Dearest Holy Father my name is Catherine Wiley, I come from Ireland. My husband Stewart and I founded the Catholic Grandparents Association.

The Association for Catholic Grandparents grew, thanks to the Special Prayer for Grandparents which was written for us by Pope Benedict 16th, Thank you Dear Pope Benedict. Graci, Graci, Graci

This is my grandson Tom, from England. We bring you love and prayers from grandparents all over the world.

For us the family is the first place in which we pass on faith. Today, our children are married and we have ten beautiful grandchildren who we love very much. Our parental vocation is not over, but has grown by embracing the wonderful call to be grandparents.

Like Jesus grandparents, Joachim and Anne, we too want to be examples of faith for our families, teaching them to put God in the first place, to love our neighbour, to forgive and not to be ashamed to ask for forgiveness. We have realised that to transmit faith we need courage and determination.

As grandparents, we have a unique opportunity: to sow faith which with time will bring fruit in abundance.

Let us teach our Grandchildren to pray.

**Tom:**

Hello Pope Francis,

Dear Pope, my grandparents have taught and encouraged me to pray, always, but once, when I was truly frightened whilst on the plane, their example of prayer to God has really inspired me. Pope Francis, you too were a boy who has listened to the grandparents’ wisdom. Today you are for us, the children, like a granddad and we love you very much. Help us to make people understand how important the grandparents are in the family.

*Speaking after the event, Catherine Wiley said: ‘ It was honestly one of the most wonderful moments of my life for me and for my family, and the most important moment for the life and development of the Catholic Grandparents Association throughout the world. We feel very, very blessed and privileged for this opportunity to create awareness for the vocation of Grandparents to pass on the faith to their Grandchildren.’*