

*"As the father sent me, so I am sending you" John 20-21*



## CATHOLIC GRANDPARENTS ASSOCIATION **GRANDPARENTS NEWS**

*Connecting Grandparents Worldwide in passing on the Faith*



May 2015

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



# A Message from the Founder

Greetings on this Pentecost Sunday

Dear Members, Grandparents and Friends

You've heard me say that Grandparents are the natural evangelisers in the family. The period between Easter and Pentecost is a very special time in our church. Many grandparents will be celebrating the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and also Confirmation. Speaking with many of you I know how much you guide and encourage all these young people in their journey of faith.



Catherine Wiley meeting Pope Francis and Archbishop Fisichella - Pentecost Sunday 2013

Grandparent's can have a huge but tender influence on young people. We show our faith by our example and shared prayers, like Grace before meals and the Holy Rosary. Share your faith with all who visit your home. Little gestures can have major effect. The important thing you all understand is that these are events which will be formative for and also opportunities to evangelise within the family. 'Evangelisation' is not a word to shy away from in our families and it is our central call to 'preach the Gospel', in words and also in action. Our families are very much like the families that the Apostles met in the early church, in fact the Domestic Church. It is this very basis of our church and our society which is fundamental to how we, as grandparents, can build both our church and society. In a world that often tries to diminish faith to the sidelines, we now have the opportunity to see how, through the work, that you do as members of the CGA on a daily basis, we can turn this vision into a reality. Our association continues to grow in strength and number.

I continue to thank all our members for their work and dedication in furthering the mission and purpose of the CGA.

Love and Prayers on this Pentecost Sunday.

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

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

*Catherine Wiley*

Catherine Wiley  
Grandmother and founder  
of the Catholic Grandparents Association



## CGA Malta News

July 24th. Pilgrimage to Saint Anne Church at Zebbiegh, followed by dinner at L-Imgarr (Malta).

Pictured:

Stephen Gatt The CGA Coordinator for Malta with his wife and her sister and Catherine Wileys niece Sinead- on her recent visit to Malta with her sons school choir.

# First Ecumenical Launch of the Catholic Grandparents Association (CGA). Diocese of Northampton - England



On Friday 8th May 2015, at the Parish Church of St Gregory the Great in Northampton, the Bishop of Northampton, the Rt. Reverend Peter Doyle, formally inaugurated the CGA in the Diocese of Northampton.

Parishioners from parishes in the Catholic Diocese were joined in prayer and celebration of the vocation of grandparents by many from the local Anglican Community. In a service led by Parish Priest Fr Andrew Behrens, Bishop Peter, who is Patron of the CGA in England and Wales, was 'thrilled' that the CGA was being established in Northampton. He spoke of the idealised view that we may have of the Holy Family and reminded us that they share much with families today in the struggles and messiness of day to day living. He further went on to say that



he was sure that St Joachim and St Anne, as the parents of Mary and Grandparents of Jesus, must have 'scooped up Jesus in his younger days and reinforced the goodness of Mary and Joseph'. Addressing Grandparents directly, he spoke of the joy he shared when his own brother had become a 'grandfather' recently. This joy was further reflected in the grandparents he met. Quoting from the Prayer for Grandparents, written especially for the Association by Pope Benedict XVI, he reminded grandparents that they are, 'Strong Pillars of Gospel faith, guardians of noble domestic ideals and living treasures of sound religious traditions'.

Founder of the Association, Catherine Wiley, had flown in directly from the United States for this occasion. She presented a framed copy of the Prayer to Fr Andrew who will hang this in the church. During a short address, Catherine also spoke of the important vocation of grandparents and that their role in many families has developed over the years to one where they play an important and vital role in the development of family life and that this is one job that they will never 'retire' from. Also speaking at the event were local organiser, David White and Group Leader Michael Hennessey who had made the trip from London especially to share his experience of how to get groups started in parishes.



Catherine Wiley presenting copy of the Pope's Prayer to Father Andrew, standing with Bishop Peter Doyle, patron of the CGA



David White

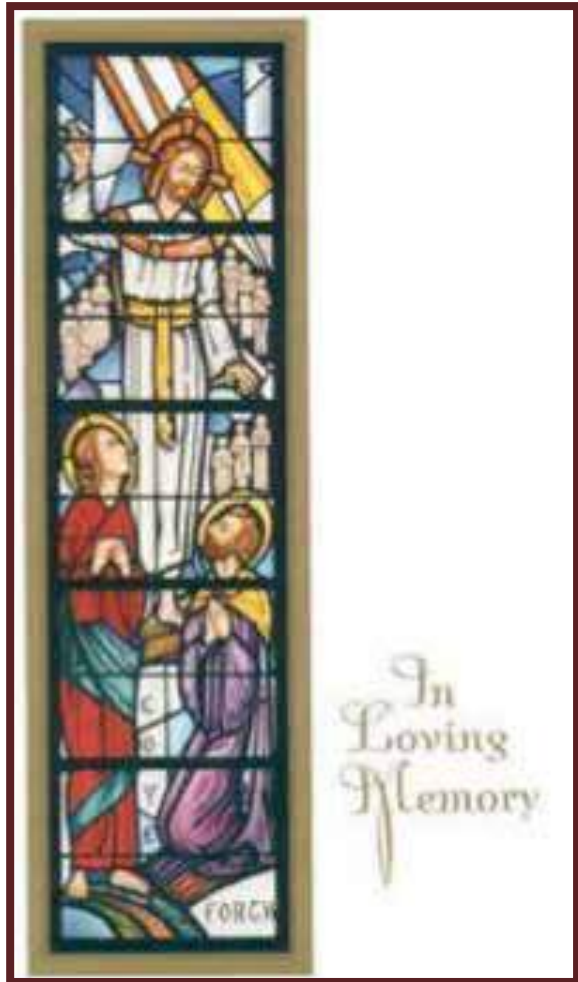
Speaking on local radio following the event, Catherine further explained that the Association had started in Walsingham, England and that the CGA enables a structure that, through their work in parishes, gives Grandparents a forum and voice at a time when so many families are in great need of the special support that grandparents can give. In addition, through work in schools and family led pilgrimages, brings families together in an atmosphere of faith and fun that is unique to the Association.



Please remember in your prayers CGA member Maria Teresa, who is recovering from an operation.  
We wish her a speedy and full recovery.

N'oubliez pas dans votre membre CGA (L'Association Catholique des Grandparents) de prières Maria Teresa, qui se remet d'une opération.  
Nous lui souhaitons un prompt et complet rétablissement.

We remember also all our members, past and present, and all our family members who have found their eternal rest with the Lord.  
May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace



## 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

### *We pray especially for*

Bernard Sweeney, Florida, US, whose anniversary is on Pentecost Sunday. He is remembered as a loving grandfather and father.

Mary Thacker (nee Denning), Warwickshire, England. She is remembered as a devoted and loving Grandmother, Mother and sister.

*There is a candle lighting for all our departed members, friends and all their families at  
Our Lady's Shrine at Knock, Ireland  
& The Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham, England*

## Advice to being a CGA Evangeliser

Recalling how the Apostle's were filled with the "fire of the Holy Spirit" we are called, particularly at this time in our liturgical year, to be an evangelising Church. Our job is to bring the GOOD NEWS to the world.

CGA friend, Dr Vinny Barrata, reminds us about how the CGA can open "help and encourage children and Grandchildren in the same manor as the early Christians... touched with the gift of faith, hope and love..."

Evangelisation is a word to embrace. Now is the right time to fan the flames of our gifts received at Baptism and Confirmation.

Dr V Barrata, USA.



*and many blessings to Johanna,  
Enda and New born Son Calum,  
and to all New Parents and  
Grandparents at this blessed time.*

Thank you for the intercession of St Anne



***Dear St. Joachim and St. Anne,***

Parents of the blessed Virgin Mary and  
Grandparents of the child Jesus I ask you for your  
prayers that I may be a good Grandparent

Help me to be proud of my Grandchildren

Help them to be proud of me

Teach me to give generously of my time and  
love to them

Help me always to be patient and kind with them

Give me the wisdom to guide them in the ways of  
good and right

Give me the courage to show them the roads of  
honesty and understanding

May I support their parents in their privilege and  
responsibility of rearing the children in the ways of  
faith and love

Help me to show the children by work and example,  
fidelity on Sunday Mass and prayer

May I, day by day become a more Christian person

And when life is over, together with all my family,  
may we be reunited in the glory of the  
presence of God

AMEN

Hail Mary.....





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# Grandparents & Family Day in School

**Organised by**  
**Catherine and Ray Chuck in Kilasser**  
**National School, Co. Mayo**

Grandparents & Family Day in Kilasser School took place recently.

There were many Grandparents and Family members attending. The event was also attended by Fr. John Durkan.

The children sang hymns, followed by Bible reading and prayers. The children had also drawn pictures of their Grandparents and families which were presented on the day. Ray spoke at the end and thanked everyone for attending on behalf of the Catholic Grandparents Association. Everyone there left with a feeling of Happy Holidays.

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## When will Grandad be ‘un-buried’?

Children ask the funniest questions and when it comes to the death of a loved one, particularly with a grandparent and they don't hold back. In one of what we often call, the ‘golden moments’, our youngest granddaughter who is aged 3, was talking about a whole lot of issues with her Nanny in the back of the car on a long journey. The subject got round to her other granddad who had died almost a year ago. The family had recently erected the headstone so I guess that this must have been at the forefront of her mind. Tricky questions like, ‘where is he now’, ‘is he with Jesus’, ‘why can't we see him’ and, a really difficult one, ‘when will he be ‘unburied’.



In the gentle way that is so familiar to so many grandparents, the big philosophical and theological issues that have concerned so many, for so long, were gently unpicked by ‘nanny’ in a way that this young mind could both understand and comprehend. Belief in the resurrection of the dead has been an essential element of the Christian Faith from its beginnings. (CCC 991) So, we look forward to that resurrection in which Christ will change our lowly body to be like his glorious body into a spiritual body (CCC 999).

Death in itself can be a difficult concept to understand for all of us – particularly when this affects our very nearest and dearest. It is the end of our earthly life and in many senses a natural part of living. But, because of Christ, Christian death has a positive meaning...‘if we have died with him, we shall also live with him’ (CCC 1010).

Each time we profess our faith we look forward to the resurrection of the dead and life of the world to come, so our little granddaughter had touched upon something very important to us in our lives and in our faith. At another of these ‘golden moments’ we followed this up by reading together the book ‘Granpa’ which in itself faces that one question of our own mortality and the fact that none of us will be around forever. So listen out for these ‘golden moments’ and be prepared. Our faith is rich and profound, we, as grandparents who are dedicated to passing on this faith need to ensure that we are well equipped. How about using this subject as one of your discussion subjects at your next meeting.

What would you say to the question, ‘When will ‘grandad’ or ‘grandma’ be un-buried’?

**Phil Butcher - CGA England**

Granpa – John Burningham, Random House Children's Books, London, W5 5SA. ISBN 0-09-943408-3

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# Update from Ireland

Since our mission is passing on the Faith Maire Printer is doing a course in Dublin. It is called The Catechesis of The Good Shepherd and is geared towards anyone who is trying to pass the Faith onto the grandchildren. You will find all the info on their website.

The course is wonderful in its simplicity "Maire is simply loving it". This has led me to prepare 9 children for the Sacraments. These 9 received their first Communion last Sunday in my local church and it was a very emotional experience for me.



A Mass has been arranged in Tuam Cathedral at 10 o' clock on Tuesday 21st July to honour Saints Joachim and Anne, Grandparents of Jesus, and all the Grandparents of the Tuam Archdiocese. All Grandparents of the Archdiocese are welcome to come and bring the Grandchildren. There will be refreshments afterwards and we look forward to a wonderful celebration.

The Roscommon branch have arranged a day retreat on 26th May at Esker Retreat centre near Athenry Co Galway.

We have sent letters out to all the schools in Ireland asking both primary and secondary children to write a prayer for their Grandparents. These prayers will be carried to the altar during the CGA pilgrimage to Knock on Sunday September 13th.

God bless Maire Printer  
National Coordinator CGA Ireland.



# All Ireland Groups Meet

On the 27th April, groups from all over Ireland met together to share their knowledge and develop the Catholic Grandparents Association across the country. Over thirty CGA members and leaders, from all over Ireland, had come to Dublin with a full agenda aimed at coordinating the existing group structures. The meeting started with a 'working lunch' which enabled all members to meet socially whilst dealing with the important issues.



Our National Coordinator for Ireland, Maire Printer, outlined proposals which looked at working within each of the four Provinces in Ireland and further introducing regional leaders. Through



this, an effective way is produced of both spreading the word and work of the CGA and building and supporting our groups. The strength of the CGA lies in its 'grass roots' groups, which, supported by the National Office through our volunteer network, is an effective way of both 'multiplying our hands' and ensuring that all parishes have the opportunity to hear about our work in parishes, in schools and, most importantly, in the family. Through solid discussion and planning a consensus was soon reached and we now have identified regional teams in each of the four

Provinces (Armagh, Cashel, Dublin and Tuam) who collectively now work to cover the whole of the island. Within the Ecclesiastical Territory, all of Ireland falls under the same Episcopal Conference.

The meeting also concentrated on finalising the planning for the Irish National Grandparents Pilgrimage at the Shrine of Our Lady in Knock.

This Pilgrimage regularly attracts over 12,000 grandparents from all over Ireland and will be held in the newly refurbished Basilica. This is a major piece of work for the association and the working group soon will be meeting with the Shrine Director to finalise the plans.

Among the other issues discussed were the forthcoming referendum in Ireland regarding marriage and how we can make the CGA sustainable through our self-supporting groups and by raising the necessary funds. The next meeting will be held on the 8th June.





# Poem of The Years

The computer swallowed Grandma, Yes, honestly it's true!  
She pressed 'control and 'enter'  
And disappeared from view.  
It devoured her completely,  
The thought just makes me squirm.  
She must have caught a virus  
Or been eaten by a worm.  
I've searched through the recycle bin  
And files of every kind;  
I've even used the Internet,  
But nothing did I find.  
In desperation, I asked Mr.Google  
My searches to refine.  
The reply from him was negative,  
Not a thing was found 'online.'  
So, if inside your 'Inbox,'  
My Grandma you should see,  
Please 'Copy, Scan' and 'Paste' her,  
And send her back to me.



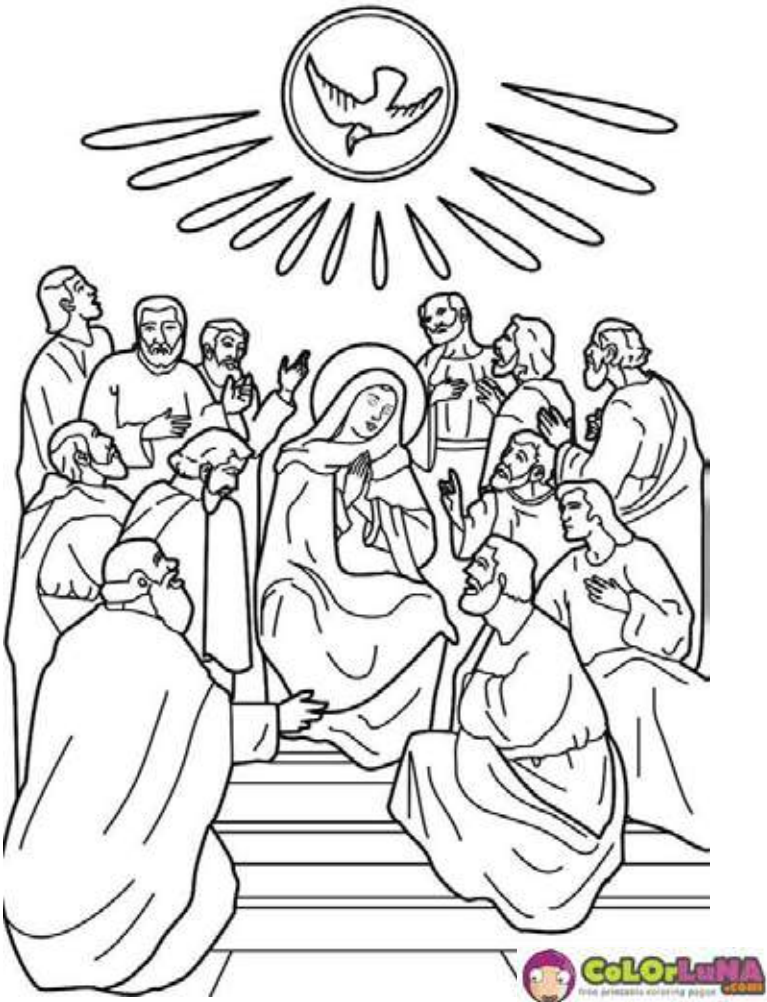
This is a tribute to all the Grandmas & Grandpas, Nannas & Pops, who have been fearless and learned to use the Computer.....They are the greatest!!!

We do not stop playing because we grow old; We grow old because we stop playing ..  
NEVER Be The First To Get Old!

## Pentecost Wordsearch

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

**Festival - Holy Spirit - Ascension - Jesus**  
**Apostles - Heaven - Christian - Thanksgiving**  
**Jerusalem - Bible**



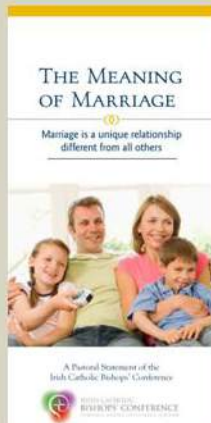


# The Meaning of Marriage

## Newsletter for dioceses and parishes

Issue 4 - Sunday 12 April 2015, Divine Mercy Sunday

### Bishops' pastoral statement: *The Meaning of Marriage*



Please read the full text of *The Meaning of Marriage* which is available in English, Irish and Polish on [catholicbishops.ie](http://catholicbishops.ie).

"The human couple has been blessed by God since the beginning to form a community of love and life, to whom the mission of procreation has been entrusted. Christian couples, by celebrating the sacrament of Marriage, indicate they are willing to honour this blessing, with the grace of Christ, for all their life." – Pope Francis

Produced by the Catholic Communications Office of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference. See [www.catholicbishops.ie](http://www.catholicbishops.ie)

### Prayer by Pope Francis for the Synod on the Family

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,  
In you we contemplate  
The splendour of true love,  
We turn to you with confidence.

Holy Family of Nazareth,  
Make our families, also,  
Places of communion and cenacles  
of prayer,  
Authentic schools of the Gospel,  
And little domestic Churches.

Holy Family of Nazareth  
May our families never more experience  
Violence, isolation, and division:  
May anyone who was wounded or  
scandalised  
Rapidly experience consolation and  
healing.

Holy Family of Nazareth,  
May the upcoming Synod of Bishops  
Re-awaken in all an awareness  
Of the sacred character and inviolability  
of the family,  
Its beauty in the project of God.  
Jesus, Mary and Joseph,  
Hear and answer our prayer.

Amen.



### Marriage is important - Reflect before you change it



Marriage is of fundamental importance for children, mothers and fathers, and society - all of us need to reflect deeply before changing it. Ahead of the referendum on 22 May, bishops ask the faithful to carefully consider that:

- Married love is a unique form of love between a man and woman which has a special benefit for the whole of society.
- Our understanding of marriage is deeply rooted in all cultures: it is not intended to exclude or disadvantage anyone.
- To seek to re-define the nature of marriage would undermine it as the fundamental building block of our society.
- Marriage should be reserved for the unique and complementary relationship between a woman and a man from which the generation and upbringing of children is uniquely possible.





## **Tanaiste admits she sees no special value in motherhood and fatherhood**

April 19, 2015 – On ‘This Week’ on RTE today, Tanaiste Joan Burton clearly demonstrated that she and the Government attach no special value to a child enjoying the love of both a mother and a father.

Pressed by Richard Crowley as to whether or not, all things being equal, she believed it is best for a child to be raised by a mother and a father, she said “the critical thing is for a child to be brought up by parents who love them”.

Commenting on this, Dr John Murray of The Iona Institute said: “The Tanaiste demonstrated today what we have been saying all along, namely that when you redefine marriage you redefine the family and you redefine the very meaning of parenthood.

“The Government no longer believes there is any special value in a child having the love of their own mother and father, or any mother and father. They believe the sexes are completely interchangeable and that men and women bring nothing special and distinct to the lives of their children.”

He continued: “It is also clear that they attach no importance to the ties of flesh and blood. Clearly two men or two women raising a child cannot both be the biological parents of the child. Only one can be. Obviously children can be well loved by non-biological parents, but most people rightly believe that children ought to be raised where possible by their own mother and father and only circumstance should ever interfere with this.

“The Government is therefore carrying out a radical transformation of our view of the family between the proposed amendment to the section of the Constitution dealing with the family, the Children and Family Relationships Act, and the planned surrogacy law”.

He concluded: “We hope that by May 22 it will be abundantly clear to the public that the Government no longer believes in the special value of having a loving mother and father, no longer believes the natural ties are of real value, and believes the sexes are interchangeable. This is very radical and if the public wakes up to what is really on offer, they will vote No on referendum day.”

Please ensure that you are well informed.



WEEKLY MASS AND PRAYERS WORLDWIDE  
ARE OFFERED FOR THE INTENTIONS OF ALL  
MEMBERS AND BRANCHES OF  
THE CATHOLIC GRANDPARENTS  
ASSOCIATION

# Grandparents role in the family

- \* Why do families allow the past to be lost and forgotten and the future less certain?
- \* Don't you think that by allowing grandparents to have an active role in raising children, the future for everyone could be more alive?
- \* Has your family tapped into the wealth of knowledge and experience of the grandparents?

## **The Role of a Grandparent**

The experience of being a grandparent is unique for everyone. Grandparents often speak of the joy of being with their grandchildren. At the same time, grandchildren appreciate the fact their grandparents love them no matter what. For some grandparents, seeing grandchildren may be difficult due to divorce, remarriage, or geographic distance. Whether you are a grandparent, step-grandparent, or a grandparent raising a grandchild, you are an important person in your grandchild's life.

### **Grandparenting Styles**

Although grandparents may express similar feelings about their experiences, the styles in which they grandparent can be different. Each person brings their unique self to the experience of grandparenting. Factors which may influence grandparenting styles include: culture, ethnicity, gender, race, family traditions, family structure, and personal history. Researchers who study grandparenting have identified various styles. These styles include family historian/living ancestor, the nurturer, the mentor, the role model, the playmate, the wizard, and the hero.

#### **\* Family Historian/Living Ancestor**

As the family historian/living ancestor, grandparents share the stories of the past. These stories may be about relatives, important events, family traditions, the grandparent's own childhood or the grandchild's parent growing up. As the stories of the family are passed on, the grandchild gains a positive image of aging and their place within the family. Grandparents and their stories can be the "glue" which keeps the family together and contributes to family identity.

#### **\* Nurturer, Mentor, and Role Model**

Grandparents who serve as nurturers provide encouragement and support to the family in times of crisis. Whether serving as the babysitter, the chauffeur, the confidante, or the caregiver, the challenge is to find a delicate balance between encouragement and control. Grandparents mentor by teaching, sharing skills and talents, providing advice and listening to their grandchildren. As a role model grandparents provide grandchildren with examples of hard work and family loyalty. You may not realize the influence you have on your grandchildren until you hear them repeat something you said or imitate something you have done. There are many areas in which grandparents serve as nurturers, mentors, and role models to their grandchildren.

#### **\* Playmate, Wizard, and Hero**

The next three styles invoke the tender emotions of grandparents. Many grandparents thrill at the opportunity to be a crony or playmate with their grandchild. They speak with enthusiasm of time spent reading books, playing games, and sharing mutual interests with their grandchildren. Grandparents also play the magical role of wizard. At young ages, grandchildren are mesmerized by tricks and will stare wideeyed asking "how did you do that?" truly believing grandpa pulled a coin out of their ear. What a fun time to be a grandparent!

Finally, grandparents also fill the role of hero. Although you may think of the word "hero" in a different way, grandparents who always listen and who are consistently available to provide support are heroes. Grandparents may be the one a child turns to when they carry a burden too big to share with anyone else or they may serve as an emotional safety net to an older child when making an important decision.

## **The Joys of Grandparenting**

Grandchildren bring love, energy, optimism, laughter, activity, youthfulness, and purpose to the lives of grandparents. At the same time, grandparents provide maturity, knowledge, stability, and unconditional love to the lives of their grandchildren. Think for a moment about your own grandparents. Which of these roles did they fulfill in your family? Whether your experiences with grandparents were positive or negative, even if you never had the opportunity to know your grandparents, you can make a difference in the lives of your grandchildren. Take the time to develop a grandparenting style that best fits you. Then build a relationship with your grandchildren that you both can enjoy!

Author: Patricia H. Holmes, Ohio State University Extension, Preble County.



# The Grandparent Connection by Betsy Mann

The moment you become a parent, you automatically give your own parents a new position: you make them grandparents. Strong connections among the generations surround your child with the security of belonging to an extended family. How your family defines the grandparent role will depend on your particular circumstances.

## Degree of interest

Grandparents vary in how involved they want to become. Some older people can hardly wait to have grandchildren. They genuinely look forward to spending time with little ones again. You may welcome their willingness to babysit or even provide child care while you study or work. On the other hand, if you find they are a little too eager to participate, you may have to make your limits clear. Other elders feel that the child-rearing period of their life is over and now it's your turn. Some grandparents keep their distance because they don't want to interfere with how you bring up your children. Make the most of whatever interest your parents show, recognizing that the situation may change over time. Some people are not drawn to babies but are quite happy to take an older child to a hockey game.

## Availability

Many of today's grandparents don't fit the stereotype of grey-haired stay-at-homes with nothing to do but babysit their grandchildren. They may still be in the workforce or they may be active retirees with busy lives of their own. Health concerns could also restrict the time and energy that older people want to spend with young children. When you respect your parents' limits, the grandparent/grandchild connection can grow without resentments.

## Distance

If you live far from your parents, it can be a real challenge to build ties between them and your children. Here are a few suggestions for keeping a long-distance relationship healthy.

- \* Use the mail to exchange photos, drawings and short notes.
- \* Write often, even if it's only a few sentences on a postcard.
- \* Telephone from time to time, but remember very young children don't say much on the phone. They may not even want to interrupt their play to "say a few words to Grandma."
- \* Keep your parents informed about your child's interests (school, sports, books, favourite TV programs, etc.) so that they have something to write or talk about.
- \* Send audiotapes of your children talking and singing.
- \* Get a grandparent to tape him or herself reading a story from a library book you suggest. When you play the tape, borrow the same book and turn the pages as you listen with your child.
- \* Ask your parents to tape stories about when you were little, or memories of their own childhood. Can they remember any songs they sang to you as a baby?

## A fresh start

The quality of your children's relationship with your parents will depend greatly on your own relationship with them. Having a child can bring you closer; you now share the experience of being a parent. On the other hand, if you have very different views about how to bring up children, this could give rise to serious frictions between you and your parents. Open communication is the key to working out these differences. You all probably have the best interests of the children at heart, even if you don't see eye to eye on the best way to achieve them.

If you continue to disagree, keep your children out of the conflict. Let them make their own relationship with your parents, unburdened by your complaints.

## An enriching bond

When the relationship is positive, children benefit from widening the circle of caring adults who will continue to be present in their lives. Contact with grandparents exposes them to different environments and to points of view based on a long experience of life. If one parent is absent, a grandparent can also provide a missing gender role model.

Older people also gain from getting to know their grandchildren. They build links forward to the future and continue contributing to their family. As a parent in the middle, you too will gain from supporting and encouraging these enriching intergenerational connections.

from A-Better-Child.org

# Clint Eastwood at 84...My Twilight Years ~ Clint Eastwood

As I enjoy my twilight years, I am often struck by the inevitability that the party must end.

There will be a clear, cold morning when there isn't any "more." No more hugs, no more special moments to celebrate together, no more phone calls just to chat. It seems to me that one of the important things to do before that morning comes, is to let every one of your family and friends know that you care for them by finding simple ways to let them know your heartfelt beliefs and the guiding principles of your life so they can always say, "He was my friend, and I know where he stood."



Regards, Clint .....Make my day—Pass it on!

## New translations of the Universal prayer for Grandparents.

When Pope Benedict wrote the Universal Prayer for Grandparents in 2008, we set on a mission to both ensure that this prayer hanging in every church and also that it is accessible in every language. This is a quest that has taken us on a real journey of discovery.

When you look at our major cities like London, where around 300 languages are in daily use, you can understand the immensity of our task. The work goes on and our latest translations have been to Vietnamese, Chinese (Mandarin) and now Arabic. We have also recently translated and transcribed the Prayer into Braille.

We will shortly be issuing a list on our website of all the current translations. If we have missed one – let us know via [info@catholicgrandparentsassociation.org](mailto:info@catholicgrandparentsassociation.org).

## Supporting CGA into the future

The work of CGA is funded entirely by donations. Leaving a legacy is a great way of showing you care about the work of CGA and will ensure that we can continue in the future. Our faith is the greatest gift we can give to future generations. If you are thinking about this or maybe your loved one is considering how they too can shape the future, then please consider CGA as a beneficiary.

If you want to progress this then please contact us via [legacies@catholicgrandparentsassociation.org](mailto:legacies@catholicgrandparentsassociation.org) or call our UK and International Office on +44 (0) 1328 560 333





# The Marian Pilgrimage of Statues in Emmanuel Parish Delray

Held at Emmanuel Catholic Church, Delray Beach, Florida, on Sunday 3rd May

27 statues were carried from Parishes all over the Diocese of Palm Beach. It was presided over by Bishop Barbarito. They were processed around the Lake while saying the Rosary.



## The Catholic Grandparents Association Launch Boca Raton, Florida

With the encouragement and blessing from Bishop Barbarito, the CGA launched its first group in the Diocese of Palm Beach. The event, hosted by Fr Galvin, took place on the 4th May in The Ascension Church, Boca Raton. Working with the diocesan marriage and Family Life Team led by Kit Johansson, a lively and joyful celebration took place with all grandparents joining in prayer. The Blessing was given by Fr Koche. During the event, grandparents gave witness and testimony, generously sharing their experiences. Catherine Wiley gave a short address.

Kitty Johansson writes: "As I reflect on how this all began for me, it was when Catherine came to the Diocese of Palm Beach in Florida, US, with the idea of the Pilgrimage for the Grandparents. The person who was in the Communications Office in our Diocese at the time and the person in the Family Life Office both came to me and asked me if I would like to come with them to meet Catherine Wiley, a lady from Ireland, who had gotten permission from our Bishop to bring this Pilgrimage for Grandparents to our Diocese, the first one in the US. I said "why are you asking me". The answer came, 'Because you are always talking about your grandchildren and you're so involved with them'. Which is very true.

I met Catherine and I knew right away that the same thing was burning inside the both of us!

Many feel that they don't have the skills or the ability or the time to do something. None of us can do everything but we can all do something. You may have a fire inside you or a few glowing embers. Whichever way don't let the fire (and our faith!) die out"

For further information please email [info@catholicgrandparentsassociation.org](mailto:info@catholicgrandparentsassociation.org) or please check our Website

Pictured:  
from left, Kathy Walsh and Catherine Wiley,  
Kit Johanssen and Father Donald Koche



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# The Testimony of Love

In Naples, Pope Francis spoke about the family and the elderly in a dialogue with some of the faithful

During his visit to Naples, Italy, Pope Francis continued to deliver his message of love in the context of the Family and in particularly the elderly.

Speaking with Erminia, a 95-year-old widow who has found support in a Christian community, the Pope spoke once again the concept of the “culture of waste,” denouncing the gap between the elderly and children in today’s society: “Children are discarded, the elderly are discarded, because they are left alone. We who are elderly have ailments and problems, we bring problems to others, and people perhaps reject us because of our illnesses, because we are useless. Now, there is also this habit of—excuse the word—letting them die; and, since we really like using euphemisms, let’s use a technical word: euthanasia. But euthanasia with an injection is not the only form; there is also hidden euthanasia, when you don’t go to the doctor, you don’t take care of yourself, you make your life sad, and so you die, everything ends.” According to the Pope, the “best medicine for a long life” is the road of “closeness, friendship, tenderness. [ To you, children, I recall the fourth commandment. Do you show affection to your parents; do you hug them and tell them that you love them? If so much money is spent on remedies, do you blame them? Examine your conscience closely. Affection is the greatest remedy for us seniors.”

In response to the questions about the difficulties that the family is encountering in the current situation, the Pope observed that “the crisis of the family is a social reality. Then, ideological colonization is imposed on families, with methods and proposals here in Europe and others that come from overseas; now, this error in human thinking, the gender theory, is creating a lot of confusion. So, the family is under attack.” “I—continued Francis—do not have the solution. The Church is aware of the problem, and the Lord has inspired us to convene the Synod on the family, to discuss many issues. I have no solutions for this. However, the testimony of love is important, the witness of how to solve problems.” This is so even when there are problems in a marriage, for example, “in the midst of fighting and even... when the dishes are flying. I always give some practical advice: fight as long as you want, but do not end the day without making peace. To do this, it’s not necessary to get down on your knees, a caress is enough, because when you fight, there is some resentment within, and if peace is made immediately, all is well. The cold grudge from the day before is much more difficult to remove; so, make peace the same day. This is a piece of advice. Then - he said - it is important to always ask the other person if he or she likes or dislikes something. You are two: ‘I’ is not very valid in marriage; what is valid is ‘we.’”

Speaking on another occasion on the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima, Pope Francis’ again focused on the three phrases he often recommends families use frequently: May I? Thank you. Forgive me.

The words are simple, he said, and hearing the pope advise their frequent use could make someone smile at first. “But when we forget them, it’s no laughing matter, right?”

The three phrases, he said, “open the path to living well in a family, living in peace.” Without them, he said, the family’s foundation develops “cracks that can even make it collapse.”



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“Sometimes it seems that we are becoming a civilization of bad manners and dirty words as if they were a sign of emancipation. We hear them so often, even publicly,” he said. “Kindness and an ability to say ‘thank you’ are almost seen as a sign of weakness.”

Families must work hard to counter that tendency, he said.

“We must be uncompromising in educating people in gratitude and thanksgiving,” the pope said. “If family life ignores this, our social life will lose as well.”

In addition, he said, “for believers, gratitude is at the very heart of faith. A Christian who does not know how to give thanks is one who has forgotten God’s language.”

“Listen up, eh,” he told the estimated 25,000 people in the square, and repeated the sentence.



## The Family, the Domestic Church

At the meeting with the charismatics at the Olympic Stadium, Francis spoke about spouses, the young and grandparents.

“Families are the domestic Church, where Jesus grows; he grows in the love of spouses, he grows in the lives of children. May the Lord bless families and strengthen them in this time of crisis when the devil is seeking to destroy them.”

Grandparents were, however, called on by the Pope spontaneously: “Grandparents! The elderly are not here, yet they are the ‘insurance’ of our faith, the ‘old folks’. Young people must carry out the Law, the elderly—like good wine—have the freedom of the Holy Spirit. They are—he continued—the wisdom of the Church. Grandmothers and grandfathers are our strength and our wisdom. May the Lord always give us wise elders! Elderly men and women who can pass on to us the memory of our people, the memory of the Church. May they also give us what the Letter to the Hebrews says about them: a sense of joy. It says that our forebears, our elders, greeted God’s promises from afar. May this be what they teach us.”

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# THE TINY STEPS OF A CHILD

**10 Year Old Chinese Martyr girl “Little Li” who inspired Archbishop Fulton Sheen to attend Daily Holy Hours!**

In a parochial school, children diligently recited their prayers. Sr. Euphrasia was pleased because two months ago, many of the children had received their First Communion, and took it very seriously; from the bottom of their hearts. She smiled as ten year old little Li asked: “Why didn’t the Lord Jesus teach us to say ‘Give us our daily rice?’” It was a very difficult question to answer, since these children ate rice morning, noon and night.

“Well, it’s that ‘bread’ means ‘Eucharist,’” answered Sr. Euphrasia, whose heart radiated much brighter than her theology. “You ask the good Jesus for daily Communion. It’s true that for your body, you need rice. But for your soul, which is worth much more than your body, you need bread. That is the Bread of Life!” In May 1953, when Li made her First Communion, she had asked Jesus in her heart: “Always give me that daily bread so that my soul can live and be healthy!” Since then, Li had received Holy Communion everyday, but she was aware of the fact that the “bad people” (the Godless Communists) could prevent her from receiving Christ at any time. So she prayed ardently that it would never happen.



She would never forget the day they entered the classroom and screamed at the children: “Right now-give us all of your idols!” Li knew very well what they meant. Terrified, the children gave up their pious, carefully hand-painted images of Jesus, Mary and the Saints. Then, in a fit of anger, the Captain pulled the Crucifix off the wall, threw it down to the ground and trampled it screaming: “The New China will not tolerate these grotesque superstitions!” That same day, the police made a sweep of the village, cramming all the inhabitants they could find into the tiny church. The Captain proceeded to bark out a new kind of “sermon” ridiculing the missionaries and the “agents of American imperialism.”

The Captain turned back to the crowd and screamed: “Let’s see how your Christ can defend Himself - here’s what I think of your ‘Real Presence’ - the Vatican’s trick to exploit all you people!” Saying this, he grabbed the ciborium and threw all the Hosts onto the tile-floor. Stunned, the faithful shrank away from his gaze and choked their cry. Little Li froze in horror.

“Oh, no,” she thought. “Look what happen to the Bread!”

“Now, get out!” yelled the Captain. “And woe to the one who dares to return to this den of superstition! He’ll answer to me!”

The church quickly emptied. But besides the angels always present around Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament to adore Him, there stood another witness who had not missed a moment of the drama. It was Father Luke from the Missions Etrangères (Foreign Missions). One month previously, foreseeing the takeover of the village, the parishioners had hidden him in a small recess of the choir, which gave him a view of the church. He sank into prayers of atonement for the sacrileges committed against Jesus and suffered because he was not able to come to Jesus’ defense: one wrong move on his part, and the parishioners who had hidden him would be arrested for treason.

“Lord, have mercy on Yourself,” he prayed in anguish. “Stop this sacrilege! Lord Jesus!”

Suddenly, a creaking sound broke the heavy silence in the church. Slowly, softly, the door opened. It was little Li! Barely ten years old, there she was, approaching the altar with the tiny steps of a Chinese girl. Father Luke trembled: she could be killed at any moment! Unable to communicate with her, he could only watch and beg all the saints in Heaven to spare this child. The little girl bowed for a moment and adored in silence, just as Sr. Euphrasia had taught her. She stayed with Jesus in adoration for one hour, knowing that she was supposed to prepare her heart before receiving Him. Her hands joined together, she whispered a mysterious prayer to her dear Jesus - mistreated and abandoned. His eyes glued to her, Father Luke stared as she lowered herself down to her hands and knees; and with her tongue, took up one of the Hosts. She remained there on her knees, eyes closed, turned inward face to face with her Heavenly Friend.



Each second seemed an eternity to Father Luke. He feared the worst. If only he could speak to her! But soon the child went out just as quietly as she had come in, almost hopping along.

Every morning our little Li slipped away to find her Living Bread in the church. Reproducing the same scenario from the previous day, each time she adored for one hour and then took up one Host with her tongue and disappeared. Father Luke was chomping at the bit: Why didn't she take them all? He knew exactly how many there were: thirty-two. "Doesn't she know she could pick up several of them at once?" he thought.

No, she didn't know. Sr. Euphrasia had been very clear about that: "One Host per day is enough. And never touch the Host; we receive it on the tongue!" The little girl perfectly conformed to the rules.

One day there remained on the ground only one more Host. At daybreak, the child scurried into the church as usual and drew near to the altar. She knelt to the ground to pray, very close to the Host. Father Luke had to muffle a cry. Suddenly a soldier, standing in the doorway, aimed his gun at her. A single dry pop was heard, followed by a loud burst of laughter. The child immediately collapsed. Father Luke thought she was dead, but no! He watched her struggle and crawl up to the Host, he saw her put her tongue over it. Then, a few convulsions shook her body, before it finally relaxed.

Little Li was dead - but not before she had rescued all the Hosts!

## HOLY HOUR, EVERY DAY

Archbishop Fulton Sheen revealed a secret at the age of 84, two months before he passed away, during an interview on national television. "Your Excellency," began the interviewer, "you have inspired millions of people world-wide; what about you, who has inspired you? Was it a Pope?"

"It was neither a pope, nor a cardinal or any other bishop- not even a priests or a nun! The one who has inspired me was a small ten year old Chinese girl."

It was then that Archbishop Sheen revealed his intimate secret by telling the story of little Li. He explained how the love this little child had for Jesus in the Eucharist so impressed him that, on the day he first heard it, he made a promise to the Lord that every day of his life, until death, come what may, he would spend one hour in adoration in front of the Blessed Sacrament.

## Make Your Vacation a Pilgrimage

### Catholic Digest article by John Boucher - USA

Part of our family life involves making spiritual pilgrimages to Shrines and Holy places. Often, we go on a combination vacation-pilgrimage. A Pilgrimage is much more than a tour or a vacation. It's more like a retreat on the move.

Pilgrims and tourists aren't the same either. Tourists focus on enjoying the sights, sounds and bargains of far-off places. A Pilgrim is on a journey to rekindle the fire of faith. It's a spiritual adventure born of a desire to pursue God in a physical place. All the parts of any trip – preparing, travelling, sightseeing, and even the return home- take on sacred dimensions on a pilgrimage. And a Pilgrim comes home with more than just a few snapshots; they take home new insights, and a deeper faith.

Companions on Pilgrimages become like brothers & sisters. Trials can become opportunities for prayer and sacrifice. Finally, on our visit we share with one another what we liked most and why. Four year olds and teenagers can participate on equal terms with adults on such a pilgrimage.

Whether you journey near or far, you will be in good company with all the adventurers – past and present- of our Catholic faith. We truly are a "Pilgrim Church".



A beautifully detailed statue of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha stands outside her shrine in Fonda, N.Y. Mass is offered daily from July through September, with a special Mass on Blessed Kateri's feast day, July 14. (Photo: Therese Boucher.)



11th July Aylsford Pilgrimage



26th July Walsingham



16th August Scottish Pilgrimage



13th Sept Knock Pilgrimage



22nd Sept World Meeting of Families - Philadelphia



#### PRAYER FOR GRANDPARENTS

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!

*Benedictus PP XVI*

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