



Greetings from the Catholic Grandparents Association

Catholic Grandparents Association Newsletter for January 2023

**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.**

*Pope Benedict XVI
Prayer for Grandparents*



Welcome to our January Newsletter. We are delighted to be back for another year of supporting Grandparents in passing on the faith and keeping prayer at the heart of family life.

Pope Benedict XVI

It was with great sadness that we have heard the news of the death of our beloved Pope Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI. While it was expected that we would get that news any day, it was still a shock when we heard that he had passed away on the last day of 2022 in the place he came to call home, the Mater Ecclesiae Monastery in the Vatican.

Pope Benedict XVI will be remembered for many things, including as one of the greatest theological minds of the past century. But, to the Catholic Grandparents Association and to Grandparents across the world, he will be remembered as the Pope who brought the role of Grandparents to the fore and highlighted their special vocation within the family, the Church and society.

He will be especially remembered for responding to a request made by this Irish grandmother asking him to compose a prayer for Grandparents, which he did in 2008.

Now that makes it sound like it was a straightforward one letter approach to him. It was not. It took perseverance but I knew that if he saw the request that he would say yes. When he eventually saw the request he did of course say yes!

We have had his beautiful prayer for Grandparents since 2008 and it has been translated into dozens of languages and into braille!

His writings and words of wisdom live on now as part of his legacy. His beautiful prayerful words of love in his [Prayer for Grandparents](#) will always be with us.

We ask Saint Joachim and Saint Anne to be with those who mourn him, especially Pope Francis and the people of his beloved Germany.

We give thanks for Pope Benedict XVI from the Grandparents of the world! Rest in Peace dear Holy Father! Ár dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

Reconnecting in January

I always feel a little disconnected in January. I know that Christmas has been a lovely time for many of us but I also know that it can be a time of loneliness and loss. I know many people are turning into a new year and the month of January with a sense of anxiety. That's understandable when you read about new viruses circulating and when every second person you speak to has some kind of dose or bug. It's challenging.

As we start the new year the one message we send to grandparents is that we are your extended family and there is always someone to reach out to.

We look forward to being in touch with many new and exciting initiatives this year. If you haven't attended one of our online Faith Café gatherings then make it a new year resolution to do so.

God Bless you all,

Catherine Wiley

Founder, Catholic Grandparents Association

Registration is open now for the February Faith Café

Bishop Kevin Doran talks about the role of Grandparents in today's culture



We were delighted to welcome Bishop Kevin Doran of the Diocese of Elphin in Ireland as our guest speaker for the January 2023 Grandparents' Faith Café. The gathering took place online on Tuesday 10 January with more than 60 grandparents from across the world.

In a tribute to Pope Benedict XVI, some of our Ministry Leaders from across the world recited his Prayer for Grandparents. It was a very moving tribute.

Registration is open now for February 2023 Faith Café

Registration is now open for the February Grandparents' Faith Café. Please note that this online gathering will take place on Wednesday 15 February at 7.30pm (UK time). We will be focusing on the theme of World Day of the Sick and some of the wonderful content of the Pope's message for 2023.

Click below to register.

If you have any queries about the Faith Café please email us on info@catholicgrandparentsassociation.com.

[Click here](#)

We need daily prayer,
time dedicated to God,
so He can enter into our time.
We need frequent moments
in which we open our hearts
to Him so He can daily pour
out his love on us and
nourish our faith.
- Pope Francis



Latest news

[Some stories of interest:](#)

Vatican releases calendar of
Pope Francis' upcoming
liturgies

Cardinal George Pell dies in
Rome

Archbishop Ganswein:
Benedict XVI lived loving the
Lord until the end

#TheChurchIsOurHome: a
faith completely whole

Pope Francis' Message for World Day of

the Sick is released

"Brothers and sisters, we are rarely prepared for illness. Oftentimes, we fail even to admit that we are getting older. Our vulnerability frightens us and the pervasive culture of efficiency pushes us to sweep it under the carpet, leaving no room for our human frailty." - Pope Francis



**World Day of the Sick
11 February 2023**

Pope urges faithful to journey together in compassion with the sick

Pope Francis has released his message for the 31st World Day of the Sick, and urges Catholics to heed the example of the Good Samaritan showing compassion and taking care of the sick in a world that discards the most vulnerable.

The Catholic Church marks the annual day on 11 February, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. The theme of this year's observance is "Take care of him: Compassion as a synodal exercise of healing", drawn from the Gospel of Luke on the Parable of the Good Samaritan.

Illness experienced in isolation is inhumane

In his message, Pope Francis highlights compassion and care for the sick "as a synodal exercise of healing", to which God calls us, noting that if illness is part of our human condition, when "experienced in isolation and abandonment, unaccompanied by care and compassion, it can become inhumane".

"Experiences of bewilderment, sickness, and weakness are part of the human journey. Far from excluding us from God's people, they bring us to the centre of the Lord's attention, for He is our Father and does not want to lose even one of his children along the way."

The message of fraternity of the Good Samaritan

The “condition of loneliness and abandonment” of the man beaten and robbed by bandits in the Parable of the Good Samaritan, is the same experienced today by “too many of our brothers and sisters” who “are left at a time when they most need help”, the Pope writes. Indeed, he says, “There is a profound link between this parable of Jesus and the many ways in which fraternity is denied in today’s world”, in which it is no longer easy “to distinguish the assaults on human life and dignity that arise from natural causes from those caused by injustice and violence”.

The Good Samaritan tells us a different story: that of a man, “a scorned foreigner”, who “is moved with compassion and takes care of that stranger on the road, treating him as a brother. In doing so, without even thinking about it - says the Pope - he makes a difference, he makes the world more fraternal”.

We are all fragile and vulnerable

In a world dominated by “the pervasive culture of efficiency” that pushes us to sweep our vulnerability under the carpet, “leaving no room for our human frailty”, the Church is therefore called to “measure herself against the Gospel example of the Good Samaritan, in order that she may become a true ‘field hospital’, for her mission is manifested in acts of care, particularly in the historical circumstances of our time”.

“We are all fragile and vulnerable, and need that compassion which knows how to pause, approach, heal, and raise up. Thus, the plight of the sick is a call that cuts through indifference and slows the pace of those who go on their way as if they had no sisters and brothers.”

Moving forward together

While the World Day of the Sick calls for prayer and closeness towards those who suffer - continues the message - it “also aims to raise the awareness of God’s people, healthcare institutions and civil society with regard to a new way of moving forward together”. “Indeed – the Pope writes - the conclusion of the Parable of the Good Samaritan suggests how the exercise of fraternity, which began as a face-to-face encounter, can be expanded into organized care”.

The right to basic and decent healthcare

In this regard, Pope Francis once again draws attention to the urgent need for “strategies and resources in order to guarantee each person’s fundamental right to basic and decent healthcare”, noting that the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed “the structural limits of existing public welfare systems”, while “straining the great networks of expertise and solidarity” .

“The Samaritan calls the innkeeper to “take care of him” (Lk 10:35). Jesus addresses the same call to each of us. He exhorts us to “go and do likewise” (Lk 10:37). (...) “The parable shows us how a community can be rebuilt by men and women who identify with the vulnerability of others, who reject the creation of a society of exclusion, and act instead as neighbours, lifting up and rehabilitating the fallen for the sake of the common good” (Fratelli Tutti No. 67).”

Leaving no one behind

Bringing his message to a close, Pope Francis again reiterates that the sick "are at the centre of God's people, and the Church advances together with them as a sign of a humanity in which everyone is precious and no one should be discarded or left behind".

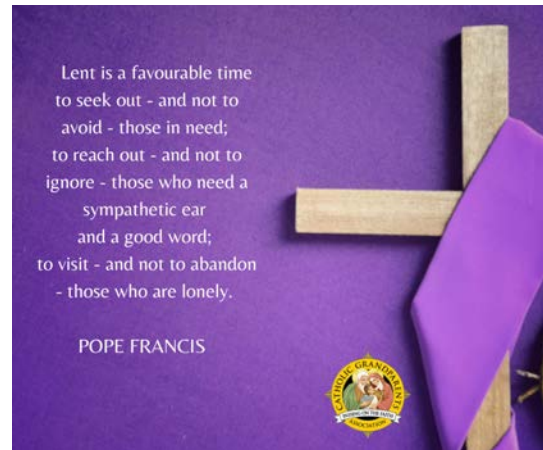
The Pope wrapped up the message by entrusting all the sick, those who care for them in their families, researchers and volunteers, and those "who are committed to weaving personal, ecclesial, and civic bonds of fraternity" to the intercession of Mary, Health of the infirm.

You can read the full text of his message [here](#) on the Vatican website.

Resources for Lent 2023

Lent begins this year on Wednesday 22 February

We will be sharing resources each day of Lent on our website and social media pages. These will include prayers, quotes and ideas, especially those for use in the context of sharing faith. If your CGA Ministry or Parish is running a Lenten initiative this year then please let us know.



Email us with your Lenten resources

The Catechism in a Year Podcast



the human heart, because man is created
seeks to draw man to himself. Only in
less he never stops searching for:

the fact that he is called to communion
with God is addressed to man as soon
as, it is because God has created him
continues to hold him in existence. He
less he freely acknowledges that love

THE

CATECHISM

IN A YEAR

WITH FR. MIKE SCHMITZ

Father Mike Schmitz guides you
through the entire Catechism of the
Catholic Church in 365 episodes

The Catechism in a Year podcast with Father Mike Schmitz guides you through the entire Catechism of the Catholic Church in 365 episodes, providing explanation, insight, and encouragement along the way.

Unlike any other Catechism podcast, The Catechism in a Year podcast follows a reading plan inspired by Ascension's Foundations of Faith approach, a color-coded approach that reveals the structure of the Catechism, making it easier to read and understand. With this podcast, you'll finally understand what it means to be Catholic and how the beliefs of the Catholic Faith come together.

Listen and you will:

- Read the ENTIRE Catechism of the Catholic Church in 365 days
- Understand the essentials of the Catholic Faith and why they matter

- Understand how Church teaching is rooted in Sacred Scripture
- Absorb over 2,000 years of Sacred Tradition
- Encounter God's plan of sheer goodness for your life

Each 15-20 minute episode includes:

- A guided prayer to help you enter into each episode
- A reading from the Catechism of the Catholic Church
- An explanation from Fr. Mike Schmitz about the reading

There is a Catechism in a Year companion notebook available so as you can journal and make notes as you work your way through the podcast. Click [here](#) to order it.

Listen to the podcast here

[Find more prayers on our website](#)

The Five Finger Prayer

The Thumb - The closest finger to us reminds us to pray for those who are closest to us.

The Index Finger - The pointing finger reminds us to pray for wisdom and support for those who teach us and show us the way.

The Middle Finger - The tallest finger reminds us to pray for guidance for our leaders and those in positions of authority.

The Ring Finger - Our weakest finger reminds us to pray for the weakest in society, like those who are sick, poor or are having problems.

The Little Finger - The smallest finger reminds us to pray for ourselves. When we have prayed for the other four groups, we will be able to pray for our own needs, but from the proper perspective.



[Prayer Resource](#)

A Prayer for the New Year

May God make your year a happy one!

By strengthening us to bear it, as it comes;

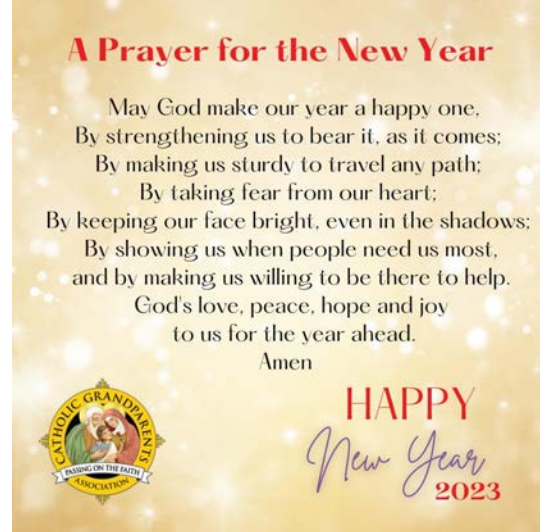
By making us sturdy to travel any path;

By taking fear from our heart;

By keeping our face bright, even in the shadows;

By showing us when people and their causes need us most,
By making us willing to be there to help.
God's love, peace, hope and joy to us
for the year ahead.

AMEN



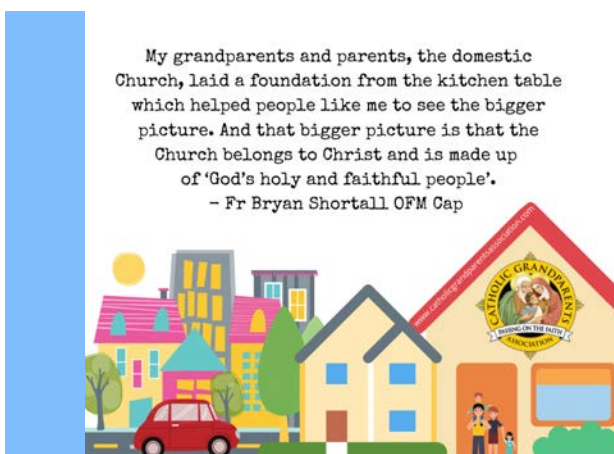
Are you following our Thought for the Day on social media?

Are you following our daily thought for the day on social media?

Each day on our Facebook and Twitter accounts we share a short and colourful pause for the day as a few seconds of inspiration for you as you go about your day.

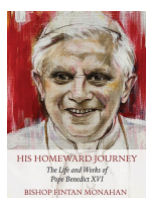
Why not give us a follow and maybe share one of them with someone you know?

You can find us on Facebook [here](#) and on Twitter [here](#).

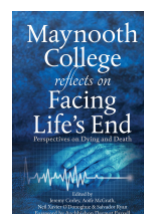


Book Recommendations from the CGA

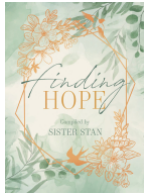
These are our book recommendations for the month of January



His Homeward Journey
by Bishop Fintan Monahan



Maynooth College
Reflects on Facing Life's End:
Perspectives on Dying and Death



Finding Hope

by Sr Stanislaus Kennedy



Living Beyond Sunday

by Adam and Haylee Minihan and David and Pamela Niles

Exclusive CGA medal now available in our online shop



info@catholicgrandparentsassociation.org

Have you checked out the resources we have on our online shop?

Our exclusive medal has at its center, the child Jesus with his Grandparents, Saint Joachim and Saint Anne.

Working with renowned artists and craftspeople 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.

[CLICK HERE FOR OUR ONLINE SHOP](#)



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United Kingdom



We hope you found this message to be useful. However, if you'd rather not receive future emails

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