



To help Grandparents Pass on the faith and keep prayer at the heart of family life



February News

My Very Dear Grandparents and Friends,

Wishing all of you a happy, healthy February full of peace, love and serenity. We are delighted to share our February Newsletter with you – encouraging and supporting all of us Grandparents in passing on the faith and keeping prayer at the heart of family life. We celebrate love in

February, we cannot help but look to the cross, and the one who loves us best of all.

My grandmother was named Bernadette, connecting my family in a very special way to Saint Bernadette and her miraculous story. You know it was at Lourdes that Our Lady appeared to 14-year-old Bernadette, and now 133 years after her death, Saint Bernadette's incorruptible body is displayed in a beautiful crystal coffin in the chapel of Saint John in the convent where she was a nun. She is dressed in her nun's habit, and the strange thing is that although her body is completely incorruptible, her face and her beautiful hands were made from wax. Her body was exhumed three times during the canonization process and each time it was found completely incorrupt. You know it's a miracle that a young girl who suffered from tuberculosis, who was ill throughout her life, should remain perfectly intact

This is a testament to the miraculous power of faith and holiness, and trust in Our Lord. Our Lady of Lourdes when she appeared to Bernadette had a rosary over her arm and she prayed the rosary with Bernadette. The first sorrowful moment of her

life was when she was born. She was born with a baby. The final mystery of the rosary is the agony in the garden. And when I reflect on that, I often think of all those who are suffering today. Their own quiet agony often endure without complaint.

As we look to the Holy Family this month, starting with the Grandparents, Saint Joachim and Saint Anne, parents of Mary Grandparents of Jesus, their son-in-law, Joseph, and their grandson Jesus, we know that like every other family, they suffered. They had joys and sorrows, ups and downs just like our families today.

But in families there's always the cross. The family is the place where God reveals the power of his saving grace, over and over again, as all of here know only too well. We know that God never gives us more than we can bear and he is always there to help us along the way.

Let your family know that you still see them -for who they are and love them. Let your spouse, whether departed or separated for any reason, know that you love them even more now than you did then, show them in little ways how much you value and care for them. Let our beloved departed know that we still cherish, care, and pray for them until we're together again. Build each other up and spend time together. Have fun and laugh a lot. Treat every day as if it were your last.

I always say it's better to have loved and lost than never ever to have loved at all. Remember to love each other with every fibre of your being, to the very last. The great thing about getting older is you get to get a chance to tell the people who matter to you how much you care about them.

Let us begin this Lent, the season of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, imploring God's blessing to help us be witnesses of Christ's love to everyone we encounter.

Let's commit to reaching more Grandparents in 2025 through this conduit of faith entrusted to us, the Catholic Grandparents Association. Together we weave a beautiful tapestry of faith, love and wisdom. We are blessed and grateful for all of you. Let's make 2025 another Grand year.



With love and prayers ☐

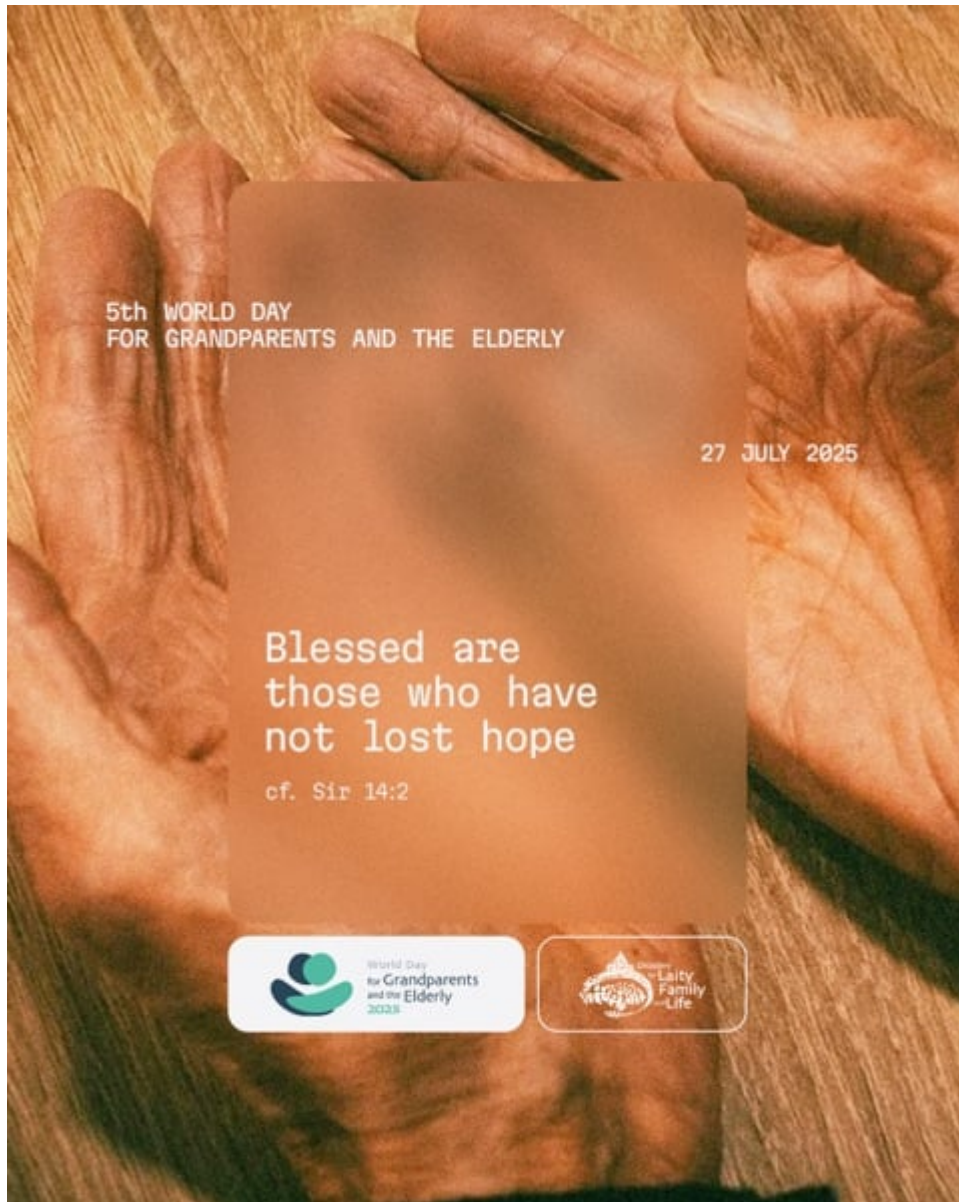
Catherine Wiley ♣

Founder of The Catholic Grandparents Association



"Blessed are those who have not lost hope" is the

theme chosen by Pope Francis for the 5th World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly



In a press release from the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life, Pope Francis' choice for this jubilee year

[Read more..](#)

**Pope's February prayer
intention: 'For vocations to
priesthood, religious life'**



February

‘For vocations to priesthood, religious life’

By Devin Watkins

“Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel called to live Jesus’s mission in life: either through the priestly life, or religious life.”

[Click here to watch](#)



A beautiful article supplied by Marcia Helten

Building Your Grandchildren’s Faith

Remain in me, as I remain in you.

(John 15:4)

God created us to be in fellowship with Him. However, 85% of Catholic young adults quit practicing their faith at some

point in their college years. How can we as grandparents help our grandchildren to begin and continue to “remain” in Him, as He “remains” in us? It takes friendship through a true emotional and spiritual connection to Him. There is a way that you

can be a strong supporter of this that will not only give them a chance to fall deeply in love with Jesus, but will give you opportunities to do this same thing in your life.

For seventy years, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (cgsusa.org/discover) has been providing children from ages 0-12 with a hands-on, faith formation experience in an environment (room) known as the atrium. The adult catechist (teacher of the faith) prepares the environment as a quiet, prayerful place for children by using the Holy Bible and Catholic tradition. Children hear and reflect on Scripture, at their individual levels. The children are then shown a presentation (lesson) varying from Kingdom parables, Infancy Narratives, Baptism, Mass gestures and prayers. There are many other areas as they grow in their faith. After seeing the presentation, the children again reflect by sharing what they saw. At the conclusion, children are allowed to touch, move, and do their own “work” with the materials that were used in the presentations.

Many Catholic parishes/schools, throughout the world, have these atria as a part of the faith formation journey for each child. These atria encourage all children to be able to grow closer to Jesus. When children (or adults for that matter) feel a connection/friendship with Jesus, they are less likely to discontinue attending Mass. How can you help? Ask if an atrium is in your parish/school. Ask your grandchildren what they do in atrium. Consider volunteering to go and be an assistant in their atrium. The majority of the materials are made by catechists or people within the parish. Consider making some of these. We all have talents we can share! The atria are in need of your help in growing the love for Jesus the Good Shepherd in our children. Together, with God’s help, we can reduce the amount of young people leaving the Church because they will be so in love with the Holy Trinity they will not even consider leaving!

Questions?

Contact: Marcia Helten, ateach93@cox.net

Introducing Devoted Grandma






Managing Family Conflicts Gracefully: A Modern Grandma’s Guide To Maintaining Harmony Within The Family.



As a grandma who’s seen her fair share of family squabbles, I’ve learned that keeping the peace doesn’t mean being a pushover or a stereotypical “sweet old lady.” It’s about being a savvy mediator and a source of wisdom. Let me share some

strategies I've developed for managing family conflicts with grace and effectiveness.
(Cause lets face it they are bound to happen at some point.)

[CLICK TO READ](#)

 Grandparents 
Thank you God for Grandparents.
They are so nice to me.
My Grandparents are so kind to me too. 
My Grandparents are lovely and bright.
My Grandparents care for me. 
My Grandparents mean the world to me.
They are really nice and kind to me.
I love my Grandparents.
My Grandparents are good to me 



Grandparents

God gave us Our Grandparents

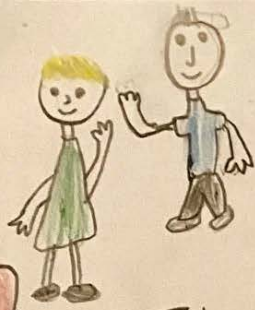
You better say thank you.

He brought us down to Love them
down to Love them.

I hope we really do.

We Love you grandparents.





Grandparents



Thank you God for



Loving



Grandparents they are

Loving



Kind with us day and night

Kind



thank you God



Smart Oh thank you

Smart



generous for all their



generous



Caring

Love and Care



Caring



I Love my Grandparents
Amen

**Fully embrace the Jubilee year 2025,
strengthening your faith and family life**

These essential practices will help make the Jubilee Year 2025 a time to deepen your faith and strengthen your family bonds.

As we embark on 2025, we're not simply beginning another year; we're stepping into a profound moment of grace and renewal. This Jubilee Year, themed around hope, invites us to celebrate, reflect, and reconnect—drawing closer to God, our loved ones, and our greater community. It's also a milestone as we conclude the first quarter of the 21st century, presenting both challenges and opportunities to embrace with faith, purpose, and optimism for the road ahead.

Go on a Pilgrimage to a Jubilee Site

Participate in the Opening of the Holy Door

Embrace the Sacraments

Perform Acts of Mercy



Dedicate Time to Family Prayer

visit our website for more ideas

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[Click here to visit our website for ideas!](#)

'Praying the Our Father together, around the table, is not something extraordinary: it's easy. And praying the Rosary together, as a family, is very beautiful and a source of great strength!'
Pope Francis



GRANDPARENTS FAITH CAFÉ
A special place for Grandparents
to meet and pray

THANK YOU 😊

THEME:
'THE LESSONS OF INFIRMITY'

Self-registration is now open
www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org

The Lessons of Infirmary

We would like to thank everyone who attended our Faith Café on Tuesday 11th February, it was truly a wonderful gathering

and experience to see everyone with our guest speaker **Bishop Peter Collins of East Anglia** with the theme '**The Lessons of Infirmary**'.

We look forward to our next session on Tuesday 11th March.

If you would like to watch our February Faith Café subscribe to our newsletter

Inspiring Faith Café Quotes

Extract from Bishop Peter Collins

"St Paul says we are in difficulties on all sides but never cornered. We see no answer to our problems, But we, we people of faith, we people of hope, never despair. Wherever we may be, we carry with us in our body the death of Christ, no less, so that the life of Jesus too may always be seen within us, in our body, in our mind, in our spirit."

"News that suddenly changes our lives and takes us on a non-foreseen path. I have to say this is my first lesson based on tonight's theme, Bishop Peter, lessons on infirmity and it is a great humility that we receive the news because we always know family is our first priority."

Catherine Wiley

"You know it's better to have loved and lost than never ever to have loved at all.."

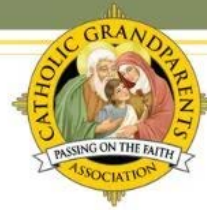
Catherine Wiley

"Your Excellency, thank you very much. I can't wait until later on when I can listen to this again. And I strongly suggest to all you ministry leaders that when you get this recording, as you share it with your ministry groups and listen to it, there's just so many nuggets in this. As you mentioned, life is, you know, we think of infirmities mostly as physical infirmities, but there's so many. There's so many infirmities that we all struggle with. The spiritual is one that you mentioned, and I think that we all deal with so much.

And when you talked about darkness, it made me think of the saying I've heard, and I'm sure we've all heard, that **in order to get a beautiful rainbow, you must first have the storm.**"

Deacon Ken Henry

Our next Faith Café



Save the Date

DANA SCALLON
Irish singer, songwriter
& politician

Register for our Next Faith Café

[Click here](#)

Ministry news



News, Needs & Events



At our Jan. meeting four couples from our parish shared their experiences in raising their children in the Catholic Faith.

The CGA Team needs help for our Hospitality Team. Please consider offering a hand with our meeting refreshments and set up. Contact Terrie at walsh265@aol.com

February Meeting

Mark your calendar for our next meeting on: February 9th at 1:00 in the Parish Hall.

Join us after the 12:00 mass for refreshments and social time. We will be hosting Abbie Johnson, SM Youth Minister for a conversation on "Raising Tweens & Teens in the Catholic Faith in Today's Culture. Invite a friend or neighbor to come along!

Valentine's Day Connections for Grandchildren

- In person, or by video chat do something together such as baking Valentine treats to eat, to share with friends, family, nursing homes, or food banks.
- Send or give cards with a coupon with a special treat for the future such as: a trip to the zoo, park, ice-cream parlor, dinner, beach, or special game night.
- Create a tradition and give deserving complements to each child and grandchild.

All Day Adoration, 1st Thursday of the month

Please join you CGA family during our scheduled hour from 4- 5 pm on Feb. 6th

International Catholic Grandparents Assoc.

www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org
Take some time this month to join and/or make use of their Catholic global news, Faith Cafe, and other vital information.

Happy Valentine's Day

From Lori Kennedy, Spiritual Advisor

Valentine's Day is a special occasion to celebrate the love in our lives while reflecting on God's divine love for us. For Catholics, it's an opportunity to deepen relationships through faith, scripture, prayer, and blessings. The scripture in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. is timeless, reminding us of the qualities of true love, filled with patience, kindness, and unwavering trust. A simple, but beautiful prayer "Heavenly Father, bless our love to withstand challenges, grow through faith, and inspire those around us, Amen".

I pray for all in the CGA ministry that we will continue to encourage resilience, growth, and inspiration through our shared faith and for the love we have for our grandchildren, nieces, nephews and others we may be involved with.

All are invited to the CGA prayer group. We meet in the Parish Hall on Tuesdays, 4:30 - 5:30. Prayer requests are welcome and can be texted to Carla at 904-206-1039

CGA Ministry Team

2024 - 2025

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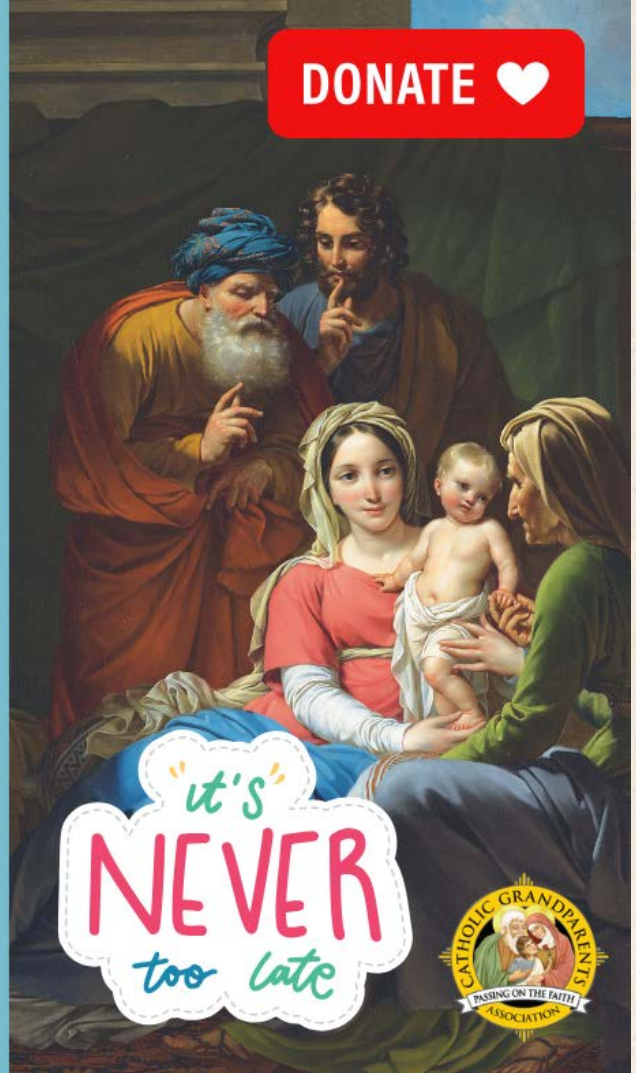


THANK YOU!

A Heart felt Thank You to all who answered our request for much needed funds.

Please continue to help us to pass on our much needed Faith!

DONATE 



[Click to contribute](#)





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 treasuries 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 role 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 II in

*Universal Prayer for Grandparents
composed by Pope Benedict XVI
for The Catholic Grandparents Association
2008*

WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU

SEND YOUR IDEAS



STORIES

GRANDCHILD'S PRAYER



IDEAS

YOUR CGA NEWS



TOPICS YOU WOULD
LIKE TO HEAR

EMAIL US AT:

COMMUNICATIONS@CATHOLICGRANDPARENTSASSOCIATION.ORG

We Need You

We urgently need Volunteers and members in all areas of the globe.

Please reach out and tell a friend about our organisation; perhaps join a ministry in your Parish, or start your own Ministry. For further info contact the website www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org

WHO WE ARE

We are a worldwide group of people united by a belief in the importance of the vocation of Grandparents. We assist Grandparents in providing a crucial link in passing on the Faith.

Grandparents were never as important to the family, church and society as they are today.

Grandparents treasure their Faith, they are concerned about the future, and want to ensure the Faith is passed

on.

OUR MISSION

To help Grandparents pass on the Faith and to keep prayer at the heart of family life.



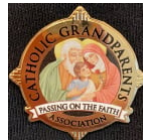
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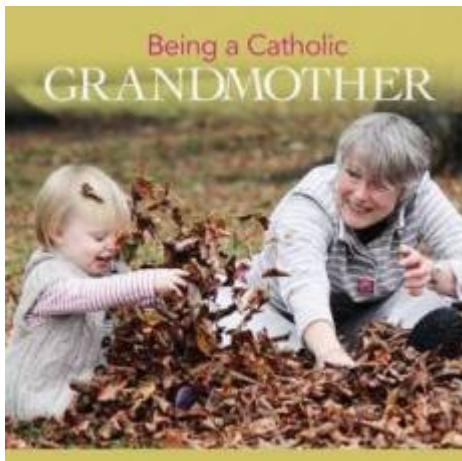
Pope Benedict XVI's Prayer for Grandparents

This is a beautiful memento version of the wonderful prayer written at our request by Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI.



CGA Brooch

Our popular brooches are available to order. These are typically ordered by our ministry leaders and as gifts for Grandparents.



BACK IN STOCK

Being a Catholic Grandmother

BUY NOW

♥ Please donate or make a bequest to help with CGA running costs - Thank you ♥

There is a candle lighting for all of your intentions
at the Shrine of our Lady of Knock in Ireland



Monthly Masses are offered for your intentions and prayers

May St. Joachim and St. Anne, parents of Mary, Grandparents of Jesus Bless us All

Visit our website



God Bless all children and grandchildren as they return to School and College, protect them, keep them safe and well.



Private Institute of The Faithful
Charity number 20074104
501(c)(3) charitable organization in the US
Connecting Grandparents Worldwide

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However, if you'd rather not receive future emails

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