

World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

**PRAYER
CARDS**



'Do not cast me off in my old age'
(c.f. Psalm 71:9)

LET US PRAY



In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Dear Lord,
We thank you for grandparents and elderly relatives throughout the world, their lives and their vocation. We are grateful for their love, care and the advice that they give to each of us. Protect them dear Lord, in all that they do, as we continue to be blessed by their wisdom in our communities. Guide them in their earthly pilgrimage and always keep them close to your heart, so that they continue to generously respond to your call. We make this prayer through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.



Gospel from the 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

John 6:1-15 (Universalis.com)

Jesus went off to the other side of the Sea of Galilee – or of Tiberias – and a large crowd followed him, impressed by the signs he gave by curing the sick. Jesus climbed the hillside, and sat down there with his disciples. It was shortly before the Jewish feast of Passover. Looking up, Jesus saw the crowds approaching and said to Philip, ‘Where can we buy some bread for these people to eat?’ He only said this to test Philip; he himself knew exactly what he was going to do. Philip answered, ‘Two hundred denarii would only buy enough to give them a small piece each.’ One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said, ‘There is a small boy here with five barley loaves and two fish; but what is that between so many?’ Jesus said to them, ‘Make the people sit down.’ There was plenty of grass there, and as many as five thousand men sat down. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and gave them out to all who were sitting ready; he then did the same with the fish, giving out as much as was wanted. When they had eaten enough he said to the disciples, ‘Pick up the pieces left over, so that nothing gets wasted.’ So they picked them up, and filled twelve hampers with scraps left over from the meal of five barley loaves. The people, seeing this sign that he had given, said, ‘This really is the prophet who is to come into the world.’ Jesus, who could see they were about to come and take him by force and make him king, escaped back to the hills by himself.



Give everyone a post-it-note or small piece of paper to write down the names of each grandparent, elderly relative or elderly person that they are thankful for or have been inspired by. Place this in the centre of the room or keep hold of it, reminding them of each person.

TIME TO THINK

Let us now reflect on our grandparents and the elderly people around us:

- What have they taught us?
- What has been their advice and how have they lived out their vocation?
- What advice would you give to your future self or what one piece of advice would you like to give young people?
- What advice would you ask for when thinking about your vocation or what advice would you give if someone was asking you about God's call for them in their lives.

SHORT PRAYERS

We pray for grandparents and the elderly; keep them and make them courageous, wise and caring.

We pray for the elderly who feel isolated at this time, so that they know they are never alone, as you continue to be with them.

We pray for all who are ill, that they may experience your healing power and grace.

We pray for those who have died, that they are taken into your loving care and into their eternal resting home.

Let us say the prayer that Jesus taught us : Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

LET US PRAY

Prayer for the Fourth World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

Lord, faithful God,
You who created us in Your image,
You who never leaves us alone
and who accompanies us through
every season of life,
Do not abandon us, take care of us,
and grant us, once again,
the ability to discover ourselves
and recognise that we are Your children.
Renew our hearts with your Word
and do not allow anyone to be cast aside.
May your Spirit of love fill us with Your tenderness
and teach us to say: "I will not abandon you!"
To those we meet on our journey.
With the help of your beloved Son,
may we not lose the taste for fraternity
and may we not conform to the sadness of loneliness.
Help us to look to the future
with renewed hope,
and make the World Day for Grandparents
and the Elderly
a day without loneliness, and a day abundant with the
first-fruits of Your peace.
Amen.



Thank you to all our Grandparents and Elderly on this special day.