

Catholic Grandparents Association

Newsletter - October 2021



**October is
the month
of the
Holy Rosary**

Welcome to the October issue of our Newsletter. It is hard to believe that we have just two months left now until the end of another year. The past few weeks have been busy ones for the CGA. On 28 September we hosted our first ever online ministry seminar which saw almost 70 people joining us via Zoom to learn about the CGA Ministry model for parishes. I can honestly say that I am still very much energised from that event. Hopefully we will have another one in the New Year. For those who missed the seminar, a recording is available. Email us and we will send it to you along with the access password.

Our Grandparents' Faith Café continues to meet online on the second Tuesday of the month. We have some wonderful guest speakers coming up in November and December.

As we move on towards November we are putting the final plans in place for our first ever 'Remember in November' initiative. We are looking at the most imaginative and yet sensitive ways for you to share the names and some memories of your loved ones who have passed on over the past year. We also hope that people will take the time to share stories and memories of Grandparents that are no longer with us. The resource will go live on our website during the first week of November so do keep an eye out.

And I think I can just about get away with mentioning the C word - Christmas! I have seen Advent Calendars popping up in all the shops and quite an amount of Christmas products for sale all around me. In the CGA we are putting the finishing touches to our first ever Christmas ornament which will have at its centre the beautiful image at the centre of our logo. We are also making available some CGA Christmas Cards for you to send to your loved ones. We have details of both of these Christmas products on the 'SHOP' section of our website in the coming days.

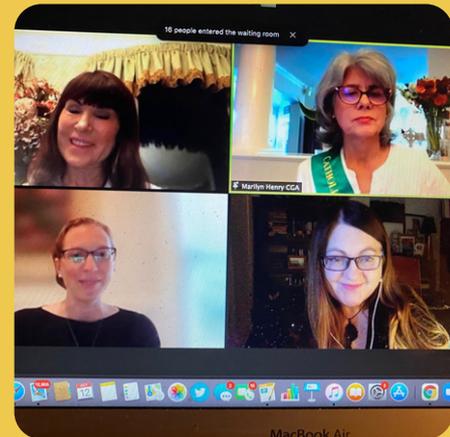
Until next time keep well. Keep an eye on our website and social media pages for the most up to date information on our work.

Catherine Wiley, Founder of the CGA

GRANDPARENTS' FAITH CAFÉ REFLECTS ON THE AMORIS LAETITIA FAMILY YEAR

The Grandparents' Faith Café met online on Zoom on Tuesday 10 October. We were joined by Grandparents from across the world for special guest Mrs Julia Dezelski, Assistant Director for Marriage and Family Life, Laity at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. In her role, Julia assists the US Catholic Bishops in advancing the vocation and mission of the lay faithful and in the promotion of marriage and family life. Julia walked us through the Amoris Laetitia Family Year that Pope Francis has invited us to celebrate.

Julia gave a very moving and personal testimony about her life as a busy mother of three and shared many insights into the importance of faith in the family. Julia said that in many ways the role of Grandparents is about "taking the hands of your grandchildren and leading them towards Christ." She went on to say that when it comes to being families that pray together that there's no such thing as "too early" when it comes to introducing children and grandchildren to prayer.



Julia also shared many useful links to resources for use during the Amoris Laetitia Family Year including the Walking With Families series from the website of the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life. Julia's two month old baby daughter Eliza also made a special guest appearance, delighting everyone on the Zoom with her smile and her wonderful head of hair.

The reflection at the October Faith Café was delivered by Marist priest Father Noel Wynn, a former director of the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham. Father Noel spoke very movingly to the theme of 'Mary as Disciple'.

A full report on the October Faith Café is available on our website.

Save the date for the November Faith Café:

We are delighted to announce that the guest speaker for our November Grandparents' Faith Café, which will take place on Tuesday 9 November, is EWTN's Rome Bureau Chief Joan Lewis. Joan will be reflecting on the theme of 'Remembrance'.

Booking for the November Faith Café is open now by email to info@catholicgrandparentsassociation.com. We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 9 November.



PARISH MINISTRY SEMINAR SUCCESS

On Tuesday 28 September the CGA hosted its first ever Ministry Seminar to facilitate those interested in establishing a Grandparents' Ministry in parishes. The Ministry Seminar was aimed at those starting out and those wishing to enrich and enhance existing ministries. The seminar included input on starting a ministry and featured two case studies from Mike and Nikki Mahn and from Kathleen Mironchik.



Speaking at the seminar, Marilyn Henry, International Ministry Co-ordinator for the CGA, said, "Through our Parish Ministries we help to create awareness of the vocation and the vital role Grandparents play in the family and in our Church. Grandparents often don't recognize or have the tools to fulfil their Biblical mandate. They are the role models, the memory keepers – the story tellers. They need spiritual and practical support as well as continuing catechesis. Every Grandparent has a testimony about how God has worked in his or her life – their story to share. We are here to encourage and support them to be that protagonist – that prophet they are called to be."

More than 70 people attended the seminar. A recording of the event is available on request from the CGA. A new ministry resource pack for parishes is currently being finalised. For details on the next seminar or information establishing a ministry in your parish please contact us on info@catholicgrandparentsassociation.org.

NEW ROSARY RESOURCE FOR THE FAMILY

A new resource on the Rosary has just been made available. The 'Rosary for the Family' was carefully created by the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network and the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life as part of the 'Amoris Laetitia Family Year'. This is one of a number of resources that the Dicastery is making available as part of this special year dedicated to the family.



"I invite you all to use this rosary so that we do not miss the opportunity to reinforce our love for Jesus and Mary, our heavenly Mother. The meditations are brief, taken from Amoris Laetitia and are accompanied by short questions and images that can help you reflect in faith, even with children", writes Cardinal Kevin Farrell, Prefect of the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life, in the presentation of the Rosary. Links to the new Rosary resource in different formats are available on our website.



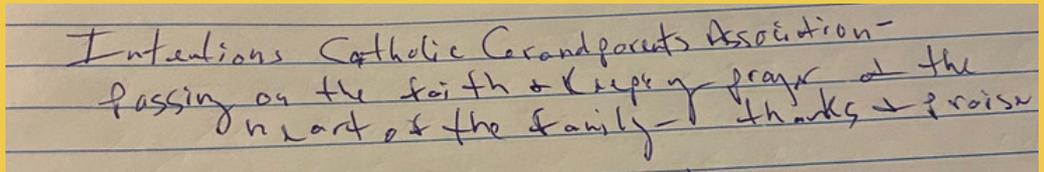
VISIT OUR ONLINE SHOP

Have you visited our online shop yet? We have lots of wonderful resources and gifts including our CGA medal which would make a great Christmas gift. Coming soon to the shop is the first ever CGA Christmas decoration and a new CGA Christmas card. Why not stop by for a visit? You can access the shop on www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org/shop/

A HOLY LAND PRAYER INTENTION



A very special prayer was offered for all Grandparents and for all associated with the CGA by Marilyn Henry, who made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land this month. Prayers were offered by Marilyn in the Church of St Anne in Jerusalem. The church marks the traditional site of the home of Jesus' maternal grandparents, Anne and Joachim, and is the birthplace of the Virgin Mary. We are very grateful to Marilyn for this gesture.



POPE FRANCIS LAUNCHES SYNODAL PATH WITH A CALL TO 'ENCOUNTER, LISTEN, AND DISCERN'

Pope Francis formally launched the two-year global consultation process leading to the 2023 synod on synodality on Sunday 10 October with a call to "look others in the eye and listen to what they have to say." Preaching at a Mass at Saint Peter's Basilica, the Pope said that Catholics taking part in the synodal path should strive to "become experts in the art of encounter."

"Not so much by organising events or theorising about problems, as in taking time to encounter the Lord and one another," he said.

"Time to devote to prayer and adoration -- this prayer that we neglect so much: to adore, to make room for adoration -- listening to what the Spirit wants to say to the Church."

"Today, as we begin this synodal process, let us begin by asking ourselves -- all of us, pope, bishops, priests, religious and laity -- whether we, the Christian community, embody this 'style' of God, who travels the paths of history and shares in the life of humanity," he urged. "Are we prepared for the adventure of this journey? Or are we fearful of the unknown, preferring to take refuge in the usual excuses: 'It's useless' or 'We've always done it this way?'"

You can follow the Synod process on www.synod.va and let's make sure that the voices of Grandparents are heard in the consultations open to us at parish and diocesan level!

CONNECT WITH US ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

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
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