

Catholic Grandparents Association

Newsletter - May 2021

'I am with you always'
(Mt 28:20)
- Theme for the first
World Day for
Grandparents and
the Elderly.



May is the month of Mary. As I was reflecting on that this past week I was reminded of how often I have placed prayer intentions at her feet and implored her to bring them to Jesus. I am so grateful for the prayers that have gone to her and the blessings that have come in return for me and for the Catholic Grandparents Association.

For many of us life feels very much like it is returning to normal as public worship resumes, and more and more people are vaccinated and we can start to move around again and see family. Being able to be hugged again by our children and grandchildren is such a gift and something that we will never take for granted again.

And yet while we rejoice in our good news, we turn our eyes to India and as a global family we can't but feel broken hearted at the sights and the stories coming from there as the Covid 19 pandemic takes another grip. We sadly are seeing that more grandmothers and grandfathers pass away. As a CGA family I ask that you reach out in prayer and action to the people still suffering from the Covid-19 pandemic.

As I write this we are about to begin the two month countdown to the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly on 25 July and we are delighted with the theme Pope Francis has chosen for the day which is 'I am with you always' (Mt 28:20). We have updated our resources to reflect the theme and are adding new materials all the time to our website so please do keep an eye there, download them and share them with others.

We would love if you could get involved in our *Passing on the Faith* podcast so as we can create a digital archive of the voices and stories of grandparents around the world. You can find all the details on our website www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.com and on our social media pages. We would also love to hear how you are going to celebrate the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly - at home or in your parish. You can email us to info@catholicgrandparentsassociation.com.

Catherine Wiley, Founder of the CGA

REFLECTIONS FROM THE GRANDPARENTS' FAITH CAFÉ WITH MONSIGNOR JOHN ARMITAGE

The Grandparents' Faith Café met virtually *via* Zoom on Tuesday 11 May to reflect on the theme of 'Share My Joy - Mary's Message'. Monsignor John Armitage, PP of St Margaret's in Canning Town, London, and former Rector of the Shrine at Walsingham, was the guest speaker.

In his address Monsignor Armitage reflected on Mary's early life saying, "Joachim and Anne must have been remarkable parents to produce someone like Mary." He said that home is the place that we learn about unconditional love. Mary received the love of her parents - unconditionally. This is what allowed her to respond the way she did to God. As Saint Augustine said, "Mary conceived Jesus in her heart before she ever conceived him in her womb".

Monsignor Armitage spoke about how grandparents also take their grandchildren to their hearts and become channels of unconditional love in their lives.

Reflections at the Faith Café were delivered by Ron and Mavis Pirola from Sydney, Australia and by Lorene Hanley Duquin from New York. Ron and Mavis shared an insight into their relationship with each other and how that allows them to act like a safety valve for their grandchildren in times of need.

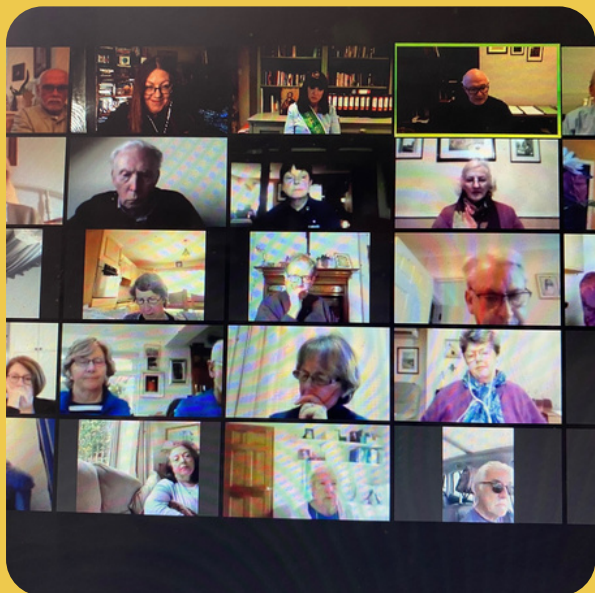
Lorene shared a reflection on one of the most important lessons she has learned - that happiness has to do with what happens on the outside and joy is what happens on the inside.



The full texts of the addresses and reflections will be available on our website.

Save the date:

The next Faith Café will take place on Tuesday 8 June. Registration (which is free of charge) is open now by email to info@catholicgrandparentsassociation.com. Please spread the word and if you are one of our regulars you might invite someone new along to the next one! See you on 8th June!

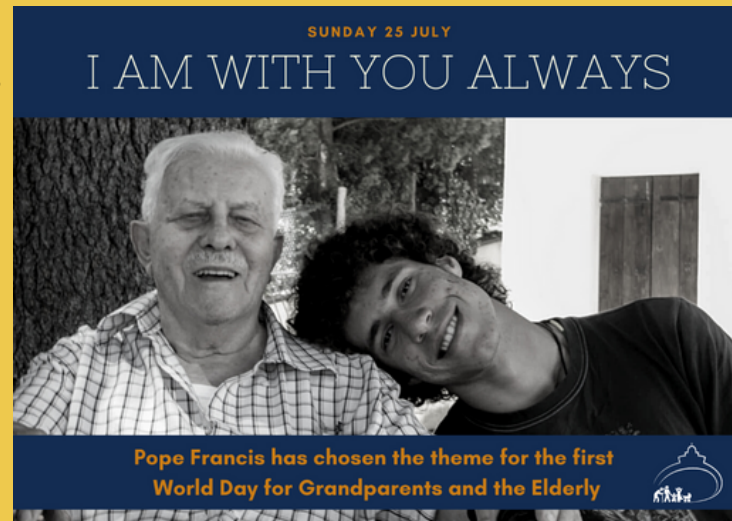


NEWS & RESOURCES

'I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS' ANNOUNCED AS THEME FOR WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY

The Vatican's Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life has announced the theme chosen by Pope Francis for this year's celebration, which is 'I am with you always' (Mt 28:20). This theme has been chosen as a way of expressing the closeness of the Lord and the Church to every older person, especially in these challenging pandemic times.

'I am with you always' is also a promise of closeness and hope that young and old can mutually share. Not only are grandchildren and young people called upon to be present in the lives of older people, but older people and grandparents also have a mission of evangelisation, proclamation and prayer, and of encouraging young people in their faith. You can read more about this theme and download some new World Day resources from our website.



THE JOY OF LOVE AND FAMILY CONFERENCE SERIES 2021



The Joy of Love & Family Conference Series is a new initiative beginning in June 2021 which will be hosted by the Diocese of Metuchen in partnership with the other five Roman Catholic Dioceses in the State of New Jersey - the Archdiocese of Newark, the Diocese of Camden, the Diocese of Trenton, and the Diocese of Paterson.

The CGA looks forward to being involved in this conference series which will feature speakers on a wide range of topics on family and faith. For more information and to register please see <https://lightingheartsonfire.org/joylovefamily> and follow the social media hashtag #JoyLoveFamilyNJ.

A NATIONAL DIRECTORY OF LAY MOVEMENTS FROM THE USCCB SECRETARIAT OF LAITY, MARRIAGE, FAMILY LIFE & YOUTH

The Catholic Grandparents Association is delighted to be included in the new National Directory of Lay Movements which has just been published by the Secretariat of Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth of the US Bishops' Conference. The directory highlights the multifaceted work of the laity and features detailed listings for Movements, Associations and Organisations as well as Apostolates. The Directory can be accessed as a link on our website and on the USCCB website at www.usccb.org/committees/laity-marriage-family-life-youth.

NEWS SNIPPETS

OFFICIAL PRAYER PUBLISHED FOR THE WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES 2022

The official prayer for the 10th World Meeting of Families, to be held in Rome from 22 to 26 June 2022, has been launched. The official social media hashtag has also been launched as #WMOF2022.



The prayer springs from deep gratitude to our Heavenly Father for the great gift of family, a very special place for loving relationships. It is inspired by the theme chosen by Pope Francis for the 2022 meeting: "Family love: a vocation and a path to holiness". The prayer is intended to be a pastoral tool which families and parish groups are invited to pray from now on to help with preparation for the next year's international event. For more see www.laityfamilylife.va.

POPE FRANCIS INSTITUTES THE MINISTRY OF CATECHIST

With a new Apostolic Letter *Antiquum ministerium* Pope Francis has established the lay ministry of catechist, intended to respond to an urgent need for the evangelisation of the modern world. The history of evangelization over the past two millennia," writes Pope Francis, "clearly shows the effectiveness of the mission of catechists," who have "devoted their lives to catechetical instruction so that the faith might be an effective support for the life of every human being." The Pope went on to say that receiving the lay ministry of catechist, will in fact, "will emphasise even more the missionary commitment proper to every baptised person". You can read his letter on www.vatican.va.



PODCAST OF INTERVIEW ON THE LEAP OF FAITH ON RTE RADIO 1



Listen back to an interview with Catherine Wiley on the Leap of Faith programme on RTÉ Radio One. Catherine spoke to presenter Michael Comyn about the Grandparents' Faith Café and the changing role of grandparents in the family in recent years. The link is available on the home page of our website: www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.com.

CONNECT WITH US ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

You can connect with us on Twitter as @CathGrandAssoc and find us on Facebook as 'Catholic Grandparents Association'. We share a daily thought for the day and a range of other helpful resources. So do give us a follow or a like!

Catholic Grandparents Association

Our Mission: Passing on the faith and keeping prayer at the heart of family life

www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org

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