

Catholic Grandparents Association

Passing on Our Faith and Keeping Prayer at the Heart of Family Life

Summer Issue—August 2020



A Letter from Catherine Wiley—Founder of the Catholic Grandparents Association



My Dearest Grandparents, Great Grandparents and Friends,

Greetings to each and every one of you in this beautiful blessed month of August, which has been dedicated to the Immaculate heart of Mary, and which represents the desire of our Holy Mother Mary, to gather all people to her loving care and protection.

Our National Grandparents Pilgrimage at the Shrine of our Lady of Knock, Ireland, has been historically the day when we Grandparents and our families gather together in our spiritual home, to pray for and with each other and to thank all our Grandparents alive and dead for all they have done for us down through the ages particularly in passing on our beautiful gift of faith.

Due to the Corona virus, sadly, this year, our Grandparents day in Knock will be a little different. **Our Pilgrimage will be broadcast online, live from The Basilica.** I know that you will understand that this in the interest of keeping everyone safe and secure.

For fifteen years now we have come together by the thousands on this special day. We have grown to be the largest Pilgrimage in Knock. This year, although we may be physically distant; we will be more strongly spiritually connected than ever.

We realize this is a big sacrifice for all of us, desiring to honor and thank our Holy Mother and St Joachim and Anne, the Grandparents of her Divine Son Jesus. We know that there is no sacrifice a loving Grandparent will not make for their beloved grandchildren; so let us be united together on line in our thousands from all over the World on this our special day the **13th of September at 3:00 PM, Irish time.**

Father Richard Gibbons, Rector of Knock, will be our Chief Celebrant with the renowned Basilica choir and Soloist, Una Nolan providing the music.

Please ask your Grandchildren to help you get on line and to watch one hour with you on this very blessed and grace filled occasion.

Our Grandparents Pilgrimage is about coming together to pray to thank God and his blessed Mother Mary for the many blessings that he has given us and to continue to invoke His blessing and His protection on us in these difficult, uncertain, uneasy times

But also—there is something else God the Father is asking of us this year and that is a little penance. This has been a very challenging year for all of us especially Grandparents and the Elderly who may have been cocooning for a long time and may have not seen their Grandchildren or loved ones for quite a while. You have sacrificed because you love your families and want everyone to be safe and secure as you struggle to come to grips with a whole new way of life imposed upon us by the Corona pandemic.

Let us celebrate our Vocation as Grandparents to pass on our faith together as never before. Nothing will ever stop us from loving and praying for our beloved families and grandchildren, showing them with all our heart and soul the love and joy of the Gospel which has sustained us throughout our lives. Through wars, floods, famine, plagues, fire and now the corona virus. Nothing will prevail against us. Our faith is our anchor, our hope, our love, our joy, our eternal legacy which only begins on earth and ends with *“the great embrace of life without end”*.

So let us join together on September 13 (3:00 PM Irish time) and ignite the Internet with our greatest Pilgrimage ever!

We offer our prayers, love and devotion to St. Joachim and St Anne as they greet their daughter into Heaven on August 15.

May the blessings of Saint Joachim and Saint Anne be with you and your families today and always.

Love and Prayers,

Catherine Wiley

Catherine Wiley—Founder of the Catholic Grandparents Association





My heart hath rejoiced in God my Savior, because He that is mighty hath done great things for me



Catherine with the statue of Mary at the Shrine of Our Lady In Walsingham.



Knock Pilgrimage with Grandchildren celebrating their thanks for Grandparents



The sanctification of the statue of Mary in Rome

Twenty years ago, on the occasion of our Holy Mother's birthday, September eighth at the little Slipper Chapel at the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham in England, our Holy Mother, whose Immaculate Heart we celebrate this month, ignited a fire inside a new Catholic Grandmother and the Catholic Grandparents Association was conceived. Thus, our first Pilgrimages were born, first in Walsingham and later at the Shrine of Our Lady of Knock in Ireland. Today, thanksgiving masses and Pilgrimages are held worldwide, frequently near the Memorial of Sts. Joachim and Saint Anne, July 26, or the 2nd Sunday in September, near our Lady's Birthday. Please join us this year, virtually to celebrate our annual Grandparents Pilgrimage at Our Lady of Knock on September 13.



Mullingar Parish
26 Jul · 🌐
Happy feast of Saints Anne and Joachim, the grandparents of Jesus! We offer special prayers for our grandparents today as well as all our parishioners named Anne, Anna, AnnMarie, Áine, Hannah, Annette, Annabelle and Grace. (Anne comes from the Hebrew for Grace!)

The beautiful chapel dedicated to St Anne in our Cathedral is well worth a visit today and depicts Joachim and Anne presenting their daughter Mary to the Lord in the Temple as a child. We think of the many times that our own grandparents taught us to have faith in the Lord at all times, and to be built up by His Grace.

Sts Joachim and Anne, pray for us.



Beautiful New Statue of Our Lady of Knock blessed by our Holy Father Pope Francis at Saint Peters Basilica in Rome, 8th August 2019 with Archbishop Michael Neary and Father Richard Gibbons



Walsingham and Knock Pilgrimages



Socially Distanced: Spiritually Connected



Papal Nuncio with members of CGA organising committee

The **CGA Dublin** Diocesan Annual Mass for the Feast Day of St Joachim & St Anne was celebrated by his *Excellency Archbishop Jude Thaddeus Okolo* in the Church of St Therese, Mount Merrion.

We surmounted the challenges presented by Covid19 to enable Grandparents commemorate this important Feast Day(the Grandparents of Jesus) .Those who were unable to be in Church participated on Parish web cam.

This joyful occasion , made all the more so, by Arch Bishop Okolo's engagement with the children. He delighted them with his stories of his young life in Africa. The children , in turn , delighted all of us with their beautiful singing.

In his Homily. the Arch Bishop spoke of the necessity of Catholic education in good Catholic Schools. Otherwise our children will not know what it is to be a Catholic.

The CGA thanks Fr Murrin, Fr Brian O Reilly and all who contributed to the organisation of the Mass.

Joyce Dillon



"The One" By Patrick Kavanagh

For times such as these— *"It's a great poem for Spring and for Easter in particular—and it's fitting for living through a pandemic without church services, too, since it reminds us that, if we have eyes to see, even a remote,*

"THE ONE," BY PATRICK KAVANAGH



Patrick Kavanagh (21 October 1904 – 30 November 1967) was an Irish poet and novelist. His best-known works include the novel *Tarry Flynn*, and the poems "On Raglan Road" and "The Great Hunger".^[1] He is known for his accounts of Irish life through reference to the everyday and commonplace.^[2] He also played as a [goalkeeper](#) for his local [Gaelic football](#) club.

Patrick Kavanagh



Patrick Kavanagh, by Patrick Swift, 1960

A million-thousand thanks, Frank & Noreen Burns for your suggestion of this poem and for all you do for the CGA, your family and our Church

Green, blue, yellow and red –
God is down in the swamps and
marshes
Sensational as April and almost incred-
ible the flowering of our catharsis.
A humble scene in a backward place
Where no one important ever looked
The raving flowers looked up in the
face
Of the One and the Endless, the Mind
that has baulked
The profoundest of mortals. A
primrose, a violet,
A violent wild iris – but mostly
anonymous performers
Yet an important occasion as the Muse
at her toilet
Prepared to inform the local farmers
That beautiful, beautiful, beautiful God
Was breathing His love by a cut-away
bog.

+ Patrick Kavanagh



Launch of the campaign “The elderly are your grandparents” Use the inventiveness of love: make phone or video calls, listen to them!



It is possible to reduce the isolation felt by elderly people while also strictly observing health guidelines for Covid-19.

The pandemic has hit the elderly particularly hard and it has disconnected the already weak links between generations. However, respecting social distancing rules does not mean accepting a destiny of loneliness and abandonment.

That is why the *Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life* has decided to heed the words spoken by Pope Francis after the Angelus and to launch a campaign called “The elderly are your grandparents”. It invites young people from all over the world to do something that shows kindness and affection for older people who may feel lonely.

In recent months many Episcopal Conferences, associations and individuals have been using “the inventiveness of love” to find ways to bring the ecclesial community closer to the elderly who are lonely. We have received news of contacts being made via telephone, internet and social networks, and even of serenades to the residents of retirement homes. Young people have been doing this to help alleviate the loneliness being felt by many people who are obliged by the pandemic to stay at home or remain confined in residential care facilities.

In this phase of the campaign, in order to respect the health regulations in force in different countries, our invitation to young people is to reach out to the loneliest elderly people in their neighbourhood or parish and send them a hug, according to the request of the Pope, by means of a phone call, a video call or by sending an image. Wherever possible – or whenever the health emergency will allow it – we invite young people to make the embrace even more concrete by visiting elderly in person.

The campaign is associated with the hashtag #sendyourhug in order to disseminate the initiative. The most significant posts will be circulated on the social media of the *Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life* @laityfamilylife.

We hope that this campaign can help to achieve a dream expressed by Pope Francis when he wrote “Here is what I would like: a world that experiences a renewed embrace between young and old (Preface of the book “The Wisdom of Time”)”.

On the memorial of the Saints Joachim and Anne, Jesus “grandparents”, I would like to invite the young to perform a gesture of tenderness towards the elderly, especially the loneliest, in their homes and residences, those who have not seen their loved ones for many months.

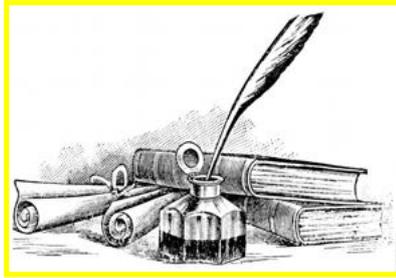
Dear young people, each one of these elderly people is your grandparent! Do not leave them by themselves. Use the inventiveness of love, make telephone calls, video calls, send messages, listen to them and, where possible, in compliance with the healthcare rules, go to visit them too. Send them a hug.

They are your roots. An uprooted tree cannot grow, it does not blossom or bear fruit. This is why the bond and connection with your roots is important. “The blossom of a tree comes from what it has underground”, says a poet from my homeland. Therefore I invite you to give a big round of applause for our grandparents, everyone!

Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life

27 July 2020

We Receive Letters!!!



Dear Catherine,

We are starting a new Group of Catholic Grand Parents in Mexico.

Father Lorenzo Barrera, who is in charge of the Parish of Santa Beatriz de Silva in the Monterrey Diocesis in Mexico is very interested in the development of this new Group.

We will inform you of the steps that we are performing, and of our development.

My wife and I, met you in Dublín during the Eucarístic Congress in your Country, several years ago.

After almost 60 years of marriage, and with 49 grandchildren, and 7 grand grand children my wife has born to the Eternal Life, in Marcha 22, but she is helping us from heaven.

Please pray for us.

Your brother in Christ.

Raúl Garza Sloan



I am a grandmother and practicing Catholic. I heard about the Catholic Grandmother Association for the first time today on EWTN. Not sure why that information was not widely shared in any of the parishes I have frequented in a number of countries across the world.

I would like to join the group, albeit 17 years later. All in God's timing.

Kindly share the joining instructions.

Kind regards.

Teresiah Wambui Gathenya in Liberia.



And Endorsements.....

Colleen Lowery, Ministry Leader

Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Darien, Illinois



Dear Priests and Deacons in the Diocese of Joliet:

I offer my endorsement for Catholic Grandparents Association (CGA), dedicated to assisting grandparents in their mission of “passing on the Catholic faith and keeping prayer at the heart of family life.”

In these times of shifting social and moral values, grandparents make a vital contribution to the family, Church and society. As Pope Francis has said, “How important grandparents are for family life, for passing on the human and religious heritage so essential for each and every society!” We are called to support and equip grandparents in their responsibility and vocation as “disciples making disciples” within their families and communities.

Grandparents understand the great human, moral and spiritual challenges children face in the world in which they are growing up. Grandparents have hearts of love for their grandchildren and want only the best for them. Their contribution and influence in family life cannot be underestimated. Grandparents support their grandchildren in many ways, including the faith life. They are there at Baptisms, First Communions and Confirmations. They are a door to open the faith life, help parents, and strengthen the domestic church where faith is passed on. Their wisdom, witness and testimony were never as critical as they are today to the Church, to the family and society.

The Catholic Grandparents Association, founded in Ireland in 2009, is a global organization found in over 60 countries, including 30 chapters in the U.S. It has become a vital resource for parishes. The first local chapter of the CGA was recently established at Our Lady of Mount Carmel parish in Darien. If you are interested to implement a Grandparents Ministry in your parish community, I encourage you to contact their chapter leader, Colleen Lowery: catholicgrandparentsolmc@gmail.com , phone 630-291-0339.

Thank you for your consideration. May St. Joachim and St. Anne, the parents of Mary and grandparents of Jesus, bless all families!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Richard E. Pates
Apostolic Administrator
Diocese of Joliet



Peter Newburn

Secretary of Christian Life and Director of Family Ministry

I wanted to let you know that the Office of Family Ministry is looking forward to supporting you in working to engage Grandparents in the vital role of passing on the faith to the younger generation. Feel free to be in direct communication on a regular basis.

Additionally, I spoke with Carlos Briceño, the editor of *Christ is Our Hope*. He is very interested in doing an article on CGA within the coming months.

I hope that very soon, we can schedule some sort of bilingual diocesan event for Grandparents exactly one year from now, on or near the Feast of Sts. Joachim and Anne.

Again, thank you for your ministry and leadership. Together, let's grow this ministry!

Secretary of Christian Life and Director of Family Ministry

Diocese of Joliet

Catholic Grandparents Ministry
Parish of St. Joseph—New Paltz, New York

CATHOLIC GRANDPARENTS ASSOCIATION
PARISH OF ST. JOSEPH
34 SOUTH CHESTNUT STREET
NEW PALTZ, NEW YORK 12561

June 8, 2020

Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan
Office of the Cardinal
1011 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10022

Your Eminence:

We know that these are probably the most trying times in recent history. With all of our lives on "Pause" it is hard to imagine the next steps to a new normal. However, our Faith tells us that God is with us at all times, which gives us strength.

Recently, the Catholic Grandparents Association USA Chapter leaders have been having Zoom meetings (new normal) with Catherine Wiley as she was sheltering at her residence in Florida. Thankfully, she is now back home in Walsingham.

At one of our meetings I related a story from my personal spiritual pilgrimage to Ireland. I arrived in Malahide, where my Great, Great Grandparents lived, and went into St. Sylvester's Church where they were married 173 years ago almost to the day. As I prayed, I thought about our motto, "Passing on the Faith." I also prayed that the Faith would not end with me.

At Catherine's request, I am sending you a copy of the May Newsletter. Our Chapter is featured. What you will see are remarks that I have had prepared. The Pastors of our neighboring Churches have been most supportive and gracious to allow me to address their congregations. However, one must be ready if asked to speak at another function.

I hope you will enjoy the entire newsletter, especially the article about Fr. Richard Gibbons, the Rector of the Shrine at Knock.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Kathleen Hale Mironchik

Enclosure



OFFICE OF THE CARDINAL
 1011 FIRST AVENUE
 NEW YORK, NY 10022

June 18, 2020
 Month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Mrs. Kathleen Hale Mironchik
 Catholic Grandparents Association
 34 South Chestnut Street
 New Paltz, NY 12561

Dear Mrs. Mironchik,

Thank you most sincerely for your letter of June 8, 2020, together with the enclosed copy of the Catholic Grandparents Association newsletter. Your thoughtfulness is deeply appreciated.

While I have not had time yet to do more than flip through the pages, I was encouraged to see an article on my good friend, Father Richard Gibbons, rector of Our Lady's Shrine in Knock! I look forward to having time to read the newsletter more carefully.

With gratitude and prayerful best wishes, I am,

Faithfully in Christ,



+ Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan
 Archbishop of New York

TMD:ec

Memorial

St. Joachim & St. Anne

Celebration



May Saint Joachim and Saint Anne, parents of Mary, Grandparents of Jesus, bless all families now and forever

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



Please pray for our Popes, Emeritus Benedict, and our Holy Father Pope Francis



Our Exclusive Medal

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.



Presentation Medal—€95, \$95 Medals—Sterling Silver €20, \$20 *Silver Plated €10, \$10 * Gold Plated €10, \$10 Plus shipping, medal only



National Grandparents Pilgrimage

Sunday September 13th 2020

Our Lady of Knock Shrine

**BROADCAST LIVE 3PM
KNOCK BASILICA**

~
Children's Prayer Appeal

We invite all children to send a prayer and a hug to their Grandparents

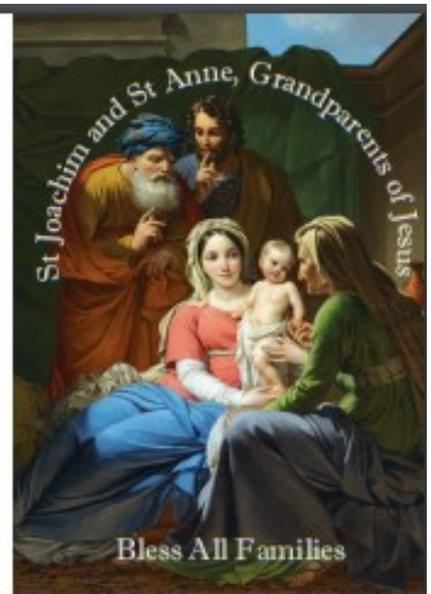
Grandparents National Pilgrimage 2020
Taking place virtually on September 13th at 3pm
Knock Shrine Basilica

This year due to COVID-19 restrictions,
the Grandparents Pilgrimage will be
ONLINE ONLY

We invite Grandparents and their families everywhere
to join in praying for, and with, each other.

**PLEASE JOIN US ONLINE AT
www.knockshrine.ie/watch**

Email: info@catholicgrandparentsassociation.com
Web: www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org Tel: 085 8704722



Pope Benedict XVI

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 treasures 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 XVI

Composed for the CGA by Pope
Benedict XVI - 2008