Catholic Grandparents Association

Newsletter - June 2021

The arrival of the month of June means we will soon mark the one month countdown to the first ever World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly on Sunday 25 July. Here in the CGA we can really feel the excitement building as the Universal Church looks forward to the celebration of the day. We have added some new materials to our World Day resources and we will soon be adding all the prayers, reflections and other liturgical materials that should help parishes prepare for a Mass to celebrate the day. I want to give particular mention to a beautiful new resource that we are suggesting for both families and parishes to offer on the day. With the 'Plant a Tree in their Memory' resource, we are inviting families and parishes to arrange to plant a tree on the day in thanksgiving for all grandparents and elderly. You can find more information on the initiative on our website.

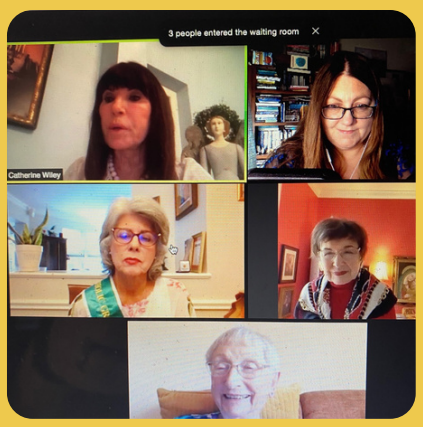
In this month's newsletter we feature a report on the wonderful Grandparents' Faith Café that we held on 8 June with guest speaker Peggy Stanton. The Faith Café was an idea that came to us when all of our meeting up ministry was paused as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. We have come to realise that even though we can now meet up again, we could not possibly replicate this model of the Faith Café in real life so I am delighted to confirm that our monthly online meetings are here to stay. I am delighted to be welcoming our Patron, Archbishop Michael Neary of Tuam, as our guest speaker for our next Faith Café which will be a 'Celebration of Grandparents' on Tuesday 13 July. For more information see www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org.

Catherine Wiley, Founder of the CGA

REFLECTIONS FROM THE GRANDPARENTS' FAITH CAFÉ WITH PEGGY STANTON

The Grandparents' Faith Café met virtually *via* Zoom on Tuesday 8 June to reflect on the theme 'The Amazing Grace of Grandparents in the Family'. Peggy Stanton, the host of 'A Place of Peace' on Ave Maria Radio, was the guest speaker.

In her address, Peggy highlighted the many graces there are in being a Grandparent like getting a second chance at relationships, the wisdom gained from being a parent that can be applied to grandchildren, and the humility that comes with wisdom.



Peggy said that as Grandparents, "We have learned to love rather than seeking to be loved and that we have also learned to listen." She also offered some advice for Grandparents in relating to their grandchildren and invited them to be present and to just show up for them. She also said that Prayer is the key and that when our grandchildren see us praying, taking that precious time to be present with God, we are teaching them and catechising them by our witness.

Reflections at the Faith Café were delivered by Mary Cotter from Dublin who spoke about how the CGA offered her comfort and hope during the many lockdowns as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Faith Café moderator Brenda Drumm also shared a reflection about her Grandmother Mary Drumm and shared some of the many old Irish sayings that Mary used to share with her Grandchildren like 'a new broom sweeps clean but the old brush knows the corners'.

The texts and addresses from the June Faith Café will be available on our website.

CELEBRATE GRANDPARENTS AT THE JULY FAITH CAFÉ WITH ARCHBISHOP MICHAEL NEARY

The next Faith Café will take place on Tuesday 13 July with guest speaker Archbishop Michael Neary, Patron of the CGA. 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 13 July for a Celebration of Grandparents!

CARDINAL TIMOTHY DOLAN SENDS BLESSINGS TO THE CATHOLIC GRANDPARENTS ASSOCIATION FROM NEW YORK

On Sunday 13 June, following a special Mass for parents who have lost a child, Kathleen MIronchik, the CGA Ministry Coordinator at Saint Joseph Parish in New Paltz, New York, met with Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Archbishop of New York. In the beautiful surroundings of Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Kathleen presented Cardinal Dolan with the CGA's commemorative medal of Saint Joachim and Saint Anne with their Grandson Jesus.
Kathleen also made a presentation to Cardinal Dolan, from St Joseph's Parish, of a special icon of St. Joachim and St. Anne with their Grandson, Jesus.

Cardinal Dolan was overjoyed with the gift which he blessed. The Cardinal also sent his prayerful good wishes and blessings to all involved in the Catholic Grandparents Association.

GRANPARENTS MISSED DURING COVID-19 LOCKDOWNS

In a recent interview on the 'Today with Claire Byrne Show' on RTÉ Radio One, Dr. Harry Barry, GP and Mental Health Specialist and Dr. Ann Marie Creaven, Department of Psychology, University of Limerick spoke about the important relationship between Grandparents and their grandchildren and how we perhaps took it for granted until the pandemic separated these family members from each other. The interview, which highlights the unconditional love that Grandparents have for their grandchildren, is available on our website.

CATHERINE WILEY TO SPEAK ABOUT THE JOY OF GRANDPARENTS IN FAMILY LIFE

The Joy of Love & Family Conference Series will feature CGA Founder Catherine Wiley during the month of July. The series, 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, is now open for registration/booking on https://lightingheartsonfire.org/joylovefamily.

CARDINAL TAGLE RECALLS HIS GRANDFATHER'S MIGRATION STORY

Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle became quite emotional during a recent Vatican press conference while sharing the story of his Grandfather's migration journey from China to the Philippines as a child. Cardinal Tagle, the Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelisation of Peoples said that his visits to refugee camps in Greece, Lebanon, Jordan and Bangladesh, reminded him of his migrant roots. He said, "In them I saw my grandfather who was born in China, but was forced to leave his homeland as a young boy in search of a better future in the Philippines." You can read more of the Cardinal's comments on his Grandfather on our website.

NEW CGA MINISTRY IN FORT MYERS, FLORIDA

Christine Biel is pictured here with CGA Board Member Jane Sweeney as she accepted the ministry for Saint John XXIII in Fort Myers, Florida. This is the first parish in the Diocese of Venice to be selected to begin our ministry in honour of the Grandparents of Jesus, Saint Joachim & Saint Anne.

Commenting as she handed over the sash Jane said, "Chris is well grounded in our parish, having prepared our children for their First Holy Communion for more than eight years. She has made a special effort to teach the children how to pray a decade of the Rosary to instil in their hearts a love for The Blessed Mother. Besides assisting our 15 parish ministries with support, Chris is also a guest speaker on the Domestic Church.

"We are indeed blessed to welcome Chris to the Catholic Grandparents' Association family."

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!

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and keeping prayer at the heart of family life
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