

Grandparents and the Elderly: The Treasure of our Society

"They have been entrusted to transmit the experience of life, the story of a family, a community, a people." Without them "a society loses its memory, it is lost. It has no roots."

Pope Francis (video on grandparents 2017)



Pope Francis has dedicated Sunday July 25 as the first World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. The theme for this first celebration is "I am with you always" referring to the Gospel of Saint Matthew 28, 20. In observance of this day, let us recognize the great treasure that grandparents and the elderly are for our families and our society.

Have we ever wondered what our world would be like without our grandparents and elderly people? Grandparents and the elderly have been fundamental to our society: with their examples of perseverance, they have continued with the mission of sharing the faith and instilling values in our families and our communities. They have been the anchor of our families and today, more than ever, it is our responsibility to take care of them and give them the dignified treatment they deserve. This date invites us to raise awareness and value their great contribution in our lives, particularly in our culture, which often views our elderly with little reverence. Let us then take advantage of this day, and, every day to offer love, affection and understanding to our grandparents and wisdom figures.



To live this day more fully, we invite you to consider doing something special for the elderly in your family and community:

- If you still have your grandparents, use this day to call them or to visit them.
- If your children have the opportunity to spend time with their grandparents, encourage that beautiful opportunity to enjoy their presence and create memories for a lifetime.
- If your parents are no longer here, pray together with your children for them, and tell them stories about them.
- Share with the younger generations in your family about your grandparents and the moments lived with them and teach them the importance of respecting and valuing the elderly.
- We encourage you to check on any elderly in your community, take the opportunity to visit them to make sure they are well or to simply spend time and hear their stories.

Being kind and courteous to our elderly costs nothing, but it can make a big difference in their lives.

Let us Pray:

Beloved God, we thank you for our grandparents and the elderly. We ask you to bless each one of them. Help us to value their presence in our lives with love and understanding. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Family/parish Movie Night

Consider having a movie night for your family or parish community. Here are four movies with a beautiful message about family values:

-COCO -UP -THE CROODS 1 -THE CROODS 2

