

GRANDPARENTS NEWS



Issue 35 – January/February 2020

Dedicated to the Magi





Dear Grandparents & Friends

We bring you warmest wishes for a joyous and happy New Year as we welcome a new decade full of hope and promise. With courage of the Magi, hearts filled with gratitude and love; we continue to seek the Star of Faith, our newborn Savior, and to offer our gifts to all seekers along the way. In this New Year, let us not despair but continue to pray for and with our families and for each other. Most especially for the “seekers”, the modern-day Magi.

“We need people who nourish great hope and thus have great courage of the Magi, who made a long journey following a star and were able to kneel before a Child and offer Him their precious gifts. We all need this courage, anchored to firm hope.” Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

Our heartfelt thanks to all of you courageous Grandparents and friends who have encouraged and supported our Mission throughout the world. We have been blessed with innumerable blessings and friendships far and wide. Our continued prayers that you will continue to realize the fruit of your efforts in your homes, families and Parish and may God bless you with the peace that only Christ can bring.

As we enter the month of February, our Church traditionally highlights the Holy Family and the Feast of the Presentation (Candelmas) on February 2nd. **Candelmas**, symbolizing **Christ Our Light** leading us out of the darkness to new life.

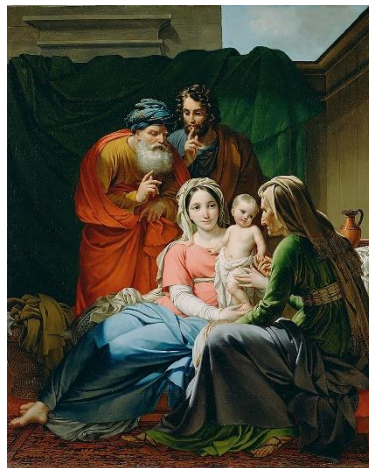


Entering the New Year

*I enter this year without burdens
Freed from a mountain of care
For last night I gave them to Jesus
Who promised my burdens to bear!*

*This year will not be without
problems
There may be many to face
But I can approach them with
courage
Sustained by God's marvelous Grace!*

*I enter this New Year with gladness
For Jesus restored my joy.
He filled me with Peace and
assurance
That Satan cannot destroy.*



*I left the old year in repentance
For living a life in defeat
Leaving my fear and my failures
All at my Heavenly Father's feet.*

*I enter this year with a purpose
To minister Christian love
To needy souls all around me
And lift them to God above.*

*Now with eager anticipation
With faith instead of fear
And in the presence of Christ, my
Savior
I will enter this New Year - Honoria
A. Groves*

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- New CGA items for purchase
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- In memorium of Grandparents

There is a candle lighting for you at the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, England and at Our Lady of Knock in Ireland.

Love and Prayers,

Catherine Wiley

Catherine Wiley—Founder of the Catholic Grandparents





With a Grateful Heart

By Marilyn Henry

The Catholic Grandparents Ministry at Prince of Peace Parish, Houston Texas, began with our initial information meeting in the Spring of 2015. As one of the first CGA Ministries in the US, we've grown steadily heart-to-heart through the work of the founding members and others who have joined along the way. Through the years we've changed from a "new ministry" within the parish to becoming a vital part of parish life, respected and called upon to fill a need and to collaborate as needed. I'm eternally grateful first, to the Holy Spirit for planting this seed (need) in the enormous and faith-filled heart of our Founder, Catherine Wiley, to our Parish for seeing the need for and welcoming this Ministry and to an amazing group of people who work tirelessly to pass on their beloved faith not just in their families but in our Parish Family.

Our January meeting, this year was a look back at 2019 - a year in review. I wanted to share some of our ideas with you and I hope that you will also share your ideas. There are amazing things happening (and even miracles) in our Ministries worldwide. We would love to hear your stories and see your pictures.

January – Special Education Speaker, "What to Look For, When to Intervene"

February – Parish Deacon, "Parents and Grandparents in Scripture"

March – Parish staff member, "Marriage and the Annulment Process in Today's Catholic Church"

April – Parish staff member, "Adult and Children's Evangelization"

May – Director (& Mom) Downe Syndrome Association, Houston"

June – Parish Deacon, "Christian Parenthood Flows from the Fatherhood of God"

July – Parishioner, Parish Family Retreat (request for assistance)

August – Seminarian – his journey

September – Detective, Houston Special Victims Unit – "Crimes Against Children"

October – Pastor, his family history and call to serve

November – local School Board members – "Drugs and Gangs in our schools"

December – always dedicated to a "wrapping party" for our the families we adopt (3 in 2019)

In addition, this is a sample list of our activities and programs throughout the year:

Children's Liturgy of the Word (monthly)

Children's Rosary (monthly excluding Summer months)

Stations of the Cross for Children (Lent)

Safe Haven Training

May Crowning for Children

Yearly Pilgrimage (for a day or overnight)

St. Joachim and St. Anne Memorial Day Mass and celebration

St. Clare Monastery fundraiser table

Mercy Center Gala support

Family Retreat sponsorship

Audience with Cardinal and Diocesan Ministry representatives

Reading of St. Nicholas story, Christmas

Adopt-A-Prayer Child - 582 prayer children

Feeding the Homeless (Houston Shelters)

Monogrammed Shirts & Aprons designed and made by a member

As you can see, God has truly blessed our Ministry. If you are a Ministry Leader, thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We know how much time and work it takes – we know, too, that the rewards are great, - In fact, they're out of this world. We also appreciate our members for your support and involvement. If you're not part of a Parish Ministry, please consider starting one. We can help and we can also connect you with a "seasoned" Ministry Leader – they're incredible! Again, please share your programs, activities, ideas and photos - And, may the blessings of Saint Joachim and Saint Anne be with you and your families today and always.

God Bless,

Marilyn

International Ministry Coordinator/Grandmother of eleven amazing grandchildren





Evangelii Gaudium: The Church Going Forward November 2019 - Rome

Excerpts from Catherine's talking on Evangelii Gaudium, Rome, November, 2019



Catherine presenting our written request
for a World Day of Prayer for
Grandparents to Pope Francis.

How to pass on our Faith in the Church going forward in a world which is sometimes hostile to our faith is the most important and critical question facing our Church today.

A generation of our young people have grown up hearing only negativity about our Church, totally missing the beauty of the Gospel, totally blinded to it. It's our job, then, to lead them gently back. In Evangelii Gaudium Pope Francis states, "Evangelization begins by "sharing the basic message of the Gospel which needs to be the center of all evangelizing activity and all efforts of Church renewal.

On the lips of the Catechist, the first proclamation must ring out over and over, "Jesus Christ loves you; he gave his life to save you and now he is living at your side every day to enlighten, strengthen and free you." We must teach our children and grandchildren that, as Bishop Robert Barron says, Jesus is their best friend.

As Grandparents, we recognize that our "vocation" is to be that presence within The family that nurtures and encourages, enables and directs, corrects when necessary and shares the riches of experience with the hopes for the future. The church, as with every mother desires for her children to mature to adulthood and as a true mother, is able to guard the history and living tradition of the family, yet look to the future with confidence and hope.

So too, the Grandparent is a dynamic presence, one that has been formed by prayer and fidelity. The Grandparent has learned what is essential in the spiritual formation of the family and what is needed for our families to radiate the joy of the gospel and to be effective evangelizers.

It is our belief that Grandparents have that *sensus fidei*, instinctive faith, in a unique way within our families, it is to that instinct that we have recourse when we seek to help our children and grandchildren discern decision-making and choices, we call on that "instinctive faith".

Numerous studies report the silent tragedy occurring in homes today. Due, in part to the effects of social media and increasing isolation, our children are in an unprecedented emotional state, 1 in 5 children suffer from mental health problems including depression. The suicide rate among young people has climbed 200 %. Children are overstimulated and over-indulged, yet undernourished and unhappy. So what's missing?

Please teach your children and grandchildren to pray. Never give up hope. Especially continue praying for your grown children, no matter how many mistakes you think you made. Seeing you pray is the most powerful act of evangelization, more powerful than any Catechism lesson or sermon. Remember Saint Monica who prayed for seventeen years for St. Augustine's freedom from addiction and his conversion.

The loving example of parents and Grandparents in passing on the story of our faith is made especially manifest by prayers at home, never forget to tell your story. Remember we have the greatest story ever told. We in the Catholic Grandparents Association strive for our children to be brought up in an inclusive, compassionate Church, whoever and whatever they are, surrounded and supported in their whole lives as we have been, through the beauty of the Gospel, the love of Our Lord Jesus Christ and our Holy Mother Church. It is essential that we Grandparents make them feel utterly included and encourage them to recognize the beauty of our faith. Remember, they are the future of our Church.

Our faith can and does provide a safe and supportive rock with which to face both the turbulent and the happy times. "So let this be our message to our children and grandchildren – go forth and make disciples of the world". And remember, when you leave this room, you're entering the mission field.

With *Our Lady* at the center of it all, the Irish came to Rome where Pope Francis celebrated Sunday Mass dedicating the newly commissioned statue of *Our Lady of Knock*. On Monday, EWTN debuted their new film “Hope” depicting the apparition of Our Lady of Knock and the plight of the Irish during the potato famine.



Father Richard, Rector,
Knock Shrine, Catherine
Wiley, Campbell Miller, Film
Director and Aidan Gal-
lagher, CEO, EWTN Ireland

CGA Board Member, Jane Sweeney, Marilyn Henry and
Catherine Wiley with Campbell Miller, Film Director



Catherine Wiley, CGA Patron Archbishop Michael Neary, Marilyn Henry
and Jane Sweeney, Board Member



CGA - Australia

CGA Australia, December 2019

During their recent holiday to Australia, Deacon Ken and Marilyn Henry had the great pleasure to experience true Australia hospitality through the kindness of Ron and Mavis Pirola in Sydney and Jude and Kerry Hennessey in Wollongong.

Ron and Mavis have the great distinction of receiving the **Papal honor of Commandor and Dame of the Order of Saint Gregory** in recognition for their contribution to the Church including 27 years of service to the Pontifical Council for the Family and for their establishment of the Parish and Marriage Resource Centre and the Family Working Group.

Jude, **Director, Office of Renewal and Evangelization**, Diocese of Wollongong, and Kerry kindly offered the hospitality of their home taking time to learn about the Catholic Grandparents Association and our work in Dioceses worldwide.

Please keep our Australian friends in your prayers as they continue to fight and recover from the fires.



**Father Don Richardson,
Dean, Saint Mary's
Cathedral, Sydney,
enthusiastically receiving
our Prayer for Grandparents
& information about our
Ministry**



St. Monica's Cathedral, Cairns

Australia



Born in Australia to Scottish immigrants, Saint Mary MacKillop is Australia's first saint. She was canonized in 2010 by Pope Benedict. Also called St. Mary of the Cross, she was an educator and social reformer and along with Father Tenison Woods, started the order of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart (the Josephites).

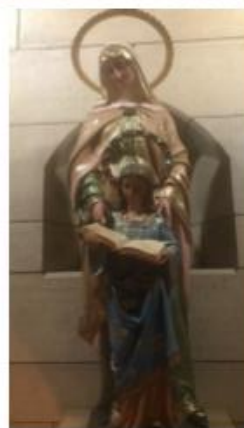


Saint Mary's Cathedral, Sydney

Chapel of Irish Saints,

Women Saints

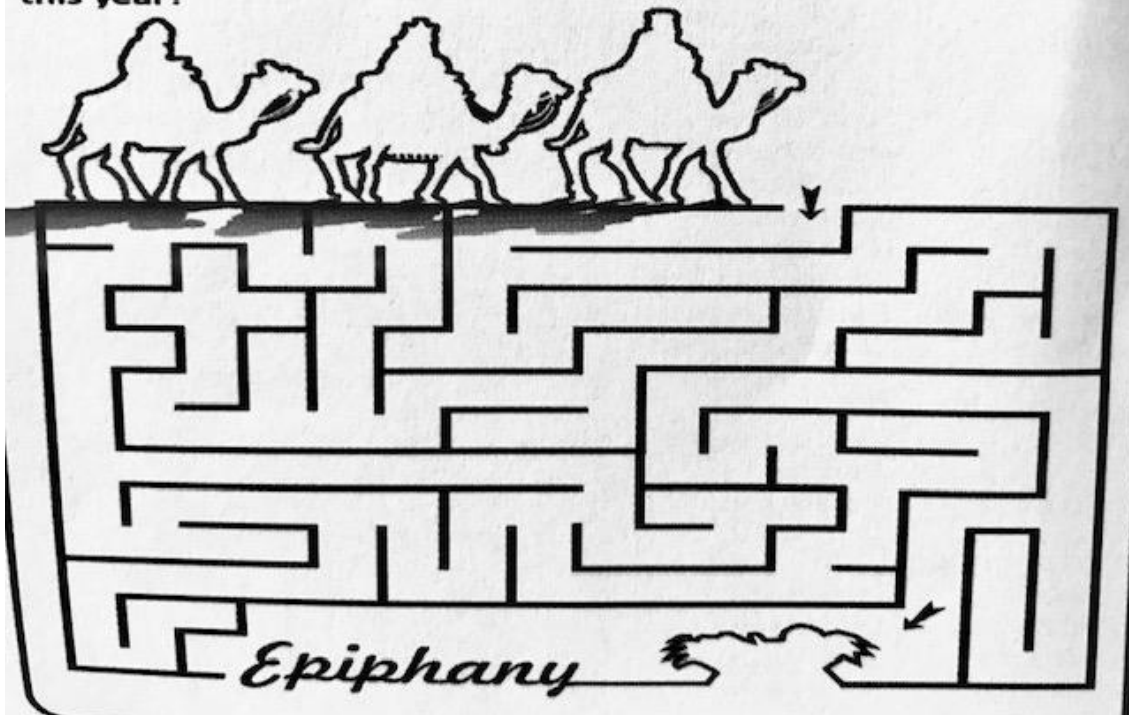
Saint Anne and Mary



Children's Activity Page

Epiphany, Mt 2:1-12

Three wise men were searching for Jesus. They traveled from very far away to meet him. They followed a star and finally found him in Bethlehem. They adored him and gave him special gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. **What gift would you like to give to Jesus this year?**



**YOU WOULD NEVER LET YOUR
PHONE BATTERY GET SO DRAINED**



**YET YOUR LACK OF PRAYER LEAVES
YOUR SOUL CONSTANTLY DRAINED.
NOURISH YOURSELF IN PRAYER!**

We please ask Ministry Leaders and members to submit pictures and stories of events, meetings and relevant happenings to info@catholicgrandparentsassociation.org

The Magi


THREE GIFTS OF THE MAGI

"Gold, as to a king; myrrh, as to one who was mortal; and incense, as to a God."
- Origin of Alexandria, 3rd Cent.

Matthew 2:11



Facebook.com/saintjosephstudios

Gold	Frankincense	Myrrh
		
ROYALTY A gift for a king. Christ is King of Kings.	PRIESTLY A gift for a mediator. Christ is High Priest.	PROPHETIC A burial ointment. A gift for Christ's death
The vessels in the Jerusalem Temple were made from purest gold (Leviticus 24:4-6).	The smoke of incense symbolized the rising of priestly prayers to God (Leviticus 16:12-13).	Myrrh was used in oils for anointing (Exodus 30:23).

PAGAN WORSHIP REDIRECTED TO THE SON OF GOD

"The gold that had been worshipped now worshipped you, when the magi offered it. What had been worshipped in molten images, now gave worship to you. With its worshippers it worshipped you....The Sun revealed in silence, his worshippers to his Lord." - St. Ephrem, 4th Century

Source: Catholics Apologetics Institute

Sharing Catholic History with Grandson

At our Catholic Grandparents Ministry we often talk about sharing our history as a way of passing on the faith. This day is one we'll both remember.

Over the holidays I was blessed with a visit from my 21 year old grandson Chris, who lives across the country in California. He has always shown an interest in family history. I took him on a quick tour and stopped to visit the Immaculate Conception Church (pic) in Lowell, MA. This beautiful cathedral is where his parents were married and where he was baptized. We walked arm-in-arm toward the altar, as he pictured his mother taking this very same walk 25 years ago. With permission, we toured the altar and even knelt where his mother and father knelt.

Our next stop was Saint Joseph the Worker Shrine, also in Lowell, where many of his great-great grandparents, aunts and uncles attended French Mass. We spent time reflecting and sharing in front of the many status of Saints. In the vestibule of the church is a large wall of brass plaques containing names of people who are prayed for every single day at the noon Mass. Unbeknownst to Chris, I had the names of each of my 12 grandchildren engraved on the wall. He found his name and of course, out came his cell phone for a quick picture!

On the way out we visited the church gift shop where a lovely lady placed a miraculous medal around his neck and explained that he would be protected throughout his senior year at college.

Blessings to all Grandparents, Parents, Grandchildren, Aunts, Uncles, and Godparents

Jeanne Rodwell, Catholic Grandparents Association,
St. Catherine of Alexandria/St. Anne Collaborative, Westford and Littleton, MA





Resources, Ideas, Discussion Topics – Jan/Feb



The 23rd Psalm

A line by line meaning

The Lord is my Shepherd – **Relationship**
I shall not want – **Source**
He leads me beside still waters – **Rest**
He restores my soul – **Healing**
He guides me in paths of Righteousness – **Direction**
For His name's Sake – **Purpose**
Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death – **Testing**
I will fear no evil – **Protection**
For He is with me – **Faithfulness**
His rod and staff comfort me – **Discipline and Direction**
He prepares a table before in the presence of my enemies – **Hope**
He anoints my head with oil – **Consecration**
My cup overflows – **Abundance**
Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life – **Blessing**
And I will dwell in His house – **Security**
Forever – **Eternity**

For Discussion - Tell your grandchildren and your children your “Epiphany” – your own experience and journey of finding Jesus in your own life.

CGA Ministry Leaders

By invitation only, we have a new Facebook Page for CGA Ministry Leaders only. Please request to be included in the closed group. The page will allow us to share prayer, ideas, events, etc.

[Catholic Grandparents Association Ministry Leaders](#)

CGA Ministry Leaders & Members

Our beautiful, exclusive new medal of Saint Joachim and Saint Anne with their grandson, Jesus is now available.

In Keeping with the charism which is the Catholic Grandparents Association, our exclusive medal has at its' center, the Child Jesus holding a Red rose representing the Blessed Virgin Mary as the Mystic rose. Jesus is surrounded by His Grandparents, St. Joachim and St. Anne so that together, three generations, Grandparents, parents and children are represented as one family symbolizing the communion of the Holy Trinity. Working with renowned arts and craftsmen 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. It is our hope that this beautiful image signifying God's plan for the sanctity and unity of familial generational bonds will bring great joy, encouragement and support to Grandparents in passing on their faith.



Sterling Silver - €20, \$20 *Silver Plated €10, \$10 *
Gold Plated - €10, \$10
Plus shipping, medal only



Recently, in Rome, Catherine & Marilyn were able to meet in person the amazing Vatican artist, Daniela Longo, who designed our exclusive medal of St. Joachim & St. Anne with their grandson, Jesus. Daniela was presented with a crystal-mounted presentation medal of her work.

Some of her many beautiful medal works are included here as well as a stamp which she created for Pope Emeritus XVI's 90th birthday.



ROME - The Vatican stamp and coin office has big plans for early May: the release of stamps marking retired Pope Benedict XVI's 90th birthday, as well as important events in the life of the church spanning almost 2,000 years.

The Philatelic and Numismatic Office said the stamp sheet celebrating Pope Benedict's April 16 birthday was designed to "offer our affectionate tribute to him."

Designed by the artist Daniela Longo, the sheet features a drawing of Pope Francis and Pope Benedict embracing, while the actual stamps show the retired pope praying his rosary.



Forthcoming Events

Archdiocese of Miami, Florida, Informational Meeting

Thursday, February 20, 10:30 AM

Assumption Catholic Church, 2001 S. Ocean Boulevard, Lauderdale By The Sea, FL

Friday, February 21, 10:30 AM

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church

11291 SW 142nd Ave, Miami, FL

Diocese of Wichita, Kansas

Salina

Friday, March 27

10 AM-1PM (including Mass & Lunch)

Wichita

Saturday, March 28, 9 AM-1PM

July 2020 (date tbc) - National Grandparents Pilgrimage –

Shrine of Our Lady in Walsingham

September 6th 2020 – National Grandparents Pilgrimage –

Shrine of Lady in Knock

In Remembrance of Grandparents who have been called home – forever in our hearts...

Weep Not For Me

Unknown Author

Weep not for me though I have gone
Into that gentle night
Grieve if you will, but not for long
Upon my soul's sweet flight

I am at peace, my soul's at rest
There is no need for tears
For with your love I was so blessed
For all those many years

There is no pain, I suffer not
The fear is now all gone
Put now these things out of your thoughts
In your memory I live on

Remember not my fight for breath
Remember not the strife
Please do not dwell upon my death
But celebrate my life



If you would like to send names of loved ones/members who you would like to have remembered in an issue contact us via our email address info@catholicgrandparentsassociation.com