



CATHOLIC GRANDPARENTS ASSOCIATION
GRANDPARENTS NEWS

We bring you love and greetings from Grandparents all over the World

February 2015



Helping Grandparents to pass on the faith & to keep prayer at the heart of family life



A Message from the Founder

Dear Members & Grandparents

We bring you heartfelt wishes of faith, hope and love. January has been an incredibly busy and formative time for the CGA. We were exceptionally privileged to be invited to be part of the conference, organised by the Pontifical Council for the Family, of Associations and movements from all over the world. You will be able to read the full report on page 3 but words cannot easily express the joy of being with so many like-minded people and hearing the moving testimony of the importance of grandparents to our faith, our world and our church. Our input into the *Relatio* has now been submitted and we continue to pray for the Synod fathers who will be meeting again in October.



In addition, we have seen the CGA develop in so many other ways in so many countries where our mission, to keep prayer at the heart of the family and to pass on the faith continues to strike a chord in so many hearts.

The future of our work continues to be supported by the generosity of so many people. Please continue to pray for all grandparents and grandchildren and support us in any other way you can.

May St Joachim and St Anne bless you, your children and your Grandchildren.

There is a candle lighting for your intentions at the Shrines of our Lady of Walsingham, and Knock in Ireland

Catherine Wiley

Catherine Wiley

Grandmother and founder
of the Catholic Grandparents Association

"As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well."

- Second Timothy 2:4-5

Spread The Word!

Do you realise the **POWER** of being a Grandparent?

Are you aware of how you **INFLUENCE** younger people?

Simple things like blessing yourself in public, saying the Angelus, Grace before Meals and using the Holy Water Font are minor Faith gestures that could have major results.



catholicgrandparentsassociation.org

Rome 2015

'The Pastoral Challenges facing the Family in the Context of Evangelisation'

From the 22nd to the 24th of January, Catholic Grandparents Association joined with almost 300 delegates from 82 of the national and international family movements and associations, from 26 countries on five continents. Invited by the Pontifical Council for the Family, the event was convened to consider our respective responses to the Relatio Synodi, the report issued after the Extraordinary Synod in October.

The aim was to contribute ideas for next October's Synod of Bishops on the Family. CGA was represented by Founder Catherine Wiley and her husband Stewart, and also Phil Butcher, Director for International Outreach.



John Przybysz and Phil Butcher (Co chair and Chair of the English Working Group)



General Assembly

Opening the conference, Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia, President of the Pontifical Council for the Family, said “The purpose of our encounter is to extract from the treasury of the faith and of experience in the Church whatever serves the common good, to soothe and heal the wounds of the families.” Over the next three days we would intently listen to the presentations and testimonies, which in turn focused on the three parts of the Lineamenta. These were, ‘Listening’, the context of the Challenges of the Family, ‘Looking at Christ’, The Gospel of the Family and ‘Confronting the situation’, Pastoral Perspectives.

CGA was privileged to be asked to Chair and Co-Chair the respective English Group Sessions, as well as to provide the synthesis of the individual discussions to the assembly. We were happy to work with John Przybysz from the Christian Family Movement and look forward to continuing developing our linkages with this and other organisations. All the outputs from each of the individual language groups have been presented to the Pontifical Council for the Family, who in turn will develop a report to be presented to the Permanent Office of the Synod for the forthcoming Synod later this year.

The conference was indeed, a privileged occasion for our association to support the aims of the Synod, and a wonderful occasion to share our mission and spirituality with so many family apostolates.

A second event has already been announced and will take place in Spring 2016.



Archbishop Paglia's - Plenary session

Phil Butcher - Director for International Outreach



World Meeting of Families – Philadelphia 2015 Unveils

Official Prayer and Iconic Image for September 2015 Event

The centrality of Christ and the critical importance of love in the family drive the words and imagery of these spiritual works created for this triennial global event.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap. unveiled the official prayer and iconic image for the World Meeting of Families – Philadelphia 2015, which is set to be held next September. Inspired

by the conference theme, “Love is our mission: the family fully alive,” which was announced in May 2014, the conference’s prayer and iconic image were unveiled and blessed by Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M., Cap. during the Sunday evening Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul.

“The prayer and iconic image will inspire everyone as we continue to prepare for the 2015 World Meeting of Families,” said Archbishop Chaput. “With their focus on enriching and reenergizing the spiritual life of families – both Catholic and non-Catholic alike, I’m hopeful that this prayer and image can help all of us to examine our minds and hearts and deepen our relationships with God and our families in meaningful ways.”

The official prayer for the World Meeting of Families – Philadelphia 2015 is meant to aid delegates around the world in their spiritual preparation for this momentous event. Distributed to parishes across the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and also accessible via the ‘2015 World Meeting of Families’ web site in 18 languages including American Sign Language, the prayer is meant to serve as a vehicle of hope and faith for families. Encouraging daily recitation for the success of the event and for personal intentions, the prayer is foundational to both the conference’s theme and its planned content.

In addition to an official prayer, the World Meeting of Families – Philadelphia 2015 has produced a definitive iconic image for the event. This image is a religious work of art meant to encourage both reflection and prayer.

For the 2015 World Meeting of Families, artist Neilson Carlin, based in Kennett Square, PA, was commissioned to create an oil painting of the Holy Family depicting Mary, Joseph and Jesus, as a small child, as well as Mary's parents, Saints Anna and Joachim. The four-by-five foot canvas, which was also unveiled on Sunday with the assistance of students from John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School, Roman Catholic High School, Saint Peter the Apostle School, and Saint Francis Xavier School, will be on display in the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul through the conclusion of the World Meeting of Families, which will be held September 22-27, 2015.

There are few images which represent the important link of the Grandparents in our religious art and the essence of their role as 'pre-eminent collaborator' with the parents is captured well. Those coming to the view the iconic image at the Cathedral are encouraged to pray for families around the world by reciting the official prayer and lighting a votive candle at the Marian Shrine. CGA has been asked to be an integral part of the World meeting of Families and will be running a series of workshops during the event.

For more information about the World Meeting of Families – Philadelphia 2015, its official prayer or the iconic image visit worldmeeting2015.org.



The World Meeting of Families – Philadelphia 2015 Official Prayer

God and Father of us all,
in Jesus, your Son and our Savior,
you have made us
your sons and daughters
in the family of the Church.

May your grace and love
help our families
in every part of the world
be united to one another
in fidelity to the Gospel.

May the example of the Holy Family,
with the aid of your Holy Spirit,
guide all families, especially those most troubled,
to be homes of communion and prayer
and to always seek your truth and live in your love.
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us!

Bishop Alan endorses Catholic Grandparents Association (CGA) in Brentwood.

In the first meeting with the CGA since his episcopal ordination, Bishop Alan Williams SM of Brentwood, gave his full commitment to the work, mission and spirituality of the CGA in his Diocese.

During the meeting, CGA Founder, Catherine Wiley, thanked Bishop Alan for both his support of the CGA during his time at Walsingham and for enabling grandparents in his diocese to meet in support of their vocation and in their aims of keeping prayer at the heart of family life and to pass on the faith. She also updated him on the most recent developments worldwide and also the work the CGA had been doing, along with other family apostolate associations, on providing a response to the Lineamenta for the Synod in Rome later this year.

During the meeting, Bishop Alan was presented with a framed copy of Pope Benedict's Prayer for Grandparents and also a copy of the Guidelines under which CGA continues to operate in direct reference to its Statutes.

The CGA looks forward to working closely with other Diocesan offices on a formal launch in the Diocese later this year.



A wonderful example of how to nurture Grandchildren - Kindly Given to us from member Carol Yeager: A walk with Grandchildren Dear Grandparents,

I have found that a good way to share our faith is a walk in a cemetery. If grandparents can't walk you can drive and park... and teach your children and grandchildren elements of the Catholic faith. Recently we went to a cemetery and there was a marker for the unborn. We talked about heaven..souls....it made an impression.. they looked for it the next time. Not only do you find so many displays of our faith there, and with it teaching opportunities..but also the kids learn respect for our dead and proper decorum.

I just thought I would share this experience.

God bless you all.

We also have a lot of statues and the stations in the cemetery where we have gone. It is amazing how many symbols in a cemetery are great to bring up tenets of the faith...and you have a memory to share.

Thank you.

Thank you Carol Yeager so very much this is an absolute beautiful story and a wonderful example of how to nurture our grandchildren faith.



DUNKELD NEWS

Diocesan Newsletter of the Bishop of Dunkeld

February 2015

Bridging the gap passing on the faith to our children

On Saturday, 17th January, we had a visit from Mr Phil Butcher from the Catholic Grandparents Association. The Association is big in Ireland, England and the USA. It recognises the wonderful part Catholic grandparents nowadays play in the continuing faith formation of their grandchildren (and even children). About forty people from the diocese came to hear Phil and to experience something of the fundamental ideas that underpin the Association.

It is to be hoped that those who attended the conference will have the help from their parishes to start an association in their own communities. With so many families experiencing a missing generation in the trans-

mission of the faith grandparents are so well placed to bridge the gap and keep the faith-chain alive and strong. This seems to me to be a real ministry that grandparents can do. Grandparents have an access and a privileged place in the lives of their grandchildren. They can be a quiet supporting presence to parents and grandchildren in passing on the faith and our Catholic Tradition in a simple way.

There will be much more about this later as groups start to form. Ron and Helen Wylie have already had great experience of the CGA and will be coordinating our activities in the diocese with a constant support of the CGA.



Surprisingly the greater number of participants had come from the far-flung parts of the diocese. There were few from the City of Dundee. Bishop Stephen would like to thank those who came from Dunblane, Alloa, Crieff and Montrose especially for making the effort.



News from Betty Murphy Carlow Group

Our news is, that we are ready to go into two Primary Schools in Carlow, a girl's school, Scoil Mhuire Gan Smal and a boys School, Bishop Foley's, to help the children pray the Rosary. This has been in the pipeline for the while but now we are ready and we will be going in for a half hour each week of Lent. We will be saying the Joyful Mysteries, with one mystery being explained each week. We have pictures of each Mystery for the children to colour in, and a few lines underneath for them to say what it means to them. We have rosary beads for those who have none.

We had a lovely day in the school for Grandparent's Day, about 200 Grandparents attended. There was a Mass at 10o'clock in Carlow Cathedral for Grandparents on the day. I did the Reading at Mass and read the Grandparents Prayer after Communion, I had given out 100 leaflets with the prayer on them and it was lovely that the whole congregation read out the prayer together.

God bless you and all in the CGA

Sincerely

Betty Murphy.





MARIAN PILGRIMAGES

RENEW OUR SPIRIT OF LOVE, FORGIVENESS & PEACE



Special Grandparents Pilgrimage/Holiday - Shrines of Quebec

St. Anne De Beaupre – Canada 17th – 26th September 2015 with Fr. Tom McGree

A nine day trip incorporating visits to the Shrine of the Grandmother of Jesus in Beaupre. Island of Grosse Ile Cap de la Madeline Montreal Niagara Falls Toronto

visit

www.marian.ie

Children of the Eucharist & The Catholic Grandparents Association from Marguerite O’Kane

Members in the Lurgan branch joined in an Advent Celebration in St Patricks Derrymacash .

The children with their grandparents meet every other Monday for 30mins Adoration & are members of the National Apostolate of Adoration.



Grandparents and Valentine's Day.

Show and share your love all year!

Valentine's Day isn't just for couples who want to be romantic. It also isn't meant to be just one day in the year where we 'do something nice' for those we love. So why not extend that 'February 14th' occasion to other days in the year. This are always opportunities for grandparents to shower love and affection on their grandchildren, and they can do this by giving memorable gifts to them. Grandparents can find ideas for gifts by observing their grandchildren's conversations and figuring out their favorite things in the process.

For example, if your grandchildren enjoy your home-made cookies, package them in parchment paper pieces, put them in medium-sized shoe boxes and take them to the kids. To make it extra special, put pictures that you took of yourselves with the grandchildren or even you as a child on the sides and top of the boxes along with a small card that expresses your love for them.

These make great conversation pieces. Children love stories – don't forget to share yours with them.

Happy Valentines!





In Loving Memory



Michael Lambert and his wife Mae

We are very sorry to hear about the death of Michael Lambert who was in his 108th year. He was the oldest man in Ireland and a member of the Catholic Grandparents Association. Michael was our honoured Grandparent who attended our Annual National Grandparents Pilgrimage in Knock every year and we were very privileged to have him and his family there

We would like to send our deepest condolences to his wife Mae (Mary), sons Micheal, Hubert, Eamon/Edward, John, Gerard, Kevin and Noel, daughters Maura and Kathleen, Grandchildren neighbours and friends.

May He Rest in Peace



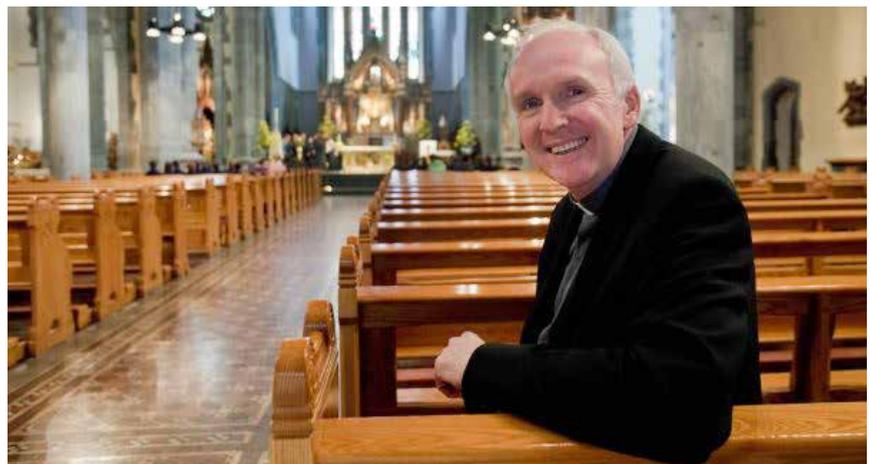
WEEKLY MASS AND PRAYERS WORLDWIDE ARE OFFERED FOR THE INTENTIONS OF ALL MEMBERS AND BRANCHES OF THE CATHOLIC GRANDPARENTS ASSOCIATION

9th Annual Pilgrimage at Knock



Sunday 13th September 2015

We are delighted to have Bishop Brendan Leahy as our Chief Celebrant for 2015



Preventing Young Suicides

Like many grandparents, we often look back on the relatively carefree halcyon days of our childhood. True, there were many things that we did have to worry about in a post war world but by and large we got by. Young people today are subject to pressures that we could never have imagined. These range from the need to achieve good grades to the break-up of the family, which we know affects at least 50% of the next generation.



The impact of this pressure can often prove too much for a young person's mind. Young suicide is the biggest cause of deaths in young people and many of these can be prevented with the right intervention. Papyrus is an organisation that aims to both raise awareness of this difficult subject and also provide teachers, parents and grandparents with ways to learn suicide awareness, alertness, and intervention skills to save young lives.

Suicide can often feel like a tricky topic to handle. Many people, regardless of experience, are looking for reassurance about how to help a young person who may be having suicidal thoughts. This help can range from picking up on warning signs, to having the confidence with the words we've chosen or the advice given. Working with the Bishop's Conference in England and Wales, Papyrus are running a series of events aimed at anyone who may be in contact with young people from teachers to pastoral carers and of course grandparents.

They are being held at various locations in the UK. The cost is a donation of £10. For more information on the events contact phil@catholicgrandparentsassociation.org and visit www.papyrus.org.uk.

Supporting CGA into the future

The work of CGA is funded entirely by donations. Leaving a legacy is a great way of showing you care about the work of CGA and will ensure that we can continue in the future.

Nine out of ten people surveyed would be proud to see parents leave a gift to charity in their will Professor Cathy Pharoah, Co-Director of the ESRC Research Centre for Charitable Giving and Philanthropy at Cass Business School, said: "Families are an important place for passing on the values of giving, and this research shows that children can feel very proud of their parents' desire to support the causes they care about through legacies."



Charitable legacies have the power to help shape the world for future generations. More people are making bequests to charities to causes that they want to support in their memory. Whether your legacy is small or large, it can protect the future of the charitable work you most value.

Our faith is the greatest gift we can give to future generations. If you are thinking about this or maybe your loved one is considering how they too can shape the future, then please consider CGA as a beneficiary.

If you want to progress this then please contact us via legacies@catholicgrandparentsassociation.org or call our UK and International Office on +44 (0) 1328 560 333



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 roles 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 PP XVI



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