Greetings Grandparents and Friends, we bring you heartfelt wishes of faith, hope and love during this beautiful, grace-filled Lenten Season. 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 your very valuable time.

We would like to thank our volunteers, our members, Priests, our Bishops, our Cardinals, and in particular the Pontifical Council for the Family, without your help and encouragement we would not be able to help Grandparents to pass on the faith and to keep prayer at the heart of family life. We rely on your contributions and your prayers to help us and we thank you most kindly for your donations.

Love & Prayers

Time to Prepare

As we approach the season of Lent we are beginning our preparation for the most wonderful feast of Easter.

As a child I often recall that we were encouraged ‘to give something up’. Invariably this was sweets or some other treat. Now I believe it is better to do something positive.

As Christians we are called to serve and it is in the service of others that we can make this world a better place. We can serve best by preparing and this often means getting rid of those things that continue to weigh us down. One thing that we can do is to seek the Sacrament of Reconciliation as a way of unburdening ourselves. The Bishop’s of England and Wales new initiative is called ‘Confession 2014’ and has as its central message: “Nothing you confess could make me love you less. Come before Him with trust in His mercy.” God’s mercy has been a recurrent theme in the first year of Pope Francis’ pontificate

So, even if it has been some time since your last confession, take the time this lent to make your preparations complete. For more info visit catholicnews.org.uk/confession

www.homeisaholyplace.org.uk

International Vice President
Catholic Grandparents Association - Phil Butcher
Wishing you all A Happy & Holy Lenten Season

Time for a Spring Clean
It is traditional that at this time of the year we have a bit of a ‘spring clean’. As the days start to get longer and the sun starts to shine just a little more brightly we find that it can shine light into some dusty corners of both our homes and our lives.

There is a rule that I try to employ called the ‘OHIO’ rule. This simply means ‘only handle it once’. The simple approach is that if you have something in your hand then don’t ‘rest it somewhere’ - rather put it away in its place. In this way this avoids the piles of things that gather around our houses. In another way if there is something to do then do it—don’t put it off to another day. As the saying goes, procrastination is the thief of time’ a commodity that we all seem to have too little of!

POPE’S PRAYERS.
This month the Pope continues to pray for ‘That all cultures will continue to respect the rights and dignity of women’ His prayer intention for evangelisation is “that many young people may accept the Lord’s invitation to consecrate their lives to proclaiming the Gospel”.

www.visnews.org

2014 LENTEN MESSAGE FROM POPE FRANCIS
This year Lent begins an on Ash Wednesday, March 5. To help Catholics live our Lent with greater dedication to the Lord Jesus, Pope Francis, as did his predecessors, addressed a Lenten message to the Catholic world.

He chose as his theme the words of Saint Paul to the Corinthians: “Though rich, Jesus became poor so that by his poverty you might become rich.” Paul is writing to the wealthier churches of the Greek-speaking world to encourage them to share their financial resources with the poor Church of Jerusalem. The pope asks what these words and invitation to gospel poverty mean for us today?

LENT FOR YOUR GRANDCHILDREN
The Parish of Christ the King has some wonderful resources for you to do over Lenten.

Visit their website:

How to make a Palm Branch Cross
Good Deeds Bracelets for Lent
Last Supper Craft
Stained Glass Cross Craft
Puzzles, Games and Wordsearches
Somebody once said that the best thing about being a grandparent is that ‘you can hand them back’. I disagree! The time that both my wife and I spend with our grandchildren are special times that sometimes leave us physically exhausted by glowing with a wonderful spiritual warmth. Our granddaughters all share a musical talent and when our eldest announced that we were going to start a band I must admit that I was a bit nervous to say the least! Having been strumming a guitar since my teenage years I never thought that anyone would hear my humble offerings to music. However music does have a way of bridging that thing we call the generation gap. We now have some teenage Beatles Fans and a sexagenarian R5 follower. Pope Francis has often spoken about the importance of intergenerational dialogue and it is important to remember that by this both understand where we have come from and the richness of our spiritual and cultural heritage but also understand what is both wonderful and worrying about being young.

Another way that we can share our experience is in the latest wonderful book from Redemptorist Publications. As the publishers say:- Who said the “third age” was about putting your feet up?
Who said grandmothers were all elderly? The challenge of being a grandmother can demand more from us than we could possibly have envisaged – but it also brings unimaginable joy and delight. With contributions from many Catholic grandmothers from a range of backgrounds, Being a Catholic Grandmother is packed with first-hand accounts and insights from grandmothers who have been there, done that and got the tshirt. Above all, this book is designed to give practical advice and tips to help grandmothers to learn ways of managing the role and coping with the challenges of grandmotherhood. It should also help the matriarch to discover a deep sense of God’s presence through their growing relationship with their grandchildren.

This book is available from Redemptorist Publications and also direct from the CGA £6.95 plus P&P at www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org
By JULIANN DosSANTOS
LIVING FAITH—Catherine and Stewart Wiley smile during World Marriage Day at St. Malachy’s Church in Manhattan. Mrs. Wiley is founder of the international Catholic Grandparents Association that now includes members from New York.

Most people rarely think about the fact that Jesus had grandparents. Yet by long tradition, Mary’s father and mother are known and honored as St. Joachim and St. Anne.

It is on these two figures that the Catholic Grandparents Association focuses for role models.

In a letter to the founder of the Catholic Grandparents Association, Cardinal Dolan said, “I commend your diligence and work in fostering this program that strives to support grandparents in the spirit of St. Joachim and St. Anne.”

He goes on to say, “Passing on our faith to future generations is truly a responsibility that we all need to embrace, and grandparents are critical to this effort.”

On World Marriage Day Feb. 9, at St. Malachy’s Church in Manhattan, the longest-married couples in the archdiocese were honored. Among those in attendance were members of the Catholic Grandparents Association. Catherine Wiley accompanied her husband Stewart. She told CNY, “Grandparents are the ones holding the families together, which is not easy in this day and age.”

The Wileys have been married for 46 years; they have four children and 10 grandchildren. Mrs. Wiley noted that even in her family, it is not always easy. She said, “Some of my own grandchildren are not baptized,” and some family members “are falling away from the faith.”

However, Mrs. Wiley is hopeful and optimistic about the future. She said, “The reason we set up the association was to help grandparents. There is a vital contribution they make to the Church, the family and society.”

She noted the importance of the vocation of grandparents. “They really need this,” she said, referring to the organization which supports the work of grandparents in passing on the faith and keeping prayer at the heart of the family.

The Catholic Grandparents Association is worldwide, with members from countries including Ireland, England, the Philippines and Australia, among others. Members from New York first gathered together on World Marriage Day.