

HAPPY
New Year
hello
January



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



January News

My Very Dear Grandparents and Friends,

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

January is a time when our Church begins Ordinary time and we, as Grandparents, strive to make new resolutions and commitments in these extraordinary times in which we live.

We also want to take this time to say a little prayer for those who were called home in 2024. May God grant them eternal rest in the loving arms of Jesus as they wait to be reunited with their earthly family.

The CGA was again blessed in 2024. The World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly continues to grow worldwide as more and more Dioceses and Parishes are recognizing and celebrating this momentous day – your day, our day. The World Day is a catalyst for creating awareness of the enormous contributions Grandparents make in our families, our Church and society. It's not too early to begin planning for World Day 2025. As soon as the Vatican announces this year's theme, we'll make our resources available to you.

Our monthly Faith Café via Zoom continues to grow drawing Grandparents and friends from across the globe – Australia, Ireland, Malta, the US, Zimbabwe, England, the Philippines, South Africa, etc. Please spread the word and plan to join us on February 11th as we welcome Bishop Peter Collins as our Guest Speaker.

Please keep tuned in and watch for more exciting announcements and endeavors from us in 2025. Invite your friends and family to get involved. And we couldn't do any of this without the leadership, support and prayers of holy men and women who have dedicated their lives in serving God's Kingdom as Priests, Deacons and consecrated persons. As we look forward to the Holy Jubilee Year, we thank our Holy Father, Pope Francis for his passion, love and encouragement. We join our prayers with theirs.

So, Grandparents and friends, please join me in renewing our commitment to pass on our faith and keep prayer at the heart of family life.

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

A Prayer for the New Year

May God make our 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 need us most,
and by making us willing to be there to help.

God's love, peace, hope and joy
to us for the year ahead.

Amen



HAPPY
New Year
2025

Pope's January prayer intention: 'For the right to an education'



January

Pope's January prayer intention: 'For the right to an education'

Pope Francis releases his prayer intention for the month of January 2025, and invites everyone to pray for "the right to an education."

By Deborah Castellano Lubov

Pope Francis' monthly prayer intention this January is for "the right to an education."

The Pope invited the Church to pray for this intention in this month's The Pope Video, which is entrusted to the entire Catholic Church through the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network.

In The Pope Video for January, the Holy Father warned that today, "we're experiencing an educational catastrophe," and underscores, "This is no exaggeration."

Pope Francis releases his prayer intention for the month of December, and invites Christians to pray that each of us may become pilgrims of hope as a result of the 2025 Jubilee.

[Click here to watch](#)



Pope's World Day of Peace
message:
'We are all in debt to God'

Message of the Holy Father Francis for the 58th World Day of Peace

The following is the text of the Message of the Holy Father Francis for the 58th World Day of Peace, to be held on 1 January 2025 on the theme "Forgive us our trespasses: grant us your peace":

[Message of the Holy Father](#)

Forgive us our trespasses: grant us your peace

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

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.

Click here to visit our website for ideas!

December 26, 2024 and January 2, 2025

THE EVANGELIST

21

Grandma, where is God? Can I see him?

Dear Louisa.

The other day you whispered, "Grandma, where is God? Can I see Him?"

These are big questions for a 4-year-old. I will try to answer them now.

Lou, God is everywhere, God is in every thing, every place, every person and every animal you see. There is nowhere that God cannot be found.

Many people think God is an old man with a white beard, sitting up in the sky, looking down on His children, keeping track of every time we make a mistake. This is absolutely not true.

God is not a man, God is Love.

God is Truth, God is Wisdom, God is Spirit. If you want to see God, you must be quiet, look around, listen and tune in.

Every time Mama kisses you, God is there. You can feel God's love in Mama's kiss. Every time Papa holds you, you can feel God's protection

in Papa's strong arms. Every time your brother Max plays with you, you can feel God's love guiding you, showing you how to play and enjoy life. Every time Salty licks your hand or lets you rest your head on his back as he wags his tail, you can feel God's unconditional love. It never changes.

God is in everything beautiful. Each time you see a beautiful flower or smile, a sunset or ocean beach, God is there. Each time you feel the wind on your face, or take a warm bath, or eat a delicious meal, God is showing Himself to you. He is saying, "Lou! I am here! I'm telling you that I Love you!"

If you pay attention, you will notice God everywhere. All through your life, you can talk to Him out loud or in your thoughts. This is called, praying to God. You can thank Him for all the good stuff that happens. You can ask Him to show you what He wants you to do and how He wants you to treat people. Re-

member, Lou. He loves all His children all over the world, the little ones and the old wrinkly ones like Grandma!

Many people think that when we mess up, God turns away from us. This is absolutely not true. God forgives us before we forgive ourselves! God is Forgiveness. Another way to say this is, God is Mercy. His mercy lasts forever.

Lou, everybody in the whole wide world has sad days. When things get hard and you are sad, try to remember God is with you. If you look for Him, you will find Him in a friend, family member, Salty, a song, a teacher or an idea that just pops into your

head! It is important to tell other people this, so they will know that God is with them when they are sad.

When you make a mistake, God wants you to say you are sorry to anybody you hurt. God wants you to turn away from making that mistake again. Then God wants you to get back to loving, enjoying and thanking Him for all the ways He shows you He is with you and guiding you.

My Loubie Lou, you now have the answers to your questions. So, listen. Tune in. Look around. God is everywhere.

Bernadette Bonanno can be reached at bernadettebonanno@gmail.com.

A beautiful article featured in The Evangelist Newspaper written by Bernadette Bonanno

□ Grandma, where is God? Can I see him? □

Dear Louisa.

The other day you whispered, "Grandma, where is God? Can I see Him?"

These are big questions for a 4 year old, I will try to answer them now.

Lou God is everywhere, God is in every thing, every place, every person and every animal you see. There is nowhere that God can not be found.

Many people think God is an old man with a white beard, sitting up in the sky looking down on His children, keeping track of every time we make a mistake.

This is absolutely not true.

God is not a man, God is Love.

God is Truth, God is Wisdom.

God is Spirit.

If you want to see God, you must be quiet look around, listen and tune in.

Every time Mama kisses you, God is there. You can feel God's love in Mama's kiss.

Every time Papa holds you, you can feel God's protection in Papa's strong arms.

Every time your brother Max plays with you, you can feel God's love guiding you, showing you how to play and enjoy life. Every time Salty licks your hand or lets you rest your head on his back as he wags his tail, you can feel God's unconditional love. It never changes.

God is in everything beautiful. Each time you see a beautiful flower or smile, a sunset or ocean beach. God is there. Each time you feel the wind on your face or take a warm bath, or eat a delicious meal, God is showing Himself to you. He is saying "Lou! I am here! I'm telling you that I Love you!"

If you pay attention, you will notice God everywhere. All through your life, you can talk to Him out loud or in your thoughts. This is called praying to God. You can thank Him for all the good stuff that happens. You can ask Him to show you what He wants you to do and how He wants you to treat people.

Remember, Lou, He loves all His children all over the world, the little ones and the old wrinkly ones like Grandma!

Many people think that when we mess up, God turns away from us. This is absolutely not true. God forgives us before we forgive ourselves! God is Forgiveness. Another way to say this is, God of Mercy, His mercy lasts forever.

Lou, everybody in the whole wide world has sad days. When things get hard and you are sad, try to remember God is with you. If you look for Him, you will find Him in a friend, family member, Salty, a song, a teacher or an idea that just pops into your head!

It is important to tell other people this, so they will know that God is with them when they are sad.

When you make a mistake, God wants you to say you are sorry to anybody you hurt. God wants you to turn away from making that mistake again. Then God wants you to get back to loving, enjoying and thanking Him for all the ways He shows you He is with you and guiding you.

My Loubie Lou, you now have the answers to your questions.

So, listen, tune in, Look around, God is everywhere.



**Such a beautiful conversation, and thank you
to Susan for sending in.**

PLEASE SEND IN YOUR NEWS AND STORIES

— THE CATHOLIC — MISCELLANY

By Natalie Burt - The Catholic Miscellany

Grandparents are Our Role Models of Faith



Dec. 20, 2022, marked a special day that changed my life forever. My daughter gave birth to her first child and my first grandchild. Florence Josephine was born at 5:46 a.m. and weighed 6 pounds 15 ounces. Moments after birth, she was holding her head up and even now, she continues to mesmerize all with her big blue eyes. Yes, I was and am in love. People had shared with me how the love that you have for a grandchild is like no other, and I too have found that to be true.

[Read the full story click here](#)

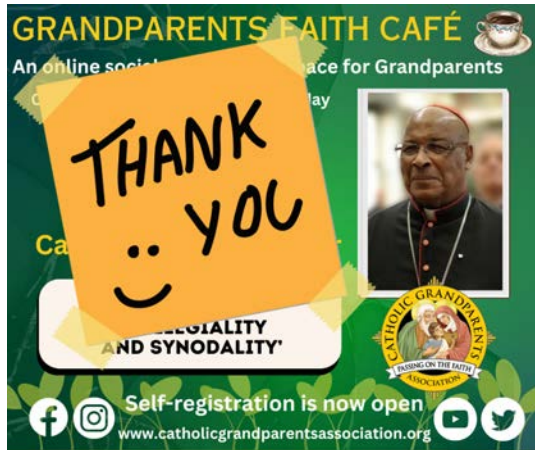


By Anastasia Rubis

Tips to Help You Instantly Become More Tech-Savvy

Check out this great article we found, credit to Anastasia Rubis: At 64, as I move up in years, I want to remain cool, current and [tech-savvy](#). Who doesn't? But I still rely on younger people to book me an Uber or Lyft. I still keep paper notes (everywhere!) instead of using a note-taking app. And I'm not about to watch a movie on a cell phone; that's what big-screen TVs are for.

[Read more](#)



Collegiality and Synodality

We would like to thank everyone who attended our Faith Café on Tuesday 14th January it was truly a wonderful experience to see everyone with

our guest speaker **Cardinal Wilfred Napier** with the theme '**Collegiality and Synodality**'.

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

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

Inspiring Faith Café Quotes

Extract from Cardinal Wilfred Napier

Thank you very much, Catherine, for that very warm welcome that you've given to everybody. And I would like to keep the atmosphere going by beginning with two stories. Whenever I think of these words as collegiality and synodality, I see them as what made the two synods, the Synod of 2014.

And the one of the next year, 2015, very interesting indeed, I think, was there were exercises in collegiality and synodality. Now, two stories come to mind when I think of these two twin sisters, collegiality and synodality. The first is about a little boy, Johnny, who had a very unusual birthday present. And instead of choosing something for him, his parents handed him a vase. And he said, Johnny, I'm going to give you a voucher with the instruction, get yourself a present that tells us how you think God sees you. How you think God sees you. Off went little Johnny, returning almost immediately with his present. When it came to opening the present, it was his parents who watched expectantly as he opened it very carefully, revealing bit by bit.

What turned out to be a picture. A picture poster of a lovely, luscious green leaf. But on the edge of the leaf was a horrible looking caterpillar munching away at the leaf. However, it was the caption that bowled them over. God has not finished with me yet. The butterfly comes after the grub.

Cardinal Wilfred Napier

"We're the bearers of the torch, the keepers of the light in our families, in our churches, and in our communities. And God bless us all, and may we go on forever in doing just that. The seed of faith is the unique connection between God and humanity. It cannot be replaced by robots, nor by artificial intelligence. This seed is passed down through generations. It's cherished, it's nurtured, and it's loved. And it goes deep, deep, deep into the ground. And it may not bloom for some time, but you can be sure, as it will emerge, perhaps in generations to come, long after we are gone. So never worry or lose confidence that you're not passing on the faith."

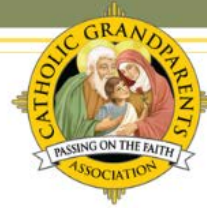
Catherine Wiley

"Now, Father Noel Wynne, up there in the north of England, in the cold, snowy north, you remember this time, nearly 25 years ago, because without you, this wouldn't have happened, Father Noel.

When I went to you and asked you about that first pilgrimage, you looked at me with that face of yours, and you said, 'Well, now, Catherine, that's one of your better ideas.' So it's a great thanks to Father Noel, that we're all sitting here this evening. It began, as you know, with a small little pilgrimage in Walsingham, and it's now grown into a worldwide mission. We also celebrate Pope Francis's Jubilee theme of Pilgrims of Hope, which could not be more fitting for grandparents, because we are true beacons of hope."

Catherine Wiley

Our next Faith Café



Save the Date

**BISHOP
PETER COLLINS
OF EAST ANGLIA**

Register for our Next Faith Café

[Click here](#)

KNOCK

Ireland's International Eucharistic
and Marian Shrine

Celebrating St. Brigid

**Lá Fhéile Bríde: A Celebration Of St.
Brigid On Saturday, February 1st 2025**

KNOCK

CELEBRATING THE FEAST OF

St. BRIGID

Lá Fhéile Bríde

Knock Shrine

Saturday February 1st 2025

11.00am to 3.30pm

ST BRIGID'S FLAME
WILL BE BROUGHT TO KNOCK
FROM KILDARE

(Courtesy of the Sisters in Solas Bríde, Kildare)



- Brigidine Spirituality Explored at Knock Prayer Centre
- The Global 'Peace Pause' at 12.00 noon
- Special Blessing for women called Brigid (Breege/Brid)
- St Brigid's Cross Making available in Knock Museum

[Click to contribute](#)



Daughter of an angel

When you lose a parent,
you become the keeper of
so much.

every story, every recipe,
every memory, every
tradition..

now rest in your hands and
you are the one who keeps
them alive.

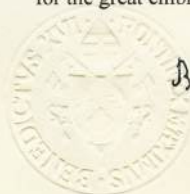




PRAYER FOR GRANDPARENTS

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 11^o 1^o

*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

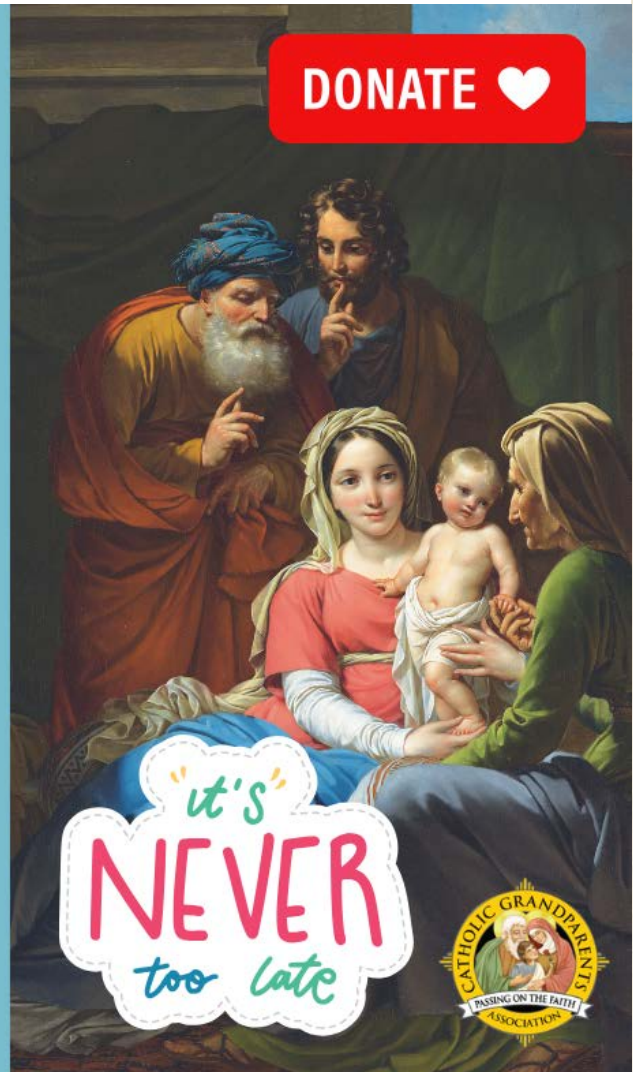


THANK YOU!

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 



it's
NEVER
too late



[CLICK HERE TO CONTRIBUTE](#)

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.



Subscribe

Visit our online shop for gift ideas



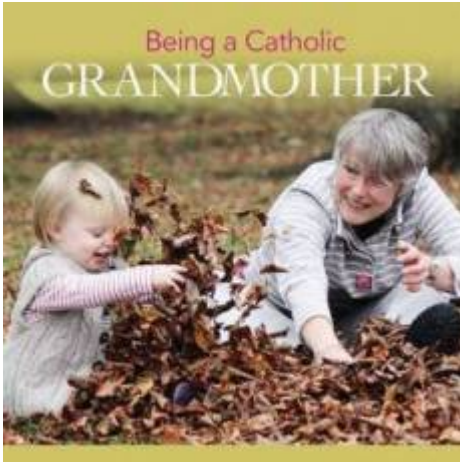
Pope Benedict XVI's Prayer for Grandparents

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.**



Catholic Grandparents Association

Patron - Archbishop Francis Duffy - Tuam
Private Institute of The Faithful
Charity number 20074104
501(c)(3) charitable organization in the US
Connecting Grandparents Worldwide



info@catholicgrandparentsassociation..com

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

[Unsubscribe](#)

