

GRANDPARENTS NEWS



Issue 34 – November/December 2019

Dedicated to the Saints





Dearest Grandparents & Friends,

“God’s Holy Gifts for God’s Holy People”



“All You Holy Men and Women Pray for Us”

In the beautiful prayer which defines our Catholic faith, we pray

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church and the Communion of Saints . . .

But how does one define or explain the meaning of the Communion of Saints? Our Catechism defines the Communion of Saints as “in holy things (sancta) and among holy persons (sancti). The faithful (sancti) are fed by Christ’s holy body and blood (sancta) to grow in communion of the Holy Spirit (koinonia) and to communicate it to the world.

In the month of November, the Church celebrates our Saints, holy people who unite us with the past and show us the way forward. They unify us, bridging the gap between heaven and earth, interceding to the Lord in our times of need and serving as role models for us to emulate.

We often think of the Saints as leading totally holy lives but there are a number with sinful pasts who can teach us much. The expression, “Every Saint has a past and every Sinner has a future” rang true for St. Augustine, an alcoholic and philanderer, St. Matthew, a despised tax collector, St. Mary of Egypt, a prostitute, St. Olga, a murderer, etc. I recently heard a Priest say that we should meet those we love where they are until we can help to get them to be where God wants them to be. Good advice to us as Grandparents.

There is a candle lighting for you in the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham and in the Shrine of Our Lady of Knock.

Love and Prayers,

Catherine Wiley

Catherine Wiley—Founder of the Catholic Grandparents Association



Nov 21st - Catherine Wiley, St. Peter’s Basilica Presentation Chapel, in front of the painting - the Presentation of the Virgin Mary in the Temple by her parents, St. Joachim and St. Anne.

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Catherine Wiley's Presentation in Gibraltar 6th and 7th November 2019



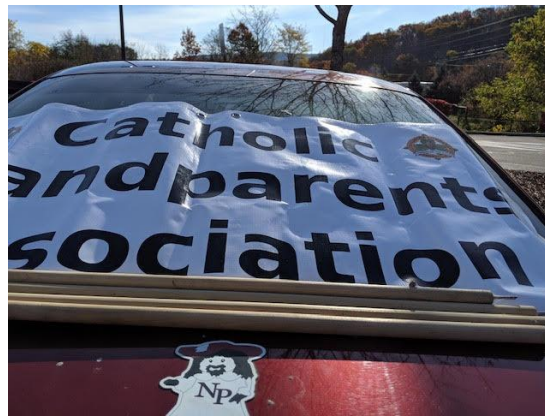
Bishop of Gibraltar Carmelo Zammit,
Catherine Wiley, Louise Napoli, Head
Teacher, Loreto Convent School, Gibraltar
and Rosemarie Therese Isola



Adopt-A-Highway Clean-Up



Kathleen Mironchik, CGA, St. Joseph Catholic Church, New Paltz, New York. Thank You Intrepid Grandparents for your hard work and great example!!!



Mary Ann's Eulogy Read by Annette Farr

We received a beautiful message from Marlene Galus regarding a Grandmother she cared for who recently passed away before what would have been her 101st birthday. Marlene wanted to share the Eulogy, composed by the Children and Grandchildren of Mary Ann, with other Grandparents.

In Mary Ann's home
she never wasted a scrap
or a second
to make you feel special and included

**Her patience was endless
her servant hood; legendary**

She was an institution of kindness
**who taught all of us
the importance of having grace
and faith**

She was ever so feisty
and fearless
and full of happiness

**She held humility and holiness
to the same standard**
as her sense of humor

*and valued everyone
and everything in her life
with an unparalleled gratitude*

If she had a favorite
you'd never know it
because she made us all feel
like we were it

*Her love was genuine
and godly
and ever so gracious*

Her hugs smelled of home
and a warm stove

I can still see her
nibbling on raw veggies
and sipping on a beer
quietly watchful
of everyone around her

*Her eyes containing
a century of wisdom
we could only wish to attain*

*She set the bar
very high*

She was a loyal wife, mother,
grandmother, great-grandmother,
gay gamma, sister, Muder and
friend. She was MaryAnn and I can
still see her smiling at me through
all of you.





Saint Peter Grandparents Mass

Pictures by Nikki Mahn





Preparing for Advent

"Adventus" Latin for "Coming"



The beautiful Season of Advent, a time of anticipation and waiting is an ideal time to focus on teaching the real meaning of Christmas and creating traditions. Celebrating Advent keeps the focus on Jesus rather than Santa Claus, presents and commercialism.

Advent Traditions Around the World



The two most common Advent practices around the world are the Advent wreath and candles and the Advent calendar. The wreath is a circle representing God's continuous love and the soul's immortality.

China Chinese Christians light up their homes with colorful paper lanterns during Advent.

Croatia Some Croatians begin Advent on November 25th, St. Catherine's Day.

Germany Families set up their Advent wreath and gather each Sunday to sing Christmas carols and light a candle.

Mexico A beautiful tradition celebrated in Mexico is Las Posadas (the Inns). The nine day celebration marks the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem.

Scandinavia Families light candles around a wheel and offer prayers to the God of Light (Christ Our Light)

The Philippines Misa De Gallo, the Mass of the rooster, is celebrated in the Philippines beginning on December 16 at 4 AM

Quiz your Grandchildren (& yourself)

How many Sundays are there in Advent? What holy day of obligation falls during Advent? What traditional Advent hymn expresses our longing for the coming of Jesus? What color is used in church during Advent? What color is used on the third Sunday of Advent?

Saints celebrated in Advent

Feast of St. Nicholas December 6 * Feast of the Immaculate Conception December 8 * Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe December 12 * Feast of St. Lucy December 13



Catholic Grandparents Association

St Peter, Kirkwood, Missouri, US

Awe and Wonder! Thank you St. Peter Grandparents Ministry! Awesome Advent Activity sharing the beauty of the season, bringing three generations together.



Children's Activity Page



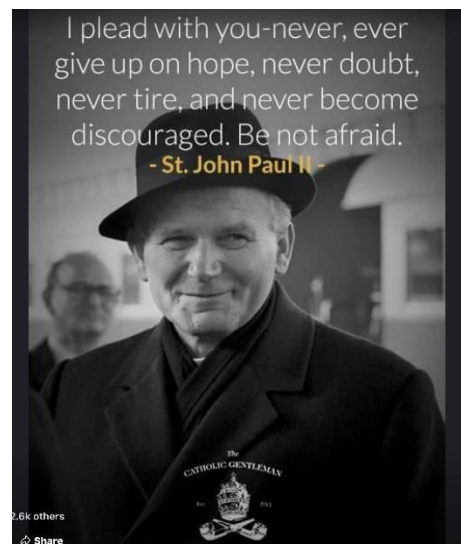
We please ask Ministry Leaders and members to submit pictures and stories of events, meetings and relevant happenings to info@catholicgrandparentsassociation.org

CGA Ministry Leaders

By invitation only, we have a new Facebook Page for CGA Ministry Leaders only. Please request to be included in the closed group. The page will allow us to share prayer, ideas, events, etc.

[Catholic Grandparents Association Ministry Leaders](#)

Resources, Ideas, Discussion Topics – Nov/Dec



"My God, how very much You love me! When I think of that Love, I feel a sudden surge of courage to face the future. Even death becomes merely the beautiful moment when the One Who loves, and the one who is loved, meet face to face."

- Mother Angelica



CGA Ministry Leaders & Members

Our beautiful, exclusive new medal of Saint Joachim and Saint Anne with their grandson, Jesus is now available.

In Keeping with the charism which is the Catholic Grandparents Association, our exclusive medal has at its' center, the Child Jesus holding a Red rose representing the Blessed Virgin Mary as the Mystic rose. Jesus is surrounded by His Grandparents, St. Joachim and St. Anne so that together, three generations, Grandparents, parents and children are represented as one family symbolizing the communion of the Holy Trinity. Working with renowned arts and craftsmen in Rome, this exquisite design came to fruition after many years of searching for the image that would truly depict the beauty, selfless love and devotion that Grandparents have for their grandchildren. It is our hope that this beautiful image signifying God's plan for the sanctity and unity of familial generational bonds will bring great joy, encouragement and support to Grandparents in passing on their faith.



Sterling Silver - €20, \$20 *Silver Plated €10, \$10 * Gold Plated - €10, \$10
Plus shipping, medal only

To purchase a medal please send an email to catholicgrandparents@gmail.com or call 888-510-5006 for US enquiries or 01328 560333 for Ireland and UK enquiries



Forthcoming Events



Bambinelli Sunday



December 15th, 2019 Mass

Over the past number of decades, on the Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) children and adults bring their Baby Jesus figures from their homes to St Peters Square where they are blessed by the Pope.

This year we will celebrate 'Bambinelli Sunday' at our Mass on the Third Sunday of Advent (December 15th).

All children and families are invited to bring the Baby Jesus figure from their homes to be blessed. Families can make their own 'Bambinelli' if they wish.

Name and Address of Parish

The CGA is delighted that the beautiful Advent tradition, Bambinelli Sunday, is spreading.

Each Parish is welcome to develop their own approach, following the tradition. If you're interested in bringing this to your Parish, please contact us for a pdf file of the poster.

In Remembrance of Grandparents who have been called home – forever in our hearts...

Weep Not For Me
Unknown Author

Weep not for me though I have gone
Into that gentle night
Grieve if you will, but not for long
Upon my soul's sweet flight

I am at peace, my soul's at rest
There is no need for tears
For with your love I was so blessed
For all those many years

There is no pain, I suffer not
The fear is now all gone
Put now these things out of your thoughts
In your memory I live on

Remember not my fight for breath
Remember not the strife
Please do not dwell upon my death
But celebrate my life



If you would like to send names of loved ones/members who you would like to have remembered in an issue contact us via our email address info@catholicgrandparentsassociation.com