing division or seeking reconciliation
    - Encourages children to make the first move towards Peace



## **CGA Resources Overview and Recommendations Continued**

### **8. Grandparent's Blessing Card ([click here](#))**

- Prayer and Scripture for Grandparents to share with family.
  - Use Suggestions:
    - Distribute after the special blessing at Mass
    - Include in parish welcome packets for new families with older members
    - Display during home visits or elder care outreach

### **9. Vocations Prayer Card ([click here](#))**

- A prayer card for seminarians, religious vocations, and of the Church (Priests, Nuns, Deacons, and lay faithful) inviting children and grandchildren to discern their own calling.
  - Use Suggestions:
    - Distribute at CGA gatherings, vocation fairs, or parish events
    - Share in Sunday bulletins or parish mailings, especially during Vocations Awareness Week
    - Use in schools or religious education settings to spark conversation about vocation
    - Leave in church vestibules or adoration chapels for private prayer

### **10. Vocations Spiritual Bouquet Card ([click here](#))**

- A spiritual bouquet card for Grandparents, families, and grandchildren to offer prayers of gratitude for Priests, Deacons, and religious—and to nurture hope for future vocations.
  - Use Suggestions:
    - Grandparents, Parents, children, and grandchildren can each contribute their own intentions (a prayer, act of service, or sacrifice) as part of a shared bouquet
    - Use in schools or religious education settings to spark conversation about vocation
    - Leave in church vestibules or adoration chapels for private prayer
    - Display bouquets during parish liturgies or school Masses as a visual symbol of prayerful support for vocations
    - Distribute with the **Vocations Prayer Card** as a companion tool

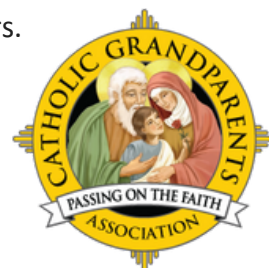
### **11. Incorporate, or Supplement, with Your Own Ideas**

- We welcome and are grateful for all your ideas and suggestions
- Customize materials with your parish logo or message if desired

### **Additional Tips**

- All materials can be downloaded at: [www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org](http://www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org) \*\*\*
- Use printed versions for those without digital access—especially elderly parishioners.

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## Grandparents Never Give Up; a Jubilee of Hope

This year has been designated a Jubilee Year of Hope — and it is also a Jubilee Year (25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary) for the **Catholic Grandparents Association**. As the National Grandparents Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine on 27th July approaches, coinciding with the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, the Church stands at a vital moment in its history.

In an increasingly secularised world where individualism threatens the very fabric of family life, Grandparents have never been more essential. This special day exists because of faithful Irish Grandparents. In 2017, gathered at the holy Shrine of Knock, in Ireland, they began a year of prayer asking Pope Francis to establish a World Day for Grandparents. Not only did he grant their request, but he also included the Elderly. This spiritual legacy, born from Irish Grandparents' prayers and devotion, has now spread worldwide and is honoured in dioceses and parishes everywhere.

Today's Grandparents face challenges unimaginable to previous generations: complex family structures, strained relationships, threats to life at its beginning and end, and a culture that dismisses faith as something of the past. Grandparents know better: faith is a treasure for today and tomorrow, and it is their sacred duty to pass it on.

In this spiritual battle, Grandparents remain God's secret weapon — the quiet, persistent force keeping families anchored in truth, the glue that holds them together when all else falls apart. While others may stand by, Grandparents never do. They love deeply, pray fervently, and hold fast to what others have forgotten: that faith, wisdom, and life's experience are gifts that cannot be replaced by social media or artificial intelligence.

At Knock, they gather to honour Saints Joachim and Anne, the parents of Mary and Grandparents of Jesus. Here they find strength, courage, and confidence in one another's witness and prayers. It is a place where miracles have happened in families and in the Church, emanating from Grandparents' faith.

This pilgrimage is their annual rallying cry — a chance to stand together against the tide of secularism, to renew their promise to pass on the faith, and to shine their light out to the world. This is their day, when they gather together in love, faith, and hope — a living legacy that now reaches parishes and dioceses worldwide. Grandparents never give up hope, and they never will.

Families are encouraged to mark this day not only in the Church but also at home, uniting in prayer and gratitude for all that Grandparents do.

"Grandparents never give up hope."

May Saints Joachim and Anne, parents of Mary, Grandparents of Jesus, bless Grandparents everywhere.

Resources and the Grandparents' Prayer are available at [www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org](http://www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org).



**GRANDPARENTS AND ELDERLY: JOIN US AT KNOCK SHRINE!**

**SUNDAY 27 JULY AT 2:30 PM**

**CELEBRATE THE NATIONAL GRANDPARENTS PILGRIMAGE AND THE WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY. A DAY OF GRACE, BLESSING AND PRAYER FOR FAMILIES, OUR CHURCH, AND OUR FUTURE.**

**ALL ARE WELCOME  
BRING YOUR FAMILY - BRING HOPE AND JOY**

**ANNOINTING  
MASS  
ROSARY (WEATHER PERMITTING)**

**CELEBRANT ARCHBISHOP FRANCIS DUFFY  
MUSIC UNA NOLAN AND CHOIRS  
GUEST SOLOIST DANA**

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR RESOURCES:  
[www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org](http://www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org).**







## Plenary Indulgence

A **Plenary Indulgence** is the complete removal of all **temporal punishment** due for sins that have already been forgiven. It does **not forgive sins** (that happens in Confession), but it removes the **spiritual consequences** or effects of those sins — like a healing of the soul's wounds.

To receive a **Plenary Indulgence**, a person must:

- - Be in a **State of Grace**
- - Go to **Confession**
- - Receive **Holy Communion**
- - Pray for the **Pope's intentions**
- - Be **truly repentant** and free from sin, even venial sin
- - Do the **indulged act**
  - - For Example: performing a '**work of mercy**' on a Jubilee year (2025)





## **Jubilee Indulgence: A Special Invitation for Grandparents & the Elderly**

### **A Jubilee of Hope and Mercy**

The Jubilee Year 2025, called by **Pope Francis** and lovingly carried forward by **Pope Leo XIV**, is a sacred time when the Church invites all the faithful to rediscover God's boundless mercy. A key sign of that mercy is the **Jubilee Indulgence**—a spiritual grace that brings forgiveness of sins and a renewal of hope, both for ourselves and for the souls in Purgatory.

### **What Is a Jubilee Indulgence?**

An indulgence is the remission of the temporal consequences of sin, granted by the Church through Christ's saving power. During the Jubilee, this indulgence is offered as a "Jubilee grace," a way to experience God's love more deeply.

### **Actions that Merit the Jubilee Indulgence**

Ways to gain the Jubilee Indulgence include:

- - Making a pilgrimage to a designated Jubilee site
  - For example: a papal basilica, cathedral, or local shrine
- - Participating in Holy Mass, the Rosary, the Via Crucis, or Eucharistic Adoration at a sacred place
- - Performing spiritual or corporal works of mercy
  - For example: visiting the elderly, the sick, or prisoners
- - Acts of penance
  - For example: fasting, digital or consumer abstinence, charitable donations

### **Especially for Grandparents and the Elderly**

In his **2025 Message for the World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly**, **Pope Leo XIV** has called Grandparents and the elderly "**the first witnesses of hope.**" Their faith, experience, and perseverance make them signs of God's ongoing work across generations. In the spirit of the Jubilee, the Church emphasizes that Grandparents and the elderly are not forgotten—they are essential to the Church's life and mission

Even if they cannot make a pilgrimage or attend special events, the Church assures them: you can still fully receive the Jubilee indulgence

### **How?**

- - Reciting the Our Father, Creed, and prayers in unity with the Jubilee
- - Offering up their daily hardships, illness, or solitude with trust in God
- - Spiritually joining in celebrations, even through television, radio, or online
- - Receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion, with help from chaplains, family, or pastoral ministers



## **Jubilee Indulgence: A Special Invitation for Grandparents & the Elderly *Continued***

### **Practical Application for Parishes and Communities**

To support World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly and facilitate indulgence participation:

- - Organize celebrations on July 27
- - Ensure access to the Sacraments for homebound individuals
- - Promote visits to elderly persons living alone as acts of mercy
- - Distribute sacred images, prayers, or reminders of the Jubilee



### **References**

1. Pope Leo XIV, Message for the Fifth World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, June 26, 2025. Vatican.va. <https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/messages/grandparents/documents/20250626-messaggio-nonni-anziani.html>
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3. Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life, Jubilee Celebration Guide, 2025. <https://www.laityfamilylife.va/content/dam/laityfamilylife/Eventi/GMNA2025/Celebrazione%20Giubilare-GMNA-EN-2025.pdf>
4. Jubilee 2025, How to Obtain the Plenary Indulgence, May 15, 2024. Iubilaeum2025.va. <https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en/notizie/comunicati/2024/giubileo-norme-ottenere-indulgenza-plenaria.html>



# NATIONAL GRANDPARENTS PILGRIMAGE 2025

CELEBRATING THE WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS & THE ELDERLY

THEME: 'Blessed are those who have not lost hope' (cf. Sir 14, 2)

Sunday 27 July 2025

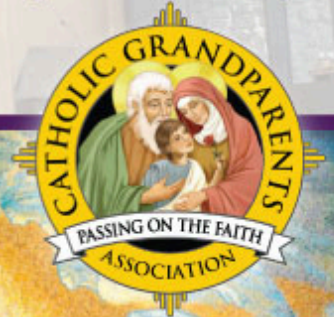


Photo credit: Sinead Mallee

- Chief Celebrant Archbishop Francis Duffy
- Choirs and Music by director Una Nolan:
- Special Guest Dana Rosemay Scallon.
- Anointing of the Sick in the Basilica - 2:30pm
- Holy Sacrament of Mass - 3:00pm
- Rosary Procession after Mass outside (weather permitting)
- Childrens Prayer appeal inviting all children to write a prayer for their grandparents, send it or bring to the CGA Knock Shrine

*Organise transport with your local parish.*

World Day  
for Grandparents  
and the Elderly  
**2025**



**Plenary Indulgence granted for the occasion**

THOSE UNABLE TO JOIN US IN PERSON CAN TAKE PART ONLINE AT [WWW.KNOCKSHRINE.IE/WATCH](http://WWW.KNOCKSHRINE.IE/WATCH)  
[www.knockshrine.ie](http://www.knockshrine.ie) - Telephone: +353 (0) 94 938 8100





World Day  
for Grandparents  
and the Elderly

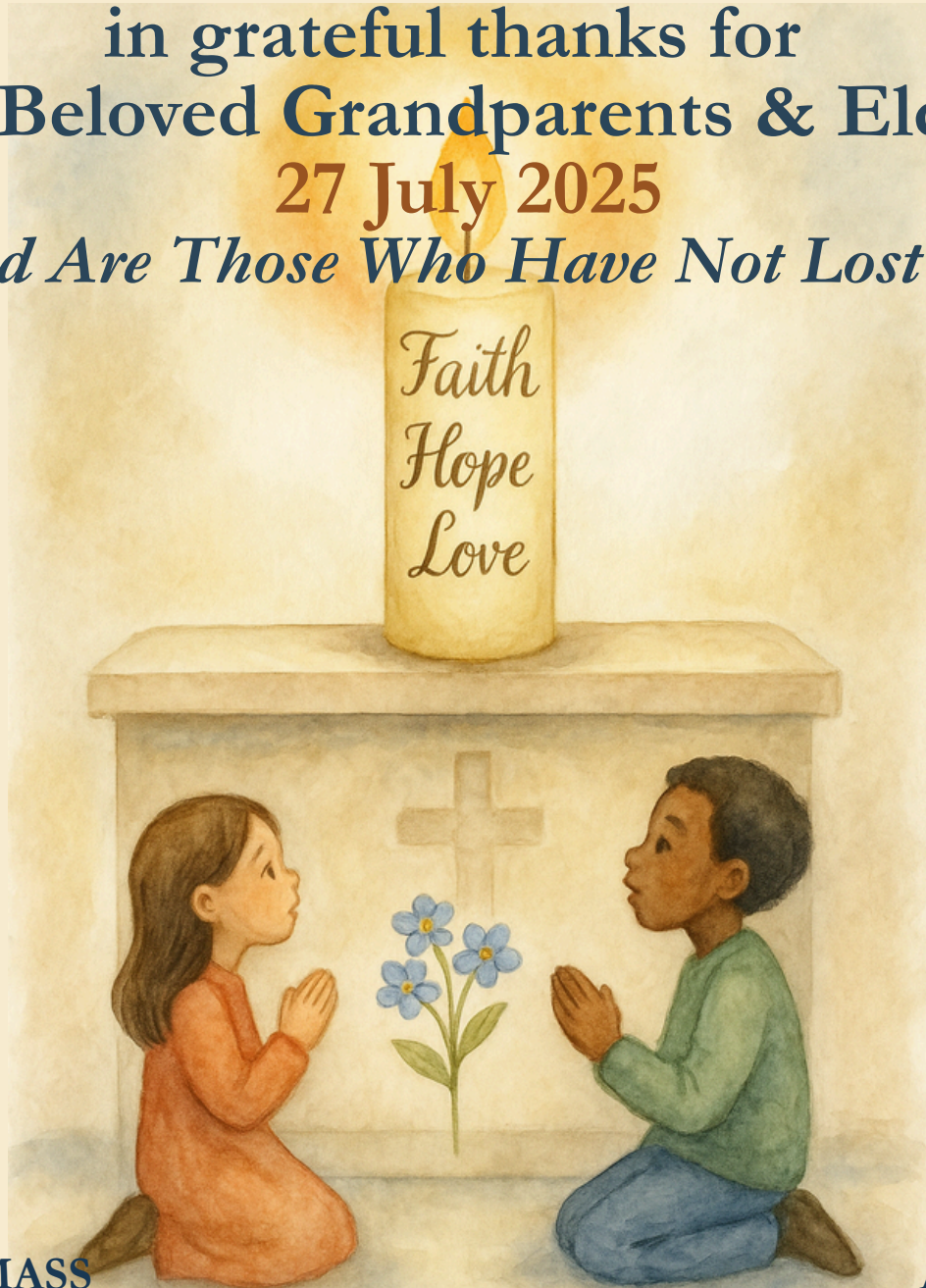
# LIGHT A CANDLE

in grateful thanks for

Our Beloved Grandparents & Elderly

27 July 2025

*Blessed Are Those Who Have Not Lost Hope*



## DURING MASS

invite families to light a candle for all Grandparents and the Elderly—honoring their fidelity, prayers, and love. Place a dedicated candle near the altar or Marian shrine.

## AT HOME

light a candle in gratitude for living Grandparents and the Elderly or in memory of those who have passed. Pray together: “Lord, bless those who taught us to hope in You.”



**GRANDPARENTS NEVER GIVE UP HOPE**





World Day  
for Grandparents  
and the Elderly

# PLANT A GARDEN

in memory of  
Our Beloved Grandparents & Elderly  
27 July 2025



**THE CATHOLIC GRANDPARENTS ASSOCIATION  
IS INVITING FAMILIES TO PLANT A GARDEN IN  
MEMORY OF ALL GRANDPARENTS AND  
ELDERS WHO ARE NO LONGER WITH US.**

**JOIN US TO MARK THIS MOMENTOUS  
OCCASION IN THE LIVES OF GRANDPARENTS  
AND THE ELDERLY.**







World Day  
for Grandparents  
and the Elderly

# PLANT A TREE

in memory of  
Our Beloved Grandparents & Elderly  
27 July 2025



**THE CATHOLIC GRANDPARENTS ASSOCIATION  
IS INVITING FAMILIES TO PLANT A TREE IN  
THANKSGIVING FOR ALL GRANDPARENTS AND  
ELDERS AND IN MEMORY OF THOSE WHO ARE  
NO LONGER WITH US.**

**JOIN US TO MARK THIS MOMENTOUS  
OCCASION IN THE LIVES OF GRANDPARENTS  
AND THE ELDERLY.**





## CGA World Day Novena

*July 27 is the Memorial Day*

*of Saint Joachim and Saint Anne, parents of Mary, Grandparents of Jesus*

Join with us in preparation for the celebration of the Memorial Day by praying this Novena in honor of our heavenly Patrons. Each day we will pray about a different aspect of our lives as Grandparents and Grandchildren, pray one 'Our Father', one 'Hail Mary', one 'Glory Be' and Pope Benedict's Prayer for Grandparents. We conclude by asking for the intercession of St. Joachim and St. Anne.

### **Day 1**

**Today we pray for the Universal Church**



\*For Pope Francis, Bishops, Priests, Deacons, Religious and Laity

\*For Vocations

\*That the vocation of Grandparents to pass on the faith is recognized and honored by all.

#### **PRAY:**

*Our Father*

*Hail Mary*

*Glory Be*

*Pope Benedict's Prayer for Grandparents. ([click here](#))*

*St. Joachim and Saint parents of Mary, Grandparents of Jesus, pray for us*

## Day 2

### Today we pray for our Families



\*That their homes become places of prayer and centers of spiritual formation. \*For the healing of divisions and misunderstandings.

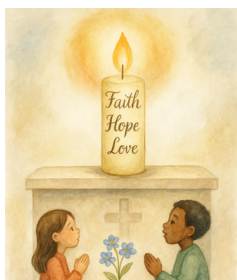
\*That our homes reflect our faith, hope and love.

*Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be . . .Prayer for Grandparents. St. Joachim and St. Anne pray for us*

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## Day 3

### Today we pray for our Grandparents alive and in Heaven



\*In thanksgiving for what they have done for us and continue to do – in handing down to us the precious gift of faith. \*That they may be encouraged, valued and in good health.

\*That they have courage and continue to grow in their own spiritual lives.

*Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be . . .Prayer for Grandparents. St. Joachim and St. Anne pray for us*

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## Day 4

### Today we pray for ourselves



\*That we deepen our own personal lives of faith as role models and evangelizers.

\*That we remain steadfast and encouraged in our vocation as Catholic Grandparents.

\*That we be filled with peace, love and grace.

*Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be . . .Prayer for Grandparents. St. Joachim and St. Anne pray for us*

## Day 5

### Today we pray for our Educators/ Leaders



\*For our teachers, catechists and everyone who has helped bring us to this point in our spiritual lives.  
\*Pray for people of faith and those who have no faith that they're renewed in the love, peace and mercy of Jesus.

\*That our world leaders and legislators make wise decisions that foster peace and goodwill in our countries and communities.

*Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be . . .Prayer for Grandparents. St. Joachim and St. Anne pray for us*

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## Day 6

### Today we pray for our Elderly



\*That they may have peace of mind always.

\*That those who are depressed, lonely and bereaved may find comfort.

\*That those who care for the elderly and sick – have hearts and hands of love.

*Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be . . .Prayer for Grandparents. St. Joachim and St. Anne pray for us*

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## Day 7

### Today we pray for our Grandchildren both living and in Heaven



\*That they may always feel our love and prayers, especially those in most need.

\*For those who are separated from us by distance or disagreement.

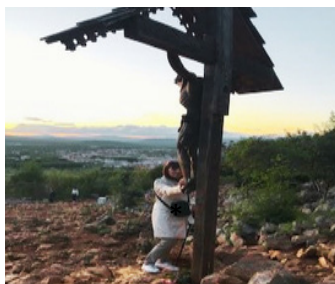
\*That they're filled with God's unconditional love from the Sacraments and the friendship of Jesus.

*Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be . . .Prayer for Grandparents. St. Joachim and St. Anne pray for us*



## Day 8

Today we pray for our own personal intentions



For those intentions deep in our hearts . . . for family, friends, neighbors.

\*That we may be forgiven for any hurt we may have caused and that we forgive those who have hurt us.

\*That our homes become domestic churches full of prayer, love and peace.

*Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be . . .Prayer for Grandparents. St. Joachim and St. Anne pray for us*

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## Day 9

Today we pray for our loved ones in Heaven



Loving God we lift up to you all who have gone before us - Grandparents, Parents, Children, Grandchildren, Siblings, Friends, and Neighbors, Those with no one to pray for them. May they rest in your mercy. Thank you for their love, their sacrifices, and the courage they showed. Help us to honor their legacy by living their same faith with joy.

External rest grant them oh Lord and perpetual light shine upon them.

*Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be . . .Prayer for Grandparents. St. Joachim and St. Anne pray for us*



**The Memorial of Saint Joachim and Saint Anne, July 27**  
**Saint Joachim and Saint Anne, Bless all Families**



## Conversation Starters for Catholic Grandparents to Ask Grandchildren

### Questions Grandparents Can Ask Their Grandchildren

These are designed to spark storytelling, imagination, and faith-sharing with children or teens. Can be adapted for different ages and interests.

### Everyday Life & Joy

1. What's the best part of your day lately?
2. If you could have any superpower, what would it be?
3. Who is your best friend, and what do you like to do together?
4. What holiday do you enjoy celebrating the most, and why?
5. What's something that made you laugh recently?

### Faith & Prayer

1. Do you have a favorite saint or Bible story?
2. Where does God live?
3. How do you know there is a God?
4. When do you feel closest to God?
5. What do you need to ask God for?
6. What's your favorite prayer?
7. Do you like going to Mass? What's your favorite part?
8. Who needs our prayers? Is there anything you'd like to pray for together?

### Hopes, Dreams & Growing Up

1. What do you want to be when you grow up?
2. What's something you're really good at?
3. Is there something new you'd like to try this year?
4. What's something that makes you feel brave?
5. If you could change the world, what would you do?





## Conversation Starters for Catholic Grandparents & Grandchildren - Continued

### **Questions Grandchildren Can Ask Their Grandparents**

These invite wisdom, storytelling, and connection with faith and family history.

#### **Life Stories & Lessons**

1. What is one of your favorite memories from childhood?
2. What was school like when you were my age?
3. Did you have any brothers or sisters? What were they like?
4. What are you most proud of in your life?
5. Did you ever get into trouble as a kid?

#### **Faith & Catholic Traditions**

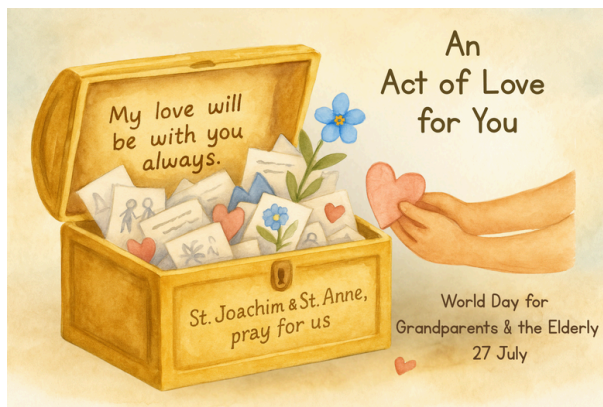
1. Who taught you how to pray?
2. What was your First Communion or Confirmation like?
3. Do you have a favorite saint or prayer?
4. How has your faith helped you in hard times?
5. What's something you'd like me to know about God?

#### **Family & Fun**

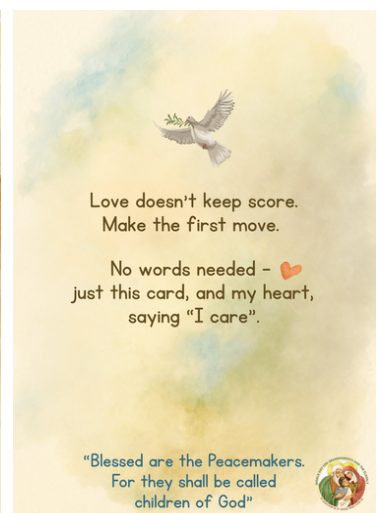
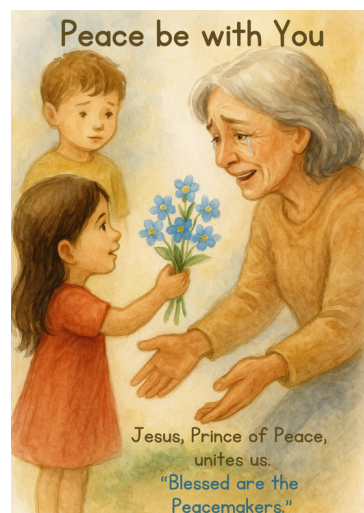
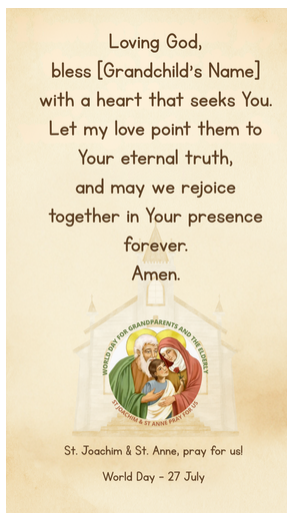
1. How did you meet Grandma/Grandpa?
2. What was your favorite meal or recipe growing up?
3. What traditions do you hope we keep in the family?
4. What games or toys did you love as a child?
5. What's something about your life you've never told anyone?





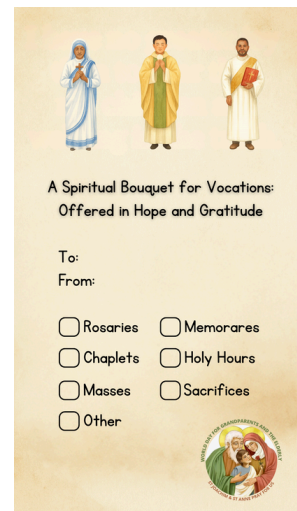
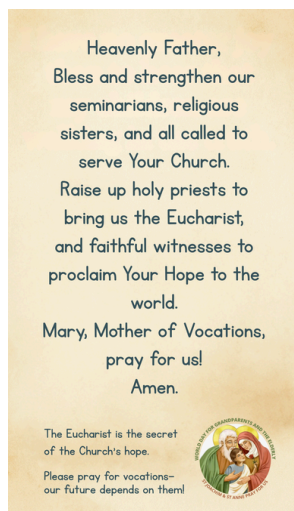
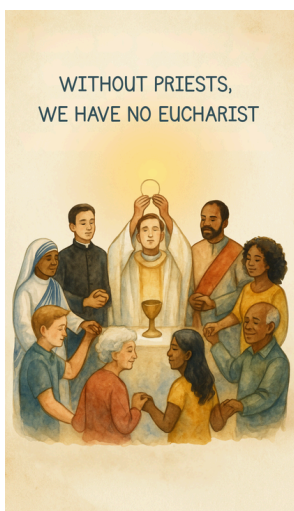


### - A grandchild's "Acts of Love" card (with promises to cherish Grandparents)



### - A Grandparent's Blessing

### - A Grandchild's Peace Card (with Scripture )



### -Vocations Prayer Card

### -Spiritual Bouquet for Vocations

*Note: these and other resources (including prayer cards, banners, & more) will be available on our website for downloading and printing: [www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org](http://www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org)*



***Jubilee Pilgrims of Hope  
Prayer from Pope Francis***

[\(Click here to view the Prayer on the Jubilee website\)](#)

Father in heaven,  
may the **faith** you have given us  
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,  
and the flame of **charity** enkindled  
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,  
reawaken in us the blessed **hope**  
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us  
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.  
May those seeds transform from within both  
humanity and the whole cosmos  
in the sure expectation  
of a new heaven and a new earth,  
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,  
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee  
reawaken in us, **Pilgrims of Hope**,  
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread  
the joy and peace of our Redeemer  
throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,  
be glory and praise for ever.

Amen

– Pope Francis





World Day  
for Grandparents  
and the Elderly  
2025

***Prayer for the Fifth World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly***

**'Blessed are those who have not lost hope'**  
(Sir 14:2)

How beautiful are these words of yours, Lord!  
Help us to continue our pilgrimage  
through time,  
animated by the hope that comes from You!  
Help us in this divisive world,  
to bring the hope of communion.  
Help us in this world, wounded by wars,  
to bring the hope of peace.  
Help us in this world, which is dehumanizing,  
to bring the beauty of an ancient smile.  
Help us to be, for our grandchildren,  
for our loved ones  
and for everyone we meet,  
the memory of your tenderness.  
Help us to bring,  
in a world distracted from You,  
the Hope of a new life that only You can give!

For in You, Lord, nothing is lost  
For in You, Lord, everything begins again!

Amen.



**Fifth World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly**

**'Blessed are those who have not lost hope' (Sir 14:2)**

The first Message of Pope Leo XIV for the *World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly*, whose fifth edition will be celebrated on Sunday, 27 July 2025, was published today. The theme of the Message is **"Blessed are those who have not lost hope (Sir 14:2)"** and fits into the context of the Jubilee of Hope 2025.

In the Message, the Holy Father invites us to recognise the elderly not only as recipients of pastoral care, but as witnesses of hope who are active protagonists in the life of the Church.

[Click Here to View Pope Leo XIV's Full Message](#)



## World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

### ***Excerpts from the Dicastery for Laity Family and Life***

[\(Click here to view on the Dicastery website\)](#)

#### **History of World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly.**

Since 2021, the Day has been celebrated throughout the Church every fourth Sunday of July, around the liturgical commemoration of Saints Joachim and Anne, Jesus' "Grandparents."

The Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life supports and promotes this celebration and invites people to experience the event -in every diocese, parish and church reality - by carrying out two significant actions: the celebration of a solemn liturgy together with Grandparents and the elderly, and visits to the lonely elderly in one's own community.



#### **IV World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly**

Sunday, 28 July 2024

The theme chosen by the Holy Father is "Do not cast me off in my old age" (cf. Psalm 71:9) [Read all >](#)



23-07-2023

#### **III World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly**

Sunday, 23 July 2023

«His mercy is from age to age» (Lk. 1:50) is the theme chosen by the Holy Father for the III World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly [Read all >](#)



24-07-2022

#### **Second World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly**

Sunday, July 24, 2022

The theme chosen by the Holy Father for the occasion is "In old age they will still bear fruit" (Psalm 92:15) [Read all >](#)



25-07-2021

#### **World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly**

Every year on the fourth Sunday of July

"This is the first fruit of the Amoris Laetitia Family Year, a gift to the whole Church that is destined to continue into the future..." [Read all >](#)

Dicastery for  **Laity Family and Life**



Dear Friends,

Thank you for helping make this world day for Grandparents and the Elderly truly special.

These resources are just the beginning- imagine what we can build together!

Consider starting a Grandparents Ministry in your Parish: a place to share faith, hope, and joy across generations. Whether it's a monthly meet-up, a prayer group, a Faith Cafe, a simple coffee morning, every step strengthens families and honors God's gift of long life.

Let's work together to keep this love alive all year! Share your ideas with us. May God bless your celebrations - wherever they unfold. If you are in Ireland we welcome you to our National Grandparents Pilgrimage at Our Lady of Knock on the 27<sup>th</sup> of July starting at 2:30 or join us online so we can pray together, share together, and hope together for the grace to embrace our vocation - and pass on our faith to future generations.

May St. Joachim and St. Anne, parents of Mary, Grandparents of Jesus, bless us all.

With love and prayers,

*Catherine Wiley*

Catherine Wiley

Founder, Catholic Grandparents Association



CGA Member greeted by Pope Leo XIV  
Rome 2025

Catholic Grandparents Association  
Email: [info@catholicgrandparentsassociation.com](mailto:info@catholicgrandparentsassociation.com)  
Web: [www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org](http://www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org)

Archbishop Francis Duffy, Archbishop of Tuam - Patron of Catholic Grandparents Association  
Charity number 20074104 Ireland - 501(c)(3) charitable organization in the US