

# Catholic Grandparents Association

## Newsletter - March 2021



### WELCOMING POPE FRANCIS' YEAR OF THE FAMILY

We are delighted to welcome Pope Francis' Year of Reflection on the Family which will run from the Feast of Saint Joseph (19 March 2021) until 26 June 2022 on the occasion of the World Meeting of Families in Rome.

All of us in the Catholic Grandparents Association are looking forward to supporting this year and to journeying with families, especially grandparents and the elderly, as we reflect on Pope Francis' love letter to families - *The Joy of Love (Amoris Laetitia)* - which was published five year's ago this month.

We ask you to pray for Pope Francis as he launches the Amoris Laetitia Family Year and as he marks the anniversary of the beginning of his Petrine Ministry this month.

We also ask for your prayers for all in the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life who have been asked by Pope Francis to coordinate the Amoris Laetitia Family Year. We look forward to working with them throughout the year, especially in relation to the first ever World Day of Prayer for Grandparents and the Elderly.

The World Day of Prayer for Grandparents and the Elderly has been described as one of the fruits of the Amoris Laetitia Family Year. We have recently launched our resources to assist ministry groups and parishes with the celebration of this momentous day. These resources are available to download from a new section on our website on the World Day of Prayer: [www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org/worlddayofprayer](http://www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org/worlddayofprayer). Please download and share them with others.

As we begin this Amoris Laetitia Family Year we invite you to pray for all families: that will feel nurtured and inspired in their faith journey as a result of the many fruits of this upcoming year.

**Catherine Wiley, Founder of the CGA**

## REFLECTIONS FROM THE GRANDPARENTS' FAITH CAFÉ

The Grandparents' Faith Café met virtually *via* Zoom on Tuesday 9 March to reflect on the theme of 'Grandparents as Faith Heroes'. Lorene Hanley Duquin, author of 15 books including *The Catholic Grandparents Handbook*, was the guest speaker and she offered much food for thought to those who joined in the Faith Café from Ireland, UK, USA and Australia.

In her address Lorene gave a wonderful overview of why she believes that all Grandparents are faith heroes, saying, "Of course, Grandparents are faith heroes because we are the ones who pass on our Catholic faith to our children and grandchildren. God has given us gifts for a purpose. One important thing we can do is help our grandchildren, our adult children, and other grandparents to identify their gifts. Talking about God-given gifts is one of the simplest ways to share faith. We can recognise that someone else's gifts offset our weaknesses. Understanding this helps us to build a stronger sense of community in our families, in our community, and in the Catholic Grandparents Association."

Lorene went on to say, "The five things that I believe make every one of us a Faith Hero are:

1. We were called and we said yes!
2. The Holy Spirit continues to call us and we just need to listen!
3. We use our God-given gifts to give meaning and purpose to our lives!
4. We sometimes struggle but we are sustained by our faith.
5. We are people of prayer who allow God's love to flow through us to other people."

Reflections at the Faith Café were delivered beautifully by Noreen Burns from Ireland and by John and Geraldine Dayball from Australia.

You can read the full texts of the addresses and reflections on our website.

**Save the date:** The next Faith Café will take place on Tuesday 13 April on the theme 'Grandparents as Faith Connectors'. The guest speaker for April will be Archbishop Eamon Martin, Archbishop of Armagh and President of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference. Registration (which is free of charge) is open now by email to [info@catholicgrandparentsassociation.com](mailto:info@catholicgrandparentsassociation.com).



# CGA MINISTRIES' NEWS

## INTRODUCING OUR EMBLEM FOR THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY

We are delighted to introduce our emblem for the first World Day of Prayer for Grandparents and the Elderly which will take place on Sunday 25 July. The image at the centre of the emblem features Saint Joachim and Saint Anne, parents of Mary and Grandparents of Jesus. The image was commissioned by the Catholic Grandparents Association in 2014 and has formed the centre of our logo since then. It was a concept that Catherine Wiley, Founder of the CGA had for many years and it was lovingly and carefully brought to life for the CGA by renowned Catholic artist Joe DeVito. You can read more about the background to the emblem and download it for use from [www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org](http://www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org).



## SAINT JOSEPH: THE DREAM OF VOCATION - POPE'S MESSAGE FOR VOCATIONS SUNDAY 2021

Pope Francis has published the message by Pope Francis for Vocations Sunday 2021 which this year falls on Sunday 21 April. The theme chosen by Pope Francis is 'St Joseph: The Dream of Vocation'. The Holy Father says, "God looks on the heart (cf. 1 Sam 16:7), and in Saint Joseph he recognised the heart of a father, able to give and generate life in the midst of daily routines. Vocations have this same goal: to beget and renew lives every day." We know that Grandparents play an important role in the nurturing of vocations too. We will be sharing some reflections on the role of grandparents in vocations ministry ahead of Vocations Sunday.

## HOLY WEEK RESOURCES FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY AND A NEW CHILDREN'S PAGE

We will be uploading some resources for Holy Week and launching a new Children's section on our website shortly. These resources are designed to be used by Grandparents to tell the story of Holy Week and Easter to their grandchildren. The new Children's Page on our website will feature downloadable resources that children can use to create their own art.

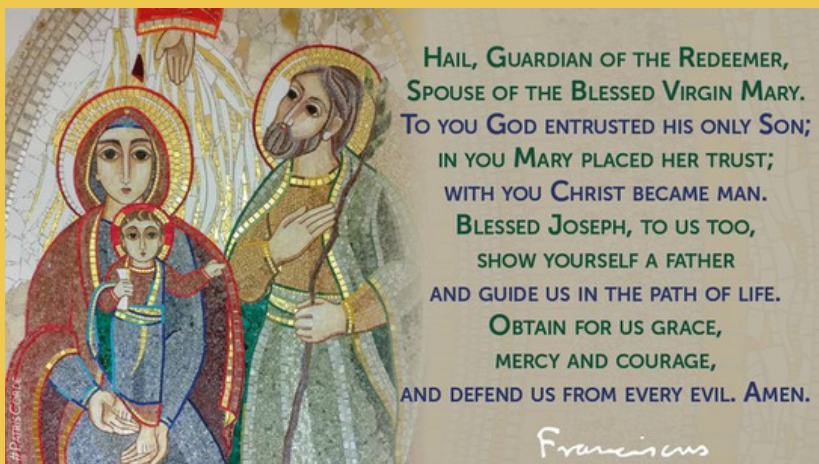




# NEWS SNIPPETS

## A TWEET AND A PRAYER FROM POPE FRANCIS AS HE LAUNCHED THE AMORIS LAETITIA FAMILY YEAR

In a tweet on Friday 19 March, as he prepared to launch the Amoris Laetitia Family Year, Pope Francis shared this prayer and this beautiful intention for families : "I pray that every family may feel the living presence of the Holy Family of Nazareth in their own home, that they may fill our small domestic communities with sincere and generous love, a source of joy even in trials and difficulties. #AmorisLaetitia".



## KNOCK SHRINE DESIGNATED AS BOTH MARIAN AND EUCHARISTIC

Our Patron Archbishop Neary, Archbishop of Tuam, has welcomed the Holy Father's formal recognition of the Shrine at Knock as an International Marian and Eucharistic Shrine. The Shrine at Knock is the home of our National Grandparents Pilgrimage in Ireland. Since that August evening in 1879 pilgrims have been coming to Knock, recognising their dependence on God and the way in which God's mother reaches out and cares for them. In the last fifty years this Shrine has been honoured by the visit of Pope John Paul II in 1979, Saint Teresa of Calcutta in 1993 and in 2018, Pope Francis.



His Holiness formally designated Knock as an International Marian and Eucharistic Shrine on the Feast of Saint Joseph, Friday 19 March, in a message which was transmitted via video link at the Mass in the Shrine Chapel. This is a hugely significant milestone in the history of the Shrine. For more see [www.knockshrine.ie](http://www.knockshrine.ie).

## CONNECT WITH US ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER

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!

Catholic Grandparents Association

Our Mission: Passing on the faith and keeping prayer at the heart of family life

[www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org](http://www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org)

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