

Catholic Grandparents Association Ministry Guide to Passing on the Faith



Our Mission

“To Help Grandparents pass on the Faith
and to keep prayer at the heart of Family Life”

Background to the Catholic Grandparents' Association

The Catholic Grandparents' Association (CGA) originated from Catherine Wiley's (Founder) heartfelt prayer to give a birthday present to Our Lady. Catherine is an Irish Grandmother of ten beautiful grandchildren from County Mayo.

The idea was inspired while Catherine was praying in the medieval Slipper Chapel at the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham in England on Our Lady's birthday, 8th September. She was wondering what she could possibly give our Lady for a birthday present that would ever be fitting for her after all she had done for us. She had the idea that a Grandparents' Pilgrimage to honor and thank her parents, Saints Joachim and Saint Anne, the Grandparents of Jesus and all our Grandparents, throughout the World for all they have done for us down through the ages, particularly in the transmission of the faith would truly delight her.

The CGA was conceived in the Slipper Chapel, took root with Grandparents Pilgrimages in Walsingham and at the Shrine of Our Lady of Knock in Ireland and grew exponentially when Pope Benedict responded to our request to write a Universal Prayer for Grandparents, for which we are eternally grateful. The CGA is now a worldwide organization and a Private Institute of the Faithful.

Our only purpose is to create awareness for the great vocation of Grandparents, to help Grandparents to pass on the Faith and to keep prayer at the heart of family life.

Grandparents sometimes do not realize how enormous their contribution is to the Church, to the family and to society – physically, emotionally, sometimes financially and most important of all, spiritually.



The Catholic Grandparents Association, working hand in hand with our Church, has become a vital resource for parishes who have formed Grandparents Ministries. In addition to providing encouragement, support and resources to individual CGA members, CGA Ministries within the parish often perform a variety of functions, sponsoring events, educational workshops, serving as children's liturgy ministers, etc.

As a Private Institute of the Faithful, the CGA functions with the approval and blessing of the Bishops' Conference in many nations and remains linked to the original CGA through a common aim and purpose and a common founder, Catherine Wiley. For more information - www.CatholicGrandparentsAssociation.org

Catholic Grandparents Association

The CGA operates under Decree and Statutes granted by our patron, Archbishop Michael Neary, Archdiocese of Tuam, Ireland together with the permission and blessing of the local Parish Priest and the local Bishop. In Ireland the CGA is a registered charity (no 19038) CGA, in the USA is a 501 c 3 not for profit Corporation under civil law. All groups, members and volunteers of the Association agree to adhere to the CGA Statutes and Guidelines as well as comply with civil and canon law requirements.

Note—References in this booklet refer to the Statutes and Guidelines of the CGA. Copies are normally held at Diocesan Offices, with Parish leaders and also are available from the CGA International Office in Ireland.

Introduction

Dear Grandparents,

Being a Grandparent is a joyous and noble vocation. In 2013, the role of Grandparents was clarified in the Catholic Church to the CGA by the Pontifical Council for the Family as “Preeminent Collaborators” in the upbringing and instruction of their Grandchildren. It is an increasingly important role and status of Grandparents, helping them to work together with their children to seek out the very best for our grandchildren.



The Catholic Grandparents Association (CGA) exists to promote the awareness of the vocation of Grandparents and to support and value them in their great task of passing on the faith, not an easy job in this day and age! ⁱ

The world today is much different from the one many Grandparents grew up in. Grandparents instinctively understand the great human, moral and spiritual challenges children face today in the world in which they are growing up. For many children today, their Grandparents may be the only practicing Catholic members of their family. However, even those children growing up with the blessing of devout Catholic parents must grow to maturity in a highly secularised world which radically competes for their hearts and minds and denies the need for God.

Catholic Grandparents Association

Grandparents include Uncles (Gruncles), Aunts (Grauntys), God- Parents and so on who nurture through love and strong family bonds. All are welcomed by our association for their key and critical roles in both sustaining the family and our faith.

CGA is dedicated to strengthening the vocation of Grandparents to promote the family as a *domestic church* where faith is passed on and prayer kept as core.

This guide is designed to support, develop and sustain your vocation as a ministry in your family, your local parish and beyond and will help anyone interested in forming and developing the work of the CGA, particularly in a parish.

Please remember **your** wisdom, witness and testimony were never as critical as they are today to the Church, to the family and to society. *You are the role models*. This is, without doubt, the most important job that you will ever have and one from which you can never retire.

Pope Francis recently said, ***“How important Grandparents are for family life, for passing on the human and religious heritage so essential for each and every society!”***

We urge you to join us in praying together, working together, collaborating together to help support each other in this great task of embracing our God-given vocation to pass on our gift of faith to the next generation.

May St. Joachim and St. Anne, Parents of Mary and Grandparents of Jesus, bless all grandchildren and bless all families.

With Love and Prayers

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Catherine Wiley".

Catherine Wiley
Founder of the Catholic Grandparents Association

Catholic Grandparents Association

Submission Letter to Archbishop Michael Neary



Catholic Grandparents Association

Keeping Prayer at the Heart of Family Life

11th December, 2012

Archbishop Michael Neary,
Archbishop of Tuam,
Archbishops House,
Tuam,
Co. Galway

Dear Archbishop Neary,

It is with great humility that we submit to you these Statutes for the Catholic Grandparents Association in Ireland for your inspection and for your approval.

This initiative seems to have been graced by the Holy Spirit since its inception in 2002 with a pilgrimage at the Shrine of Our lady in Walsingham to honour and thank St Joachim and St Anne, the Grandparents of Jesus and all Grandparents for all they have done for us down through the ages.

As you are aware the Catholic Grandparents Association (CGA) was founded in Ireland in 2009. This was launched at the Third National Grandparents Pilgrimage at the Shrine of Our Lady of Knock by Cardinal Sean Brady. Since that time it has grown exponentially both in Ireland and throughout the world and continues to flourish, Thank God.

The CGA has always sought to remain within the very heart and mind of the Church and its Magisterium, seeking at every stage of its development the approval of the local Ordinary.

Branches of the Association have been established in the four Archdioceses of Ireland, and also in Northern Ireland with the Blessing of the local Bishops. There are branches in every county in Ireland.

Great interest has been expressed by many other countries where branches of the CGA are currently being established.

Other branches have been established in Australia, where Cardinal Pell has agreed to become the Patron. There are branches in the Philippines under the patronage of

Bishop Daet and in the Solomon islands under the Patronage of Archbishop Adrian Smith.

Branches are being established in many Dioceses in the United States of America and also in Canada. A Grandparents Pilgrimage has taken place annually since 2008 in the Diocese of Palm Beach led by Bishop Gerald Barbarito.



Patron: **Most Rev Dr Michael Neary, D.D.** Archbishop of Tuam, Ireland
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Website: www.CatholicGrandparentsAssociation.com
Email: catholicgrandparents@gmail.com
Registered Charity: 19038

St. Joachim & St. Anne
Grandparents of Jesus, Pray for us



Catholic Grandparents Association



Catholic Grandparents Association

Keeping Prayer at the Heart of Family Life

European Branches have been established in Slovenia and Malta.

There are now Grandparents pilgrimages and masses celebrated at many Marian Shrines in Europe.

People come to the pilgrimages and participate because it is a moment when they grow in faith and hope.

In order to clarify who we are and what our purpose is, we have drawn up statutes. We have been greatly assisted in this process by Sister Mary Lyons, Canon Lawyer in the Archdiocese of Tuam.

We have also had contact with officials from the Pontifical Council for the Family in Rome (Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia, Msgr. Carlos Simon Vazquez) and Archbishop Fisichella from The Pontifical Council for the New Evangelization.

They have strongly recommended that we draw up these statutes and present them to you at the earliest possible opportunity.

We believe that this initiative has met a very real pastoral need within the Church, evidenced by the growth of the movement and its popularity.

The very reason for its existence is that it is an instrument of evangelization and through its members deepen their discipleship of Christ.

We would respectfully ask you to study these statutes and let us know if you are satisfied that they reflect what the Catholic Grandparents Association does and what it represents.

We now humbly and respectfully ask if you would recognize these statutes as the statutes of a 'Private Association of the Faithful'

We would like to thank you most sincerely for all the help, advice and encouragement you have given us and we would kindly ask you for your continued blessing on the work of the Catholic Grandparents Association.

With very warmest wishes.

Love and prayers.

Catherine Wiley

Catherine Wiley
Founder



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St. Joachim & St. Anne
Grandparents of Jesus, Pray for us



*Archbishop's House, Tuam,
Co. Galway*

Telephone: (093) 24166 Fax: (093) 28070
Email: archdiocesetuam@gmail.com
www.tuamarchdiocese.org

**MICHAEL
ARCHBISHOP OF
TUAM DECREE**

In the Apostolic Exhortation "*Evangelii Nuntiandi*" (n. 75)", His Holiness Paul VI stated "We live in the Church at a privileged moment of the Spirit". There are many signs today by which we can see the fruits of the Spirit. Movements, groups, and associations play an enormous role in the building up of the Kingdom of God in the world, as they cooperate and collaborate with the Church in its mission of evangelisation, by their commitment and prayer. The *Catholic Grandparents Association* is one such organisation, whose endeavours bear witness to what "*the Spirit is saying to the Churches*" (Rev. 2:7).

Accepting the request of the *Catholic Grandparents Association* for recognition of their Statutes, according to the Code of Canon Law,

Appreciating the mission of the *Catholic Grandparents Association* to "*encourage and assist Grandparents to pass on the Catholic faith to their grandchildren and to keep prayer at the heart of family life*".

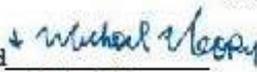
Having carefully examined the Statutes presented by the *Catholic Grandparents Association*.

Encouraged by the positive testimonies given by His eminence Cardinal Sean Brady and Bishops in Ireland and elsewhere, concerning the potential of the CGA to play an important role in the New Evangelisation.

Keeping also in mind the support and encouragement accorded to the *Catholic Grandparents Association* by the Pontifical Council for the Family and the Pontifical Council for the New Evangelisation,

**THE ARCHBISHOP OF TUAM
DECREES**

The recognition of THE STATUTES of the *Catholic Grandparents Association*
IN THEIR PRESENT FORM, FOR FIVE YEARS, BEGINNING 01 May
2013.

Signed 
+Michael Neary
Archbishop of Tuam



Date: 26/4/2013

Our Spirituality

‘The future of the world and the Church passes by way of the Family’^[1]

Our mission derives from our Biblical mandate.

Deuteronomy 4:9

“However, take care and be earnestly on your guard not to forget the things which our own eyes have seen nor let them slip from your memory as long as you live, but teach them to your children and to your children’s children”

In its essential spirituality, the CGA believes in God’s plan for the Christian family to be the first school of Christian and social virtues. Understanding the family as a loving communion of persons, the CGA recognizes the family as the sign and image of the communion of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit where parents participate in the Trinity’s work of creation and the revelation of truth to their offspring who are bonded themselves to their own parents in Divinely willed *filial piety*^[2]

Accordingly, in recognition of Grandparents’ singular call to collaborate pre-eminently with parents in their primary and principal role as Christian educators of their children, the CGA is established to encourage and assist Grandparents most particularly: To pass on the Catholic and Christian faith to the family and thus, to grandchildren, to keep prayer and the call to holiness at the heart of the family life, to help parents create a family atmosphere animated by love and respect for God and man in which the well-rounded personal and social education of children is fostered.

Membership is open to any Christian Grandparent who shares in the aims and purpose of the CGA in promoting the holiness of family life, the *Domestic Church*.

Our Vision Statement

We, at the Catholic Grandparents Association, with the grace of God and our Heavenly Mentors, Saint Joachim and Saint Anne, parents of Our Lady and Grandparents of Jesus, strive to support Grandparents worldwide with practical and spiritual assistance to strengthen the bonds of faith and family life through the generations, from the cradle to the grave.

Starting Your Parish Ministry for Grandparents Why the Catholic Grandparents Association?

As the Pilgrimages in Walsingham and Knock grew, Grandparents began to realize the value of being together with one purpose and of one mind, to pray for and with their families. They requested a vehicle to meet more than once a year to share prayers, ideas, struggles and joys. With the blessing of the Church and encouraged by the Prayer for Grandparents written by Pope Benedict, the organization was formed.

What our Members Say

“The CGA is giving me the opportunity as a baptized member of the Church to carry out my mission, given to me by Christ: Go and teach all nations.”

“Grandparents have learned with maturity that our faith is a great gift from God to be lived and treasured. Faith prepares us for life eternal with God and therefore, we need to pass it on.”

As a member of the CGA, I can get useful ideas, have help from the group when in need of finding ways or methods of passing on the faith in this day and age.”

I really like the Catholic Grandparents Association because it offers practical as well as spiritual ways to help and support Grandparents to pass on their faith.”

Reasons to Start A CGA Ministry

- Enrich your catechetical life, call to holiness and vocation as a Grandparent.
- Interact with Grandparents in similar situations.
- Form a community dedicated to keeping our Catholic faith alive for future generations.
- Learn how to better pass on your faith, enriching the lives of your children and grandchildren. Share ideas with like-minded individuals.
- Serve your parish community through ministry and service
- Participate in fun and enriching activities with other Grandparents



How We Support Grandparents Ministries

- Members meet on a regular basis to focus on prayer and topics of importance to their families, Church and community.
- Members meet and interact with other Grandparents who share their values and experiences.
- CGA Facilitates a website with resources for Grandparents
- CGA Sells approved devotional and catechetical materials related to the Mission, Purpose and Spirituality of the CGA.
- Organizes at national, regional and local charitable events for the promotion of the family or the assistance of the Church and of the needy.
- Holds retreats, Pilgrimages, conferences and seminars.
- Facilitates catechetical and devotional materials pertinent to family life and spirituality
- Where possible and endorsed by local ordinaries, the CGA organizes an annual retreat.
- We honor Saint Joachim and Saint Anne, parents of Mary, Grandparents of Jesus on their Memorial day, the 26th of July, with Holy Mass, a World Day of Prayer for Grandparents and celebrations.
- We offer members monthly e-newsletters and relevant reminders throughout the year.
- We provide prayer support with daily masses, 24 hour prayer and candle lighting for your intentions.

Before You Begin

The CGA requires the approval of your parish Pastor to start a CGA Ministry for Grandparents. By request, resources are available for presentation to the Pastor including the decree elevating the CGA to a Private Association of the Faithful, our Mission Statement, background and the benefits to the parish of a Grandparents Ministry.

Requirements of a Chapter Leader

Understanding of and commitment to CGA spirituality, statues, structure and responsibilities.



Organizing Your Ministry

Familiarize yourself with the CGA Statutes and Guidelines. Information and assistance is available from our International offices and online at www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org. A “seasoned” Chapter Leader located near you may be assigned to act as your Mentor.

If possible, request to speak at Sunday Mass about the association and the vital role of Grandparents in families and in our Church. Sample talks are available.

Publish the date/time for an information meeting in your parish bulletin. Request a Poster from the International offices. A detailed announcement is available electronically.



Registering Your Ministry

To retain the world -wide community that is the CGA and to ensure that all groups are kept informed, it is vital that you register your Ministryⁱⁱ with the International Office.

This can be done online on our website www.CatholicGrandparentsAssociation.org or via mail to

International Offices

Ireland Office:

Castlebar Road,
Westport, County Mayo
Tel: 085 8704722

UK Office:

21 Oak Street,
Fakenham,
Norfolk NR21 9DX
Tel: 01328 560333

US CGA National Office:

951 S.W. 4th Ave.
Boca Raton, FL 33432-5803
Tel: 888-510-5006

info@CatholicGrandparentsAssociation.org
www.CatholicGrandparentsAssociation.org

Logistics for Your Meeting

Reach a consensus on where and how often to meet. Some ministries meet following morning Mass, some meet in the evening, others alternate day and evening. Tuesday is the day dedicated to St. Anne, the mother of Mary, Grandmother of Jesus. At least monthly meetings are recommended.

How long will you spend together?

- Most meetings will last 1-3 hours depending on speakers, discussion, etc.
- All meetings start and end with prayer and typically, there will be opportunity to meet socially, perhaps with some refreshments.

Before the Meeting

- Email, call or text all parish members and inform them of the meeting. Attendance will increase by about double if people know that someone cares enough to personally contact them. You can include short notes about the previous meeting and the current topic in an email.
- Prepare a Meeting Agenda and have copies for the group (see CGA sample agenda). Use the agenda to keep the meetings flowing.
- Set up the refreshments, with a donation basket to provide an opportunity for those who wish to help with refreshment and other costs.

Ministry Meetings

Light a candle if safe and permissible.

The opening prayer will always be Pope Benedict's 'Prayer for Grandparents. Some Chapters count the number of grandchildren (soles we're responsible for helping get to heaven) represented.

To share the duties, some ministries organize members by function ie, Chairperson, Program, Secretary, Treasurer, Communication, etc. It helps to develop meeting ideas/organize speakers, etc at least six months ahead. Request input from Ministry members. Many possibilities can be found within your parish and Diocese. Ask your Pastor/Deacon to speak about their experience with their Grandparents. Invite your Religious Ed staff person to speak – Youth Director, etc. Refer to the CGA Newsletter for the "Topic of the Month", follow the Liturgical Calendar. Ask members for ideas/input.



Group Attendance Register

Register attendance, especially welcoming new members. Send membership rosters and Ministry re-cap to the International Office yearly in December.

Discussion

Review previous meeting if appropriate. Follow agenda maintaining flexibility, allowing members to share in an open, trusting and friendly environment.

Closing Prayer

It is important that the meeting starts and ends in prayer. Some Ministries recite a decade of the Rosary, others alternate Grandparents prayers or allow members to verbalize their own heartfelt prayers.

After the Meeting

- Phone, text or email minutes from the meeting and next month's Topic
 - Note any concerns or suggestions for next meeting.
 - Record new members in your records.



Tips for Ministry Leaders

Set a Climate of Openness and Respect

Wearing the green CGA sash and CGA badge (lapel pin) helps us to stand-out and enables others to recognize members of the association readily

Accept each person for who they are and where they are in their journey. Allow each person to express their thoughts and feelings being sure that all who wish to speak have an opportunity to do so. Be affirming and encouraging. We can all learn from each other.

- Keep people excited about coming by having meetings that are purposeful, interesting and fun. Be flexible but use active time management. It is important that the social and business parts of the meeting don't take away from the time for prayer and topic discussion.
- If ever you are struggling with an issue, idea, etc., contact the International Offices for direction/assistance.

Confidentiality

- Inform and remind members that what is said in meetings is confidential and not to be repeated outside the group.



Ministry Ideas

July 26, Feast Day of Saint Joachim and Saint Anne

Organize Mass to honor and celebrate Grandparents. Follow by a special program and/or refreshments.

Grandparents Day in Schools

Link with your local school to organize a special day to celebrate Grandparents.

Fundraise for charity. Funds are needed to support the global growth of the CGA and we would ask each group to hold an annual fundraising event for this purpose.

Liaise with First Communion and Confirmation Catechists to establish prayer partnerships between Grandparents and candidates.

Bambinelli Sunday Adopt A Prayer Child Yearly Pilgrimage

(Contact the International Office for details)

Some Topics for Discussion

Awe and wonder

**Your children and grandchildren no longer go to church
What challenges do modern children face that you or your children
did not?**

Encouraging children's relationship with God

**Linking with the seasons of the Church
What happens after divorce?**

Transparency

The continuing work of CGA relies upon donations. All CGA groups are self-sufficient and may be granted capabilityⁱⁱⁱ to raise funds to support both their own activities and also the wider mission and purpose of CGA.

CGA is required to maintain accurate and transparent records of funds received and spent to maintain its non-profit status and to comply with Church requirements. All funds received must be spent in identifiable support of the CGA Mission and Purpose. Fundraising activities require permission of the local Bishop or pastor. In addition, CGA requests that all its goods and funds be under the supervision of the local Bishop to whom financial reports are to be made available^{iv}.

Members and Parish Leaders acting on behalf of the CGA are unpaid volunteers, all offerings made to members and officials acting on behalf of CGA are presumed to have been made to the respective CGA Head Office or Local group. (Ref. Ch. 8 n109)

Member and Friends Information

Members and friends agree to provide relevant details as part of the membership process. These should be submitted electronically or on paper. These details will only be used to for contact between CGA and Members and friends and will be subject to the relevant civil laws in each country where CGA is active and will never be shared with Third Parties. Members may or may not be registered with a CGA Parish Ministry.

Ministry Leaders are required to keep a written record of the contact details and number of enrolled Members who attend their Local Group. Leaders are requested to keep in regular contact with the head office in their country. Depending on the structure, this may be a Diocesan office and/or the National Head Office. Additionally, to ensure the transparency of the CGA worldwide, accurate records of members with contact information, money and goods received and money spent are to be kept and shared with the CGA National Head Office.

Being a Ministry Leader

Leadership is important to the growth and well-being of the CGA as it accepts its obligation to fulfil its mission. Similarly, financial and operational transparency is vitally important and the CGA reports both membership and financial information as required.

Ministry Leaders are required to forward to the International Office, information on deceased members and contact information on new members in their group each calendar year, the number and types of meetings held and the number of participants at each meeting.

Per our Statutes, financial information must include all money and goods received on behalf of the CGA, how any money was spent (by category) and the remaining balance. Your national head office can help. Reports are required twice per year, in August for the first six months and in January for the full calendar year.

As many people are likely to join 'on-line' the CGA will work to connect new members with Groups that are local to them.

Remember, that by keeping in touch with the International Office you remain part of the CGA Family. Whilst we want to receive your 'operational' information, we also want to hear your good news stories and any pictures you can share with us of your group. Make sure you have individual permission to do this from anyone in the picture, most particularly if this includes children.

Catholic Grandparents Association



Donations and Fundraising

To enable CGA to continue its vital Mission, we are totally reliant upon voluntary donations.

Members, Friends, Local Groups and everyone supporting our work are encouraged to contribute to CGA's Central Mission and purpose. Always remember that their aim is to help you and your group become successful. Every cent we receive goes to support our vital work around the world, benefitting families, our Church and society.

Thank You!!!

Catholic Grandparents Association

CGA Group Registration Form PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

First Name	
Last Name	
Street	
City	
State, Zip	
E-Mail	
Phone	
Parish Priest Name	
Parish Priest Phone or E-mail	
Parish Name	
Parish City	
Bishop's Name	
Diocese	
I hereby agree to abide by the guidelines, policies and reporting requirements of the Catholic Grandparents Association.	Please Check or X the Box <input type="checkbox"/>
Organizer's Signature	
Date Submitted	
Scheduled date of first meeting	

About Saint Joachim and Saint Anne

Joachim and Anne were the parents of Mary and the Grandparents of Jesus and we celebrate their feast day on July 26th.

The name "Hannah" means grace. In Galilee, where she lived, Mary's mother was probably called "Hannah" even though we know her as Saint Anne. So, if you are named "Hannah" or "Anne" you are named after the mother of Our Blessed Mother. It was in the womb of Saint Anne that Mary was immaculately conceived. From the first moment of her life, she was in a state of grace and free from all stain of Original Sin.

It was her parents, Anne and Joachim who raised her to be faithful to God's word and remain free of sin. Anne is the patron saint of Christian mothers, and Joachim the patron saint of fathers. They were given the great honor and responsibility of raising Mary to be the Mother of God, and can help mothers and fathers today to raise their children to love and follow God too.

The couple offered their little daughter to God in the Temple. As a young girl, she spent time in service to the Temple working and learning with other girls. But it was most likely her parents who taught her to read, and certainly Joachim and Anne who taught her to love and follow God's word and to know and understand the Scriptures.

When the Angel Gabriel came to her at the Annunciation, Mary knew the prophecies of Jesus' life and death. She knew the full extent of the honor and pain she would experience when she gave her 'fiat.'

Mary loved her mother and father. In this she is a beautiful example for children. Joachim and Anne loved their daughter and followed God's plan in raising her. In this, they are a shining example and intercessors for Christian parents.

The sainted couple is often depicted with Mary, holding a book of Scriptures, teaching their daughter to read. A church was built in the 4th century, possibly by Saint Helena, on the reputed site of Saint Joachim and Saint Anne's house in Jerusalem.



Suggested Parish Weekly Bulletin Announcement

Catholic Grandparents Association. *(your name)* will be at all Masses on *(insert date/s)* to give a short presentation on behalf of the Catholic Grandparents Association.

or

Catholic Grandparents Association. Our next meeting will be on *(insert date)* at *(insert time)* in *(insert location)*. Please contact *(insert name and telephone/email)* for more information.

Posters to announce your meeting location, date and topic are available to parish groups please request by phone or email.

Members have responsibility too!

1. Please wear your CGA Name badge at all meetings and events.

2. Prepare for the topic prior to the meeting.

The next meeting's discussion topic should be decided at the last meeting. A few minutes reading about the topic in advance will make for a faster paced and much more fulfilling meeting. A list of suggested topics can be downloaded from the website.

3. Attend the Meetings

Attendance is important to the group. Do let the Group Leader know if you cannot attend a meeting.

4. Arrive on Time

Advise the Group Leader if you expect to arrive late or have to leave early.

5. Participate

It is more interesting and fun when everyone participates and no one dominates the discussion. However, participation is voluntary and no one should feel any pressure.

6. Maintain Confidentiality

Out of respect for each other's privacy and to maintain a safe environment, keep all comments confidential.

7. Be Respectful of Others

CGA meetings are kind and safe for all; no one should feel disrespected and everyone's ideas are important and treated with the utmost courtesy. People may disagree but only with respect and without pushing anyone to change their opinion or being told they are wrong. Discussions are rarely deeply theological but if clarity is needed sources are your parish priest and the "Catechism of the Catholic Church".

8. Help With Your Group's Events

Feel free to offer your help and knowledge to the Parish Group Leader.

9. Bring Problems to the Group Leader's Attention

If you have concerns, please discuss with your Group Leader, in private, or the CGA Head Office.

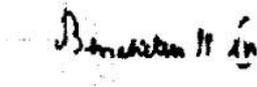
10. CGA events are productive and very enjoyable gatherings for all!



Grandparents' Prayer

*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 roles 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!*



Composed for the Catholic Grandparents Assn. by HH Pope Benedict XVI

Catholic Grandparents Association's Enrolment Prayer

“Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Father, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of and loved beyond all telling by the Virgin Mary, protected by St. Joseph, and loved by your Grandparents St. Joachim and St. Anne, I offer to you today my heart as Member of Catholic Grandparents Association.

In doing so, I commit myself to keeping prayer at the heart of the family, to help pass on the Christian faith within the family, from generation to generation, and in doing so, to commit myself to the obligations of Catholic Grandparents Association and its Spirituality.

With a grateful heart, I pray that my understanding be always obedient to your teachings and heavenly inspirations, that my heart be also inflamed with love of God and my neighbour, and that my will be conformed evermore to your Divine will. Amen.”

Nihil Obstat
+Ralph Heskett, C.Ss.R.
Bishop of Hallam

Proposed Concluding Prayer for Prayer Meetings

All praise to You, Lord Jesus, Lover of children. bless our family,
our sons and daughters,
and
all our grandchildren.

Let Your Spirit fill our homes with warmth and grace,
that our families become one with the Father and with You,
who live and reign in unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.

Amen.

Nihil Obstat
+Ralph Heskett, C.Ss.R.
Bishop of Hallam

Grace Before Meals

Bless us, O Lord, and these Your gifts, which we are about to receive, from
Your goodness, through Christ our Lord. Amen

Or old English version

Bless us, O Lord, and these Thy gifts which we are about to receive from
Thy bounty, through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

Sample CGA Ministry Meeting Agenda

Catholic Grandparents Association

Parish

Date

Welcome

- Greet new members – have name tags ready if utilizing

Opening Prayer – Grandparents Prayer

Count number of Grandchildren represented

Adopt A Prayer Child Binder

- Add names and ages, special prayer requests – pray together for all the children

Program/Speaker or Discussion Topic

- Large group may divide into smaller groups for discussion

Future Activities – planning/suggestions

Next meeting date/announcements

Prayer Requests

Closing Prayer

- From Ministry Guide/decade of the Rosary/Angelus, etc.

Social time

Catholic Grandparents Association



International Offices

Ireland – Castlebar Rd, Westport, county Mayo

Registered Charity 19038

Tel 085 8704722

UK – 21 Oak Street, Fakenham, Norfolk NR21 9DX

Tel 01328 560333

US – 951 SW 4th Ave, Boca Raton, Fl 33432

Tel. 888-510-5006

info@CatholicGrandparentsAssociation.org

www.CatholicGrandparentsAssociation.org

The Catholic Grandparents Association is a non profit Corporation under civil law and is an organization of the Catholic Church as a Private Association of the Faithful under the CGA Head Office. The CGA operates under Decree and Statutes granted by Archbishop Michael Neary, Tuam, Ireland and with the permission and blessing of the relevant local Bishop.

Catholic Grandparents Association



STATUTES OF THE CATHOLIC GRANDPARENTS ASSOCIATION

1. The Catholic Grandparents Association is an association which exists to encourage and assist grandparents to pass on the Catholic faith to their grandchildren and to keep prayer at the heart of family life. The title and logo of the Association is 'CATHOLIC GRANDPARENTS ASSOCIATION'.
2. The Catholic Grandparents Association (CGA) is under the patronage of Most Rev. Michael Neary, Archbishop of Tuam.
3. The central office of the Catholic Grandparents Association is located at Castlebar Street, Westport, Co. Mayo, Ireland.
4. Membership of the Catholic Grandparents Association is open to all people who are willing and committed to making the central purpose of the Association their own, whilst remaining faithful to the founding vision and acknowledging the common founder (Catherine Wiley).
5. In its efforts to pursue its purpose, the Catholic Grandparents Association does the following:
 - (a) Organises Grandparents Pilgrimages to honour and thank St Joachim and St Anne, grandparents of Jesus, and all grandparents;
 - (b) Organises grandchildren's prayer appeals;
 - (c) Organises 'Grandparents Days in Schools';
 - (d) Promotes Our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI's *Universal Prayer for Grandparents*, written by the Holy Father, at the request of the CGA.
 - (e) Endeavours, with the approval of Bishops and Parish Priests, to establish branches throughout the country. The branches will normally, though not necessarily, be parish based.
6. Grandparents may participate in the work of the Catholic Grandparents Association in the following ways:
 - (a) By becoming members;
 - (b) By organising a branch;
 - (c) By making a donation;
 - (d) By fund-raising;
 - (e) By volunteering to help at pilgrimages and events organised by the Catholic Grandparents Association;
 - (f) By promoting Pope Benedict XVI's *Universal Prayer for Grandparents*.
7. The Catholic Grandparents Association contributes to the continuing faith formation of its members in the following ways:
 - (a) By providing catechesis;
 - (b) By organising seminars and workshops;
 - (c) By sharing experience, information, and resources;
 - (d) By organising Grandparents Pilgrimages;
 - (e) Through its web-site.

Catholic Grandparents Association

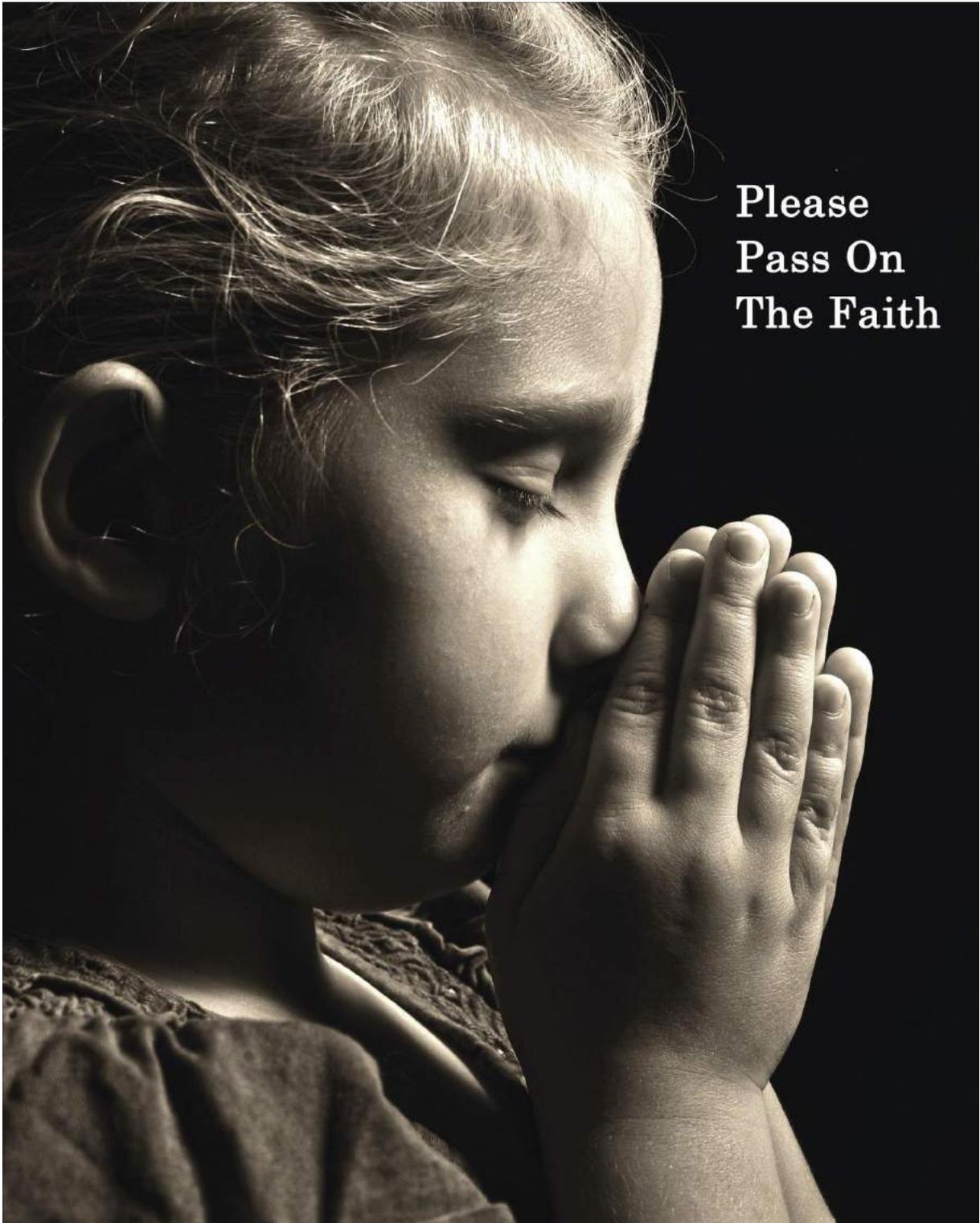
8. All meetings of the Catholic Grandparents Association, whether branch or otherwise, begin and end with prayer, and always include Pope Benedict XVI's *Universal Prayer for Grandparents*.
9. The Catholic Grandparents Association is administered by a committee which meets regularly. The committee is elected by the Board of Directors at its Annual General Meeting. They serve for a period of three years, renewable for a further three years. The founder is an *ex officio* officer.
10. Before persons take up office in the association, their appointment must be ratified by the diocesan bishop.
11. Branches operate autonomously. Each branch elects a chairman and other officers, and determines the frequency of its meetings. Meetings commence with Pope Benedict XVI's *Universal Prayer for Grandparents*. The principal activity of each branch is to organise and/or support Grandparents Pilgrimages. Other activities include the collection of grandchildren's prayers for their grandparents, and the organisation of Grandparents 'Days in Schools'.
12. The principal sources of income for the Catholic Grandparents Association are the voluntary contributions of its members, fund-raising, and publishing.
13. The association will provide an annual account of its situation to the diocesan bishop.
14. The Statutes of the Catholic Grandparents Association will be reviewed annually.
15. Any change in the Statutes must be submitted to the diocesan bishop for recognition.

OFFICERS OF THE CATHOLIC GRANDPARENTS ASSOCIATION

Director:	Catherine Wiley (Founder)
Chairman:	Maire Printer
Vice Chairman:	Marie Hogan
Secretary:	Kathy Sinnott
Treasurer:	Shay Boylan
Spiritual Director:	Fr. Fintan Monahan
Media Advisor:	David Quinn
Liturgical Advisor:	Father Richard Gibbons
Pilgrimage Co-ordinator:	Adrian Ing

OFFICE OF THE CATHOLIC GRANDPARENTS ASSOCIATION

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ⁱⁱ Ch 5 Sect. IV, h 7, Sect III, n103

ⁱⁱⁱ Ch 8 Sect II

^{iv} Ch. 8 n124