

CATHOLIC GRANDPARENTS ASSOCIATION
GRANDPARENTS NEWS



Helping Grandparents to pass on the faith & to keep prayer at the heart of family life

A Message from the Founder

Greetings Grandparents and Friends

We bring you heartfelt wishes of faith, hope and love, during this beautiful holy season of Advent. We would like to thank you all for your continued support over this past year. It means so much to know that you are supporting us with your prayers and resources, whether spiritual, financial, or with your very valuable time.

We would like to thank our Patron Archbishop Neary, our bishops, Chaplains priests, deacons, and our volunteers and members. Without your help and encouragement we would not be able to help Grandparents to pass on the faith and keep prayer at the heart of family life. The Christian family, which is called to be a domestic church, is of great importance to the Church and our society. In it, all its members are called by God to build a home of faith and love, making sure that all generations do their utmost to help their family grow in holiness and according to the model of the Holy Family of Nazareth.

It is for this reason that Catholic Grandparents Association aims to inspire all Grandparents to assist parents in the Christian upbringing of their children, beginning with their own homes and from there, spreading the Kingdom of God to inspire all Christians to always look forward to the coming of Christ and to share in the ancient longing for the Messiah.

Through our work, we therefore, hope to be given every possible opportunity to bring our faith back to the centre of our family life, and from there, to the world at large. Let us prepare a way for Christ within our hearts. Let us begin with acts of prayer and faith at home and in the family; with works of charity and mercy from within the domestic space and beyond. May our hearts be focused only upon the Incarnate Son of God, Christ our Lord, Who is to come.

To end, may I now take this opportunity to wish you and all your families a truly holy, joyous and faith-filled Christmas

May St Joachim and St. Anne bless you, your children and your Grandchildren.

Catherine Wiley

Grandmother and founder
of the Catholic Grandparents Association



*There is a candle lighting for your intentions
at the Shrines of our Lady of Walsingham,
and Knock in Ireland*



*Happy
Birthday
Catherine

*Many Happy
Returns to
Our Founder
Catherine
Wiley
22nd
December
2015*

Let no one ever come
to you without leaving
better and happier.
Be the living
expression of God's
kindness in your face,
kindness in your eyes,
kindness in your smile.

People often
forget that
Kindness
is free.



Christ summons the Church, as
she goes on her pilgrim way ...
to continual reformation of which
she always has need in so far as
she is a human
institution here on earth.

Pope Francis quoting Vatican 11



Best wishes to the Grandparents!

For September 28th, grandchildren all over the world wanted to celebrate the day dedicated to senior citizens with messages expressing love and gratitude

The initiative launched on the occasion of Pope Francis' encounter with grandparents and the elderly, "Auguri, nonni!"—Best wishes to the grandparents!—, has been a great success. Many grandchildren sent messages by e-mail, on Facebook, Twitter and the site Rai Ragazzi, expressing extraordinary affection to their grandparents.

The Family's Thermometer

Pope Francis at the General Audience: "If there is no talk at the table but everyone watches TV or their smartphone, then the family is 'hardly a family'"



"Conviviality is a reliable thermometer to measure the health of the relationships: if there is something wrong in a family, or if there is a hidden wound, it soon becomes clear at table." Pope Francis said this yesterday morning in St. Peter's Square at the beginning of the General Audience. "Sharing and knowing how to share—he continued—is a precious virtue! Its symbol, its 'icon,' is the family gathered around the table at home. Sharing a meal—and then, in addition to the food, also suffering, stories, events...—is a fundamental experience. When there's a party, a birthday, an anniversary, we meet around the table. In some cultures, it is even a custom to do so when mourning, in order to be close to those in sorrow because of the loss of a family member."

"A family that almost never eats together at the table or, when it does, does not speak but watches TV or the smartphone—said Pope Francis—, this family is 'hardly a family.' When the children at the table are attached to their computer, to the cell phone, and do not listen to each other, this is not a family; it is a boarding house."

Coping with Christmas family stress

Christmas can be a stressful time of year with all the emotional and emotive things flying around. From family relationships to financial difficulties, it can be hard to get hold of the festive spirit. Balancing all of the things that come with Christmas isn't always an easy task, but if you are having a hard time or think you might be this Christmas, you can hopefully take heart in knowing that you aren't alone.



Competitive grandparents

It's not easy to be even-handed amongst grandchildren at the best of times. But how to manage when you have someone in the same position competing to outdo you?

"My grandchildren's 'other' grandma is unbelievably competitive. She is so determined to be the most popular grandma that she spends a fortune on toys, clothes, holidays and activities for them. I know there is an element of competition in it (rather than just the usual wish to spoil grandkids) because if we ever give the kids anything that takes their fancy, you can bet that a week later, she has bought them the deluxe gold-plated version!"

The only way to deal with it is to opt out and try not to get involved in the back-and-forth.

"Early on, I took a conscious decision NOT to enter this particular competition and to do with the children what I enjoy (and I hope they do)."

In any case, if your aim is to be the most important to them emotionally, there are plenty of other things that are more important. "Don't play the game! Children are not stupid and they know. What counts is the amount of time with them, playing with them, reading to them, listening to them and understanding them - that is what makes for a good relationship."

If family are far away

It can be hard when your family is elsewhere at Christmas. Try to remember that you're not the only one who's separated from the family, and that Christmas is only one day of the year, not a miracle relationship therapy. And definitely try to ignore any advertising that tries to tell you otherwise. Repeat after us: "it was created to sell me something, and means nothing". It's okay to find it hard to manage though, plenty of others find it difficult to get through the holiday season.

"Everything seems more poignant when we are all exhorted to play happy families. One Christmas, my first and, at that time, only grandson was in Sydney and there was an advert which said 'Christmas with your first grandchild - priceless.' I cried every time it came on." wisewoman
"I see enough shining eyes and happy faces in the course of the year, and don't have to see them under the Christmas tree."

"I wonder if I am the only mother and grandmother who can't help feeling angry that I have been left by my family. My son and I were so close and it broke my heart when he went off - and now the baby!! It is so hurtful that they would rather be abroad than near to me! I don't show this feeling to them but I can't deny it - does any one else feel like this?"

"The pain of loss of contact with family members through disagreement is made all the more poignant at Christmas-time."

So no one can deny the pain - but there are ways of thinking positive:

"My gran had two sons. One, my father, died at 34, and two years later, his brother emigrated with his toddlers to the other side of Canada. This was the mid 1950s and she didn't even have a phone. So I remind myself how brave she had to be."

"Remember other people are a lot worse off - count your blessings - do things for others - focus on the moment - look after yourself and try to keep fit - work at avoiding negativity - try to keep busy."

If you're apart for Christmas day but not always, focus on the pleasures of all the other times:

"I see enough shining eyes and happy faces in the course of the year, and don't have to see them under the Christmas tree."

In Loving Memory



We pray for our dearly departed.

We continue to pray for those members who have reached their eternal rest in the loving arms of Our Lord. May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed, rest in peace. Amen



Donations are gratefully recieved and acknowledged to enable and inspire the work of the CGA to pass on the faith.

Brendan McGinn-Westport	Mary Lynch - Knock
Bernard Sweeney	Mary Thacker
John Longbard	Georgina Gatt

There is a candle lighting for all our departed members, friends and all their families at Our Lady's Shrine at Knock, Ireland



**Feast of the Holy Innocents, post communion prayer*

Please join in praying the Novena to the Holy Innocents. During this Christmas Season we are reminded of all the children who are in need of our prayers. The novena is from December 19th-28th.

Heavenly Father,

“By their wordless profession of faith in your Son, the Holy Innocents were crowned with life at His birth.”* Knowing how precious they are to you and how similar they are to the millions of innocent lives lost through abortion, we call on them to join in our prayer:

1. That all our elected leaders, legislators, and judges may come to acknowledge the humanity of every child in the womb and enact laws and policies to defend them, we pray: Lord, hear our prayer.
2. That everyone throughout the world may be given the light to see beyond all doubt the uniqueness and full humanity of every child who has ever been conceived, we pray: Lord, hear our prayer.

For these intentions and in union with the Holy Innocents, we pray as the Lord Jesus taught us: “Our Father, who art in heaven...”

Pray this novena for nine consecutive days any time of the year. Since the Feast of the Holy Innocents is celebrated on December 28th, it would be most appropriate to pray this novena beginning on December 19th so as to conclude the day before their feast. (Cf. Matthew 2:13-18)

Suggestions, Tips & Priceless presents



Another Grandmother wrote to us (letter on next page) asking her grandchildren what they could buy for the women who has everything, she said to them: please come to mass and confession with me and after all the eye rolling they do come. It absolutely makes my birthday!

Have courage, do not be afraid to ask, it's hard to say no to something that apparently costs nothing but means everything in the world to me.

This also is a starting of a new tradition.

Another tip is to ask your children instead of what they want inspire them to give their old toys to children who have less than them.

Ask your children and grandchildren to visit someone in a care home or to bring a nice box of chocolates or biscuits to a carer.

Thank the carers and give them a copy of the popes prayer, just let people know that they are appreciated.



Another Grandmother wrote (now she goes to Mass daily, and is the Holiest person you could meet) that none of her children went to Mass with her on Christmas Eve; she knelt in the church feeling alone and sad- having raised her family to be good Catholics, she wondered where she had gone wrong.

She never put any pressure on them, but if they were around at Mass time, she would always invite them to accompany her.



Next Christmas Eve she was kneeling in the Church- she felt a nudge and her 2 Sons came in beside her. You can imagine how she felt! How she thanked God for all his great blessings.

This is a true story – Never Ever give up hope.

To All our Dear and Amazing Sons, Sons-in-Love, Daughters, Daughters-in-Love and Grandchildren,

As we approach our 66th and 67th Christmases and our 48th Christmas as a Family, it's a good time to reflect and to share our joy and, yes, to share some wisdom. After all, these aren't wrinkles on our faces, they're merely "wise cracks" from the gift of being on earth this long.

We were fortunate that our parents – your parents and great-grandparents, stressed the value of hard work and getting an education. Certainly, our immigrant grandparents appreciated the the opportunity and sometimes, hardship, of moving to this country. It couldn't have been easy for Ignatz and Mary Sanok to raise six daughters on a coal miners wages but they never looked back on the political and religious oppression they left behind in that they called "The Old Country". We honor them each Christmas Eve as we celebrate Wigilia the way our ancestors did so many years ago.

Though neither of us was born in a stable, my first home was a 2 bedroom house in an area of Washington, PA called "Goat Hill", which we later referred to fondly as "Angora Heights". I think it was called Goat Hill because all the Polish people who lived there raised goats in their backyards. The house Dad's was raised in was what would now be euphemistically called in a "changing neighborhood" and is now part of a gas station. We've come a long way since then, seen and lived in a lot of the country but still consider Western PA and the memories there, our roots.

We especially thank God for the gift of our faith passed on by my parents and grandparents and adopted by Dad. I have memories of my Grandfather putting on his Sunday suit and walking to church to attend 7 AM mass and the meeting of his Polish Men's group. I know he did because sometimes when I would pick my Grandmother up to go to Mass with me, I would see him walking back and pick him up first. Kneeling and praying the Our Father with the kids at night honors the gift my grandmother, Mary, gave me. I know we've said it before – but there are only two lasting gifts of any great value you can give your children – memories and faith.

(from Dad, I have memories of Church as a child, but not of faith. It was something that we did, not something that we were. I sincerely believe had I been raised in a home of faith I would not have made some of the mistakes I made later in life)

So this year, we would like to ask you all for a gift – nothing material because at our age, there is really nothing we need and because this gift will cost you nothing but time. And, believe us, this is the only gift we want and need.

You won't even have to walk miles to Church like Ignatz did. The gift we ask for is that, as a family, you pray the Rosary. We know it's hard to find some quiet time with all the distractions and obligations you all have, but, even done properly, it should only take about twenty minutes of your time. This would be the greatest gift you could give us and to honor your grandparents and great-grandparents. We have even attached the prayers for you with the Spiritual gifts you will receive from saying each decade. Just follow the link below and click on the Rosary tab. And who doesn't need more: Humility, Love of Neighbor, Poverty of Spirit, Purity of Mind and Body and Obedience?

Of all that we have achieved, our educations, our jobs, our volunteer work – you all are our greatest accomplishments and greatest joy. We thank God for each of you and we pray for many more Christmases together, if only in Spirit and united in Prayer.

This is the third Sunday of Advent, also known as Gaudete Sunday-which means the Joy of Advent. We ask that you select the Joyful Mysteries as you pray the Rosary and prepare for the most Joyful coming of our Lord.

*Your loving and grateful parents,
Mom and Dad*

www.rosary-center-org

What is the 'Year of Mercy'? -

8th December 2015 to the end of November 2016

Pope Francis, in his letter 'Misericordiae Vultus' (April 2015), has asked the whole church to celebrate a 'year of mercy' between 8th December 2015, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, and the end of November 2016, the Solemnity of Christ the King. During this 'holy year', he asks us all to live in the light of the words of Our Lord 'Be merciful just as your Father is merciful' (Luke 6.36). During this year, look out for activities in each of our dioceses, as well as national and international initiatives, including pilgrimage and reconciliation opportunities. The MFL Office is producing a simple resource to encourage reflection on the word 'mercy' itself, and how we live out 'mercy' in our lives at home and work, amongst family, friends, neighbours and strangers.

Light for the Path

In each session, there is an opportunity to reflect on the Word of God in Scripture as 'Light for the path', either through a dip into the Old Testament, Psalms, or New Testament letters, but most particularly, through the Gospels, encountering Christ in word and action. The resource will offer a simple 'how to' way of reflecting with scripture as families, across generations, or in groups of families. Some of the stories to be included: Good Samaritan; Parables of the lost sheep and lost coin; The two sons; Zacchaeus and Woman with haemorrhage and Jairus's daughter

Coming directly from scripture (e.g. see the Beatitudes) the church refers to practical action as the 'corporal and spiritual works of mercy'. And the sign or 'test' that mercy is being lived out is 'See how they love one another!' Each session will enable conversation to connect with the 'works of mercy' as we experience them in family and wider life.

What difference does the 'year of mercy' make to our lives?

The final section of each session encourages the families/groups to ask the question, 'What difference does this make?' or 'What might we do differently this week?'

Closing Prayer each session

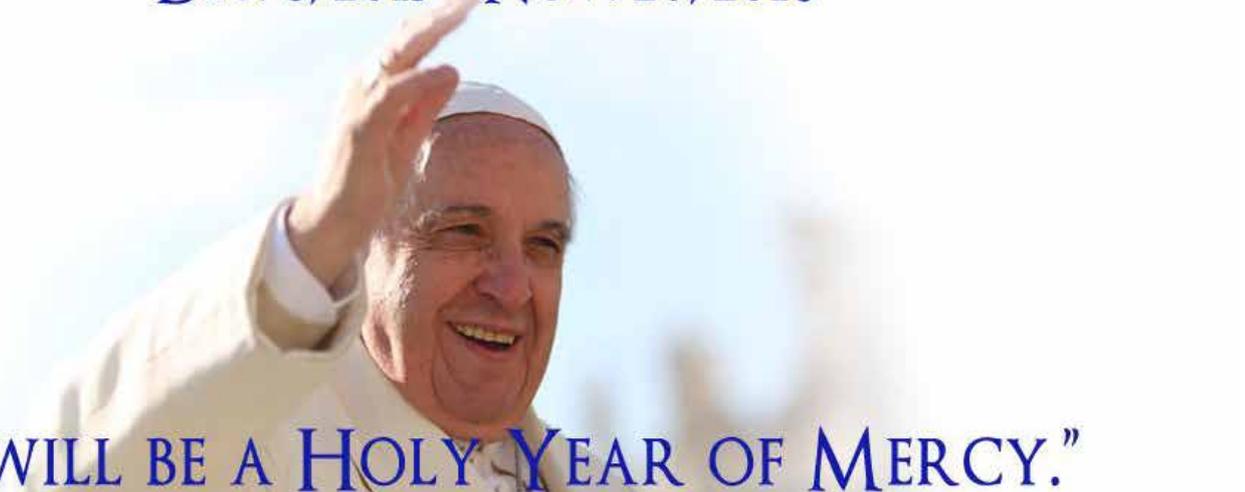
At the end of each session, allow some time for quiet reflection on what we have seen and heard.

Pope Francis

Pope Francis has suggested that Lent would be a special time to reflect on Mercy. Families might take the Gospel stories for the Sundays of Lent in Year A (specifically used in any Lent when people are going to be baptised at Easter as part of the RCIA, Journey of Faith) Woman at Well; Man born blind and Raising of Lazarus, Caroline Dollard, Family Catechesis Development, CBCEW

EXTRAORDINARY JUBILEE OF MERCY

DEC. 8, 2015 - NOV. 20, 2016



"IT WILL BE A HOLY YEAR OF MERCY."

Prayer of Pope Francis for the Jubilee Year of Mercy

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have taught us to be merciful like the
heavenly Father, and have told us that whoever
sees you sees Him.
Show us your face and we will be saved.

Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew
from being enslaved by money; the adulteress
and Magdalene from seeking happiness only
in created things; made Peter weep after his
betrayal, and assured Paradise to the repentant
thief. Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of
us, the words that you spoke to the Samaritan
woman:

“If you knew the gift of God!”

You are the visible face of the invisible Father,
of the God who manifests his power above all by
forgiveness and mercy:

let the Church be your visible face in the world,
its Lord risen and glorified.

You willed that your ministers would also be
clothed in weakness

in order that they may feel compassion for those
in ignorance and error:

let everyone who approaches them feel sought
after, loved, and forgiven by God.

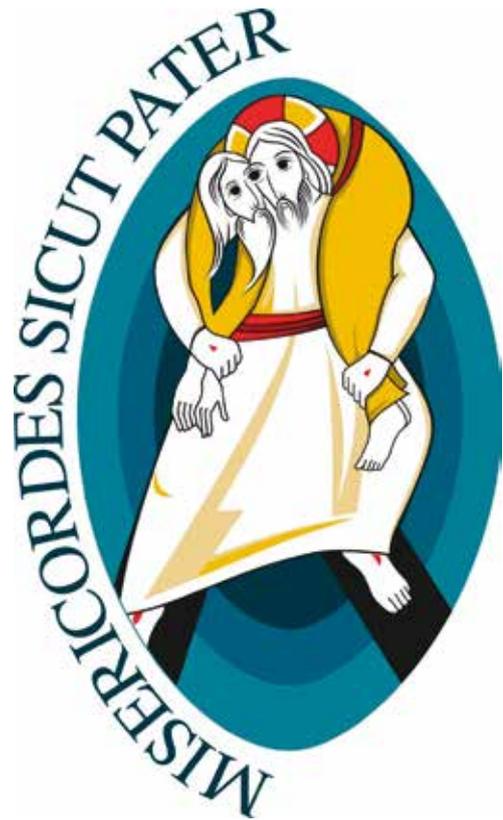
Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us
with its anointing,

so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of
grace from the Lord,

and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm,
may bring good news to the poor, proclaim
liberty to captives and the oppressed,
and restore sight to the blind.

We ask this of you, Lord Jesus, through the
intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy; you who
live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit
for ever and ever.

Amen.



Our Lady of Consolation



With Stronger Walls

Pope Francis in his catechesis: “The family cannot live well without mutual forgiving”

“Every act of forgiveness repairs the cracks in the house and strengthens its walls.” At the Wednesday General Audience on November 4th, Pope Francis began by speaking about the Synod on the family, calling it an “event of grace,” and then focused his catechesis on forgiveness.

“Without forgiving it is impossible to live—he said—or at least to live well, especially in the family. Every day we do each other wrong. We have to take into account these mistakes that are due to our fragility and our self-centeredness. Yet, what we are asked to do is to immediately heal the wounds we cause, to reweave the threads that we break in the family. If we wait too long, everything becomes more difficult.” If we learn mutual forgiveness in the family, apologizing before it’s too late, the family itself is made “stronger” and “less cruel than society.” Consequently, then—the Pope said—the family is “a great training ground for reciprocal giving and forgiving, without which—he asserted—no love can last for long.”



“If we learn to ask for forgiveness immediately—he continued—and mutually forgive one another, healing the wounds, the marriage is strengthened and the family home gradually becomes more solid, capable of resisting the shock of our small and great wickedness. Now, that does not require a big speech, but just a caress: a caress and everything is finished and starts again. But do not end the day at war! Got it?”. “The ability to forgive and to forgive one another—he added—is part of the family’s vocation and mission. The practice of forgiveness not only saves families from division, but it also enables them to help society to be less wicked and less cruel. Yes, every act of forgiveness repairs the cracks in the house and strengthens its walls.”

Referring to the rapidly approaching Jubilee, Francis wished the families that their faith and forgiveness may also help the “great family of the Church” to grow: “Truly, Christian families can do much for today’s society, and also for the Church. It is, therefore, my wish that during the Jubilee of Mercy families will rediscover the treasure of mutual forgiving. Let us pray that the families become increasingly able to live and build concrete paths of reconciliation, where no one feels abandoned under the weight of his debts

Eat with your family, not with your smartphone, Pope says

For Pope Francis the dinner table is a key place to strengthen family bonds and foster a sense of “togetherness,” which he said can often be thwarted by an excess attachment to technology.

“A family that almost never eats together, or that never speaks at the table but looks at the television or the smartphone, is hardly a family,” the Pope said Nov. 11.

“When children at the table are attached to the computer or the phone and don’t listen to each other, this is not a family, this is a pensioner!”

Francis spoke to the thousands of pilgrims gathered in St. Peter’s Square for his Wednesday general audience. Since late last fall, he has dedicated his catechesis for the weekly gathering to the topic of the family, which he decided to do as a lead-in to this year’s Synod of Bishops on the Family that ran from Oct. 4-25.

Though the synod has concluded, the Pope has continued his reflections on themes related to family life. After speaking on the importance of forgiveness last week, today he turned to the importance of family “togetherness.”

“In family life we learn about togetherness from a young age, which is a very beautiful virtue the family teaches us to share, with joy, the blessings of life,” he said.

Francis explained that the most concrete sign of this togetherness is when families are “gathered around the household table.”

“Sitting at table for the family dinner, sharing our meal and the experiences of our day, is a fundamental image of togetherness and solidarity,” he said, explaining that food isn’t the only thing shared at the table, but also affection and the happy and sad events of the day.

Togetherness, he said, is a “sure thermometer” to measure the quality of family relationships, since “in the family, if something is wrong, or if there’s some hidden wound, at the table you see it right away.” The Pope said that Christians have a special vocation to live the virtue of togetherness, and noted how Jesus made a point to eat with his friends, and even presented the Kingdom of God as a joyful banquet. “It was also in the context of a dinner where he gave the disciples his spiritual testament and instituted the Eucharist,” the Pope observed. Because Jesus gave us the Eucharist as a meal, there is a close relationship between families and the Mass.

The celebration of the Eucharist is the place where families, drawing from their own experience, open themselves to the grace of “universal togetherness and a fraternity without borders,” he said.

Francis said that the togetherness we experience within our own families and in the family of the Church is meant to extend to everyone as a sign of God’s universal love.

The Eucharist then becomes “a school of inclusion,” where we learn to be attentive to the needs of others.

He lamented how “sadly the family meal, this great symbol of togetherness, is disappearing in some societies,” and noted that food itself “is wantonly wasted” in some places, while in others many of our brothers and sisters go hungry.

What the Eucharist reminds us of is that our bread is meant to be shared with everyone, he said, and prayed that the Church and individual families would be concrete signs of “togetherness and solidarity for the good of the whole human family, especially during the coming Jubilee of Mercy.”

“Let us pray that every family participating in the Eucharist opens itself to the love of God and neighbor, especially for those who lack bread and affection.”



Known as both The Lord's Prayer and the Our Father, this is the prayer in which Jesus taught us how to pray. Finding the words that appear in bold on the printable is a great way for your kids to work on reading through the prayer and then finding some of the words hidden in the puzzle.

Name: _____

Our **Father**,
Who art in **heaven**,
hallowed be **Thy** name;
Thy **kingdom** come;
Thy **will** be done on **earth** as
it is in heaven.
Give us this day our **daily**
bread;
and forgive us our
trespasses
as we **forgive** those who
trespass against us;
and lead us not into
temptation,
but
deliver
us from
evil.
Amen.



Directions: There are 15 words that appear in bold print in the prayer. Find those words in the word search below.

D	L	D	E	L	I	V	E	R	T
L	T	L	L	R	J	N	R	L	E
K	N	R	M	K	Y	D	P	V	R
T	H	E	A	V	E	N	I	L	K
E	A	R	T	H	K	G	Z	I	L
F	V	B	L	T	R	R	N	K	T
R	R	L	H	O	D	G	N	R	R
C	I	L	F	C	D	A	E	F	F
W	P	J	Y	O	M	S	I	Z	X
T	X	N	M	E	P	M	T	L	F
T	E	G	N	A	N	R	B	D	Y
H	R	M	S	Z	E	T	D	R	D
H	A	S	P	H	D	H	C	C	R
P	E	L	T	T	D	Y	N	N	B
S	T	A	L	N	A	Z	E	J	R
F	F	Q	W	O	T	T	V	M	E
R	C	L	G	K	W	J	I	T	A
B	X	V	F	Q	B	E	L	O	D
Z	F	M	C	M	V	Q	D	K	N

What's been happening.....

Marilyn Henry – CGA Group Leader Texas

Marilyn Henry, our Diocesan Group Leader in Texas was joined by Father John Keller as guest speaker at a recent Group Meeting. He talked about passing on our faith by example. He told a story about his Grandmother going to daily mass when the Pastor refused to turn the lights on in the church – so she would bring a flashlight with her. He encouraged us to be “invitational” rather than “confrontational”. He also said that he believes we have been “touched by God” to bring this ministry to our Parish.



Betty Murphy and Mary Cotter represented the CGA at ‘The Autumn Gathering’ Conference in Dublin.



Peggy Connaughton also came along and was a great help at manning the stand in the Main Hall. Betty facilitate the 1st Workshop, and Mary the one later in the afternoon. Some of the discussions included ‘Grandparents living at a distance from Grandchildren’, and ‘Children and Grandchildren not practicing’.

Some of the suggestions put forward were: Skype, and letters addressed to the children for the distance problems and leaving Holy Water and other religious items around the home. Most importantly was the importance and power of prayer. The discussions during both workshops were fantastic, and empowering for Grandparents.

Betty Murphy , CGA Diocesan Leader coordinating events.

If you would like any further information about Grandparents in Schools, please contact any of the CGA offices and we would be delighted to assist in any initiatives you would like to put forward.



We went into the 2 schools again to help the new 3rd classes to say the Rosary, on the 23rd of November for 4 Mondays of Advent. We have Morning Prayers of the Church, each Monday after 10oç Mass and then up to the schools. On Tuesdays after 10oç Mass we have Scripture Reading. On Dec 12 we have the showing of the DVD ‘The Real Meaning of Christmas’ and have the Grandparents, Parents and Grandchildren invited to Parish Centre with refreshments afterwards

Kit Johansen having New York Pizza with Msgr. Jim Lisante

Kit just returned from New York, it was a great meeting with Msgr. Jim Lisante. We hope to get started up in NY both in Diocese of Rockville Centre and Brooklyn when we can set some dates with Catherine Wiley to go up and talk at Masses. Msgr. Jim and I went for pizza and had a great chat (good to have NY pizza!!). He gave me a great book for children about Advent, he met the author in Italy when he was on a pilgrimage. I bought quite a few copies to have for Catherine when she comes.



One of the Christmas ideas that I like to share with people who have complicated family situations, in fact I just shared it with my cousin in NY, who is going through it now. Not getting to see all her grandchildren on Christmas because of them going to the other Grandparents. My husband and I started this tradition. We celebrate gift giving on “Little Christmas”. He would put the “Wiseman in the Eastern most part of the house on Christmas Day (in our house it was the laundry room). Then they would slowly move each day through house, until they arrived at the stable on Jan. 6th (Little Christmas), the Epiphany now it’s the Sunday between Jan 2nd and Jan. 8th. We would all open our gifts and have a special meal that day. I told my cousin to do that at her house that day with all of her grandchildren and start a special tradition that also helps the children remember part of the Christmas story and why we keep everything up until then. I, also make a “Jesus” cake with my grandchildren for Christmas Day. It’s a cake made in the shape of a J for Jesus birthday.

God Bless Kit Johansen

Marilyn Henry, CGA Leader in Texas

A very successful St. Nicholas Day. We handed out candy canes with the story of the candy cane printed on the wrapper (ordered from Oriental Trading Co.) and coloring sheets of St. Nicholas with a candy cane blessing and our CGA logo and info on the back. After each Mass we held “story time” where we read the story of St. Nicholas and the story of the candy cane.

We recruited 7 new members including a new International member. I’m most excited about our real presence in the community today and the evangelization we were able to affect while we were doing what we do best - passing on our faith and love.

God Bless, Marilyn





Catherine Wiley gave a presentation to a group of Pastoral Council Leaders in Wexford, Ireland on Monday 23rd November.

Offering his support was CGA Chaplain Father Enda Brady.



Jean Wells represented the CGA at the Catholic Women's League AGM in Torquay on 17th October



Philippines CGA meeting at Lipa City National convention committee

Pictured Right: CGA meeting at Lipa City
 Pictured below the First Grandparents Pilgrimage and launch of the CGA in the Philippines led by Bishop Gilbert Garcia.



Grandparent's Pilgrimage

Palm Beach - 24th October 2015

Grandparent's, grandchildren and parents gathered to celebrate the annual pilgrimage at the Cathedral of St. Ignatius Loyola in PBG. Bishop Barbarito celebrated Mass.



Pictured:
Bishop Barbarito and Catherine Wiley
founder of the CGA



 **Diocese of Palm Beach**
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Grandparents, grandchildren and parents – plan to attend this Saturday's Grandparents Pilgrimage Mass at the Cathedral of St. Ignatius Loyola in PBG. There will be a Children's Choir Concert at 4 p.m. with the Vigil Mass to begin at 4:30 p.m. A light reception will follow. Bishop Barbarito will celebrate Mass. Even if you grandchildren do not live near by, please join us as we honor you!
<http://www.diocesepb.org/index.cfm...>



SAVE THE DATE
Grandparents Pilgrimage & Mass
Join Bishop Barbarito as he celebrates Mass to honor Grandparents who pass on the faith to future generations
Saturday, October 24, 2015
Children's Concert at 4:00 p.m. prior to 4:30 p.m. Vigil Mass
Cathedral of St. Ignatius Loyola, PBG

Sponsored by Diocese of Palm Beach Office of Marriage & Family Life
& Diocese of Palm Beach Chapter of the Catholic Grandparents Association
For information: 561-775-5557 or clh@diocesepb.org

The CGA held their Irish Annual General Meeting in Knock on 25th November.

We were blessed to have our patron Archbishop Neary with us, as well as 4 of the CGA Chaplains, plus Diocesan Leaders and members from all over the country. Kate Liffey, National Director for Catechesis came as a guest of the CGA and spoke about this challenging time in the Church.

Catherine Wiley presented to Archbishop Neary the Catholic Grandparent's Association statue called 'Generations' created by Canadian sculpture Timothy P Schmalz. This picture to the right is the Archbishop blessing the statue.



Catherine Wiley also presented to the Archbishop a gift from the CGA, our 'Doorpost Commandment to Love'. See our article on page 19.

For further information about either of these gifts, see the back page, or please contact the office for further information.

The meeting was conducted full of joy and blessings. Everyone is very keen for the CGA to re-establish itself more strongly in Ireland and the introduction of the Chaplains into each Archdiocese will be of great benefit.

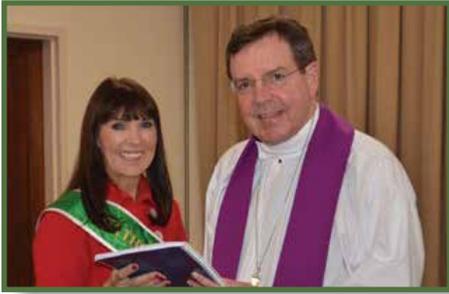


Catherine Wiley with the CGA Chaplains



Everything can be solved over a cup of tea!

2015 CGA Timeline



February 2015
All Ireland meeting
in Navan.

March 2015
Divine Mercy
Conference USA –
Catherine presenting
CGA Guidelines to
Archbishop Allen



Vigneron
April 2015

The Start of Rehearsals
of The Walsingham
Play



May 2015

The Launch of a new
group in Boca Raton
Florida, USA



Launch of the CGA
in the Northampton
Diocese



June 2015

Core CGA Group
Members – Meeting
Dublin



July 2015

A grand day at
Aylesford Pilgrimage



Texas

July 2015
Feast Day Celebrations
Around the World

Ireland



July 2015

Walsingham
Pilgrimage and
performance of the
‘The Story of
Walsingham’



2015 CGA Timeline



August 2015
CGA Scottish
Pilgrimage



September 2015
Irish College Rome –
Catherine giving an
address



September 2015
Knock Pilgrimage –
Record number of
pilgrims, record
number of Children's
Prayers



September 2015
The Team at WMOF –
and the CGA's young-
est recruit!
also Catherine Wiley
with the Mezusa –
WMOF



October 2015
Ron Wylie Ordination

October 2015
Catholic Women's
League – AGM
Torquay



October 2015
Delray Florida
Pilgrimage

October 2015
Betty Murphy & Mary
Cotter – CGA Reps at
'Autumn Gathering'
Workshop Naas Road,
Dublin



November 2015
Launch of new Group
in Christchurch, Dorset



November 2015
CGA AGM at Knock
House Hotel

This Door Post Blessing - This initiative created by the CGA, to celebrate the Year of Mercy 2016. We recommend every Catholic family has this at their door - Available Now £28.00/\$40/€40 contact caroline@catholicgrandparentsassociation.org today.

Make Your Home A 'Domestic Church!'

Proudly Display A Doorpost Commandment To Love

Introduced by the Catholic Grandparents Association
at the 2015 World Meeting of Families

Limited quantity • Available now



DOORPOST COMMANDMENT TO LOVE

Just days before his Passion, Our Lord was asked by a lawyer, which is "the greatest commandment" of all.

With words remaining forever in the hearts and minds of Christians throughout the centuries, Jesus replied:

YOU·SHALL·LOVE·THE·LORD·YOUR·GOD
WITH·ALL·YOUR·HEART·AND·WITH·ALL
YOUR·SOUL·AND·WITH·ALL·YOUR·MIND.
THIS·IS·THE·GREAT·AND·FIRST
COMMANDMENT·AND·THE·SECOND
IS·LIKE·IT·YOU·SHALL·LOVE·YOUR
NEIGHBOR·AS·YOURSELF·ON·THESE·TWO
COMMANDMENTS·DEPEND·ALL
THE·LAW·AND·THE·PROPHETS.
MATHEW·XXII·XXXVII·XXXX

Jesus was referring to Moses's instruction to the people of Israel to love God with their whole being, and to have this Commandment engraved "on the doorposts" of their houses; a practice that, by the time of Christ, was instead written on parchment, placed within a small container called a "Mezuzah" (meaning "doorpost" in Hebrew) and affixed on the right-hand side of the doorpost (at shoulder level) to serve as a daily reminder to love God upon entering or leaving one's home.





Marist Fathers - Father Keith and Father Tom in Walsingham with Catherine and Stewart wishing you a happy Christmas. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered throughout the year for you, and your families.

May St Joachim and St Anne, Parents of Mary, Grandparents of Jesus Bless you and your families all the days of your lives.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son,
that whoever believes in him should not perish
but have eternal life.

John 3:16

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