



St. Andrew's Catholic Church
 Hawley, MN 56549
 1418 Main – PO Box 129
 Parish Office: (218) 483-4264
 parish@standreshawley.org
 WEBSITE: www.standreshawley.org

MISSION STATEMENT

St. Andrew's Catholic Church is a Christian community where all are welcome. Guided and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we strive to meet the spiritual needs of all through the sacraments, religious education, and worship. We seek to live an example of holiness and encourage one another as we journey toward eternal life.

Pastor: Fr. Augie Gothman AGothman@crookston.org Phone: (218) 287-2705 – St. Elizabeth Parish Office
 St. Elizabeth's Website: www.stlizdilworth.org
In an emergency, call 218-443-6275 (Fr. Augie) any time – day or night.

Deacon: Tom Jirik (701) 219-3949 or deacontomstandrews@gmail.com
 Sec/Bkpr: Mary Johnson

Diocesan Victim Assistance:

If you or someone you know has been the victim of sexual misconduct on the part of a priest, deacon, or individual representing the Diocese of Crookston, its parishes, or its schools, your first call should be to law enforcement. In addition, the diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator is available at 218-281-7895 (24-hour confidential number).

LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS

SUNDAY MASSES:

St. Andrew's----- 10:00 a.m.
 7/18 – †Pat Reichel 7/25 – For the People
St. Elizabeth's----- 8:30 a.m.
 7/18 – For the People 7/25 – Phil & Dorothy Huck Family

WEEKDAY:

St. Andrew's ----- 9:00 a.m. Tuesday – Communion Service Thursday – Communion Service
 St. Elizabeth's ---- 9:00 a.m. Monday – †Vicki Rupp Wednesday – Communion Service



CARE OF THE SICK:

Remember in your prayers all who are in need of the Lord's healing and strength and those who have asked for our prayers, especially Beau Lofgren, Laurie Dodd (sister of Sandy Maydole), Sally Frantz (sister of Gary Sprunk), Connie Johnson (niece-in-law of Mary Johnson), Jim Goettl (brother of Julia Knauss. If you are aware of someone who should be added to the prayer list, please contact the parish office.

We will publish names on the prayer list for four weeks, and then they will be removed. If you want to again include someone, please contact the parish office – thank you!

July 18 – SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Jer 23:106; Ps 23:1-6; Eph 2:13-18; Mk 6:30-34

July 19 – Ordinary Weekday

Ex 14:5-18; (Ps) Ex 15:1b-6; Mt 12:38-42

July 20 - St. Apollinaris, Bishop, Martyr

Ex 14:21-15:1; (Ps) Ex 15:8-10,12,17; Mt 12:46-50

July 21 – St. Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest, Doctor of the Church

Ex 16:1-5,9-15; Ps 78:18-19,23-28; Mt 13:1-9

July 22 – St. Mary Magdalene

Sg 3:1-4a or 2 Cor 5:14-17; Ps 63:2-6,8-9; Jn 20:1-2,11-18

July 23 – St. Bridget, Religious

Ex 20:1-17; Ps 19:8-11; Mt 13:18-23

July 24 – St. Sharbel Makhlûf, Priest; Blessed Virgin Mary

Ex 24:3-8; Ps 50:1b-2,5-6,14-15; Mt 13:24-30

July 25 – SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

2 Kgs 4:42-44; Ps 145:10-11,15-18; Eph 4:1-6; Jn 6:1-15

"Year of St. Joseph" - 2021

St. Andrew's Pastoral Council

Duane Hovelsrud, Chairperson. *2021	Heather Egenes..... *2022	Kathy Johnston, Trustee
Ken Heide *2021	Cody Aldinger *2023	Brenda Norris, Trustee
Gary Johnson..... *2021	Anne Revier *2023	Fr. Augie Gothman
Erica Polley, Vice Chairperson... *2022 *2023	Deacon Tom Jirik
Carmen Barth..... *2022	(* year terms expire)	Mary Johnson, Recording Secretary

**16th SUNDAY
 IN
 ORDINARY TIME**

July 18, 2021





COLLECTION – July 11, 2021

Adult Envelopes = \$1,001.00

Loose Plate = \$121.00

Roofing Fund = 25.00

Collection for Holy Father = \$603.00

Memorials to Building Fund = \$20

Given by Duane & Kristi Hovelsrud in memory of Rod Tibbetts

Memorials to Roofing Fund = \$95.00

Given by Leslie Cox, Dan & Kaye Matson, Dean & Diane Omberg, Roy & Bev Samuelson in memory of Rod Tibbetts

Given by Leslie Cox in memory of Grace Hovelsrud

Given by Roy & Bev Samuelson in memory of Kathy Angus

Memorials to Stained Glass Fund = \$40.00

Given by Carol Laddusaw in memory of Rod Tibbetts

Given by Don & Carol Schoff in memory of Norman Wallace

Electronic Giving:

General = \$610.00

Building Fund = \$20.00

Roof Fund = \$30.00

ROSARY is prayed before Mass each Sunday morning beginning at 9:35 a.m.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION is offered in our parish on Mondays from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Prepare and Share Freezer Meal Ministry – Do you know someone in our parish in need of support emotionally, physically, or spiritually? St. Andrew's "Prepare and Share" outreach ministers to those in need by delivering home-made meals to families and individuals for use when it works best for them. Please direct questions and referrals to Jane VanHavermaet at jane.vanhavermaet@gmail.com, 218-790-4530.

LITURGICAL ASSIGNMENTS FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 1

Lead Rosary	Loretta Votava
Altar Servers	Katherine & Amelia Geeslin, Kaileigh Grandstrand
Ministers of Holy Communion	Deacon Tom Jirik
.....	Sue Pederson, Jerry & Mary Rutten, Kathy Tibbetts
.....	Tim & Karla Winkelman
Greeters	Rich & Sandy Dombeck
Lectors	Kurt Ketterl, Curt Noll
Ushers	Randal Chisholm, Joseph Dickson
Music Ministry	Lynn Buschette
Gift Bearers	Matt & Sheri Cook Family
Counters	Margaret Ristvedt, Carol Schoff, Laurel Schultz
Cookies & Coffee	Patty Bedore, Julia Berg, Sheri Cook

GOSPEL READING



Sometimes life simply demands too much. We have the best of intentions to meet all those obligations, but that one last item sneaks in and swamps our boat. And to make things worse, there's no time to catch up once we get behind. The days keep whizzing past and our list of "haven't dones" gets longer and longer. Oh for a week off, with no responsibility, no demands on

our time. What a delightful concept! That world-weariness isn't limited to our secular lives either. "Burn-out" is a far too common term in the Christian world these days. Witness the ever-growing popularity of spiritual retreats. Yet even the best retreat gives us only a moment's rest, it does not make the troubles we face go away. There is no mountain high enough to hide us from the world's need. Like our Savior before us, we must respond to the cry for help with empathy and action, even when we ourselves are battered or worn. No matter how weary we are, His children must be fed, physically and spiritually. And when we reach the very limit of what we can do, His strength, His power will do the rest. If we will only lift those weary hands to Him, our loving Father will lift us up and carry us to the task's completion.

UPCOMING DATES

Sunday, September 26 – Turkey Dinner
Sunday, October 17 – Turkey Dinner
Saturday, October 23 - Confirmation



STEWARDSHIP

"He said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while."

Mark 6:31

Do you spend time, every day, alone and in silence listening to how God is calling you? If not, you are missing out on a wonderful opportunity to develop a more personal relationship with Him. Unless we talk and more importantly, listen to God every day, how else will we know how He is calling us? Consider making a retreat this year, spend some "alone" time with God.

VOCATION

"He had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd." Will you respond to the needs of Christ's sheep as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life?

Father Augie will be on retreat next week, July 19 through July 28. Father Raul and Father Nate Brunn will be available for emergencies.

REVERENT



What is Reverence ?

FULL AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION

Pope Benedict XVI has pointed out that full and active participation of all the faithful in the Mass basically meant that in our minds and hearts we are to be attentive and conscious of what is happening in the Mass. While it may seem passive to some, in reality, it is actively the lifting of our minds and hearts to God. *It is possible for the body to be moving and our minds be asleep or somewhere else.* We must always be mindful that we are offering to God the Father, the same Sacrifice offered on Calvary. Unfortunately, in some areas, participation in the Mass has come to involve many doing non-essential things, even questionable things, that are not a part of the official Divine Liturgy of the Church. When things are done at Mass not according to the official directives of the Church, those acts become divisive. Divine Eucharistic Liturgy, the official public worship of the Church, is essentially JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF AS HIGH PRIEST acting and worshipping God the Father in the power of the Holy Spirit. The Catholic priest at Mass acts in persona Christi (Person of Christ) when he conducts the Liturgy as the Church directs.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We welcome Todd & Tara Sather and children Jack & Miller to our parish. Todd is a Loan Manager with TCF Bank, and Tara is a stay-home mom. We are happy to have you join our community of faith.

CANTORS NEEDED



St. Andrew's is in need of Cantors. If you would be willing to help with the Music Ministry, please contact Mary at the church (483-4264) or Margaret at 701-540-7301.

VBS

VBS will be held on August 15 through 19 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Kids entering Preschool through 5th Grade this fall should register by Wednesday, July 21. Contact Jennifer Geeslin at 218-329-5048 to register or sign up to help!

If You are Hospitalized

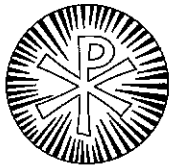
If you have to go to the hospital, Father Augie wants to visit you! He can also provide Anointing, Confession, and Holy Communion. Please call the parish office and let us know where you are.

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION – R.E.

Anyone with children who will be 4 years old by September 1 should register them for Sunday School for next year so we have a count when ordering materials & supplies. Please call the parish office at 483-4264.

SUMMER CHURCHES

If you are spending weekends at a lake occasionally or every weekend, be sure to check out an area church on Sunday. There are many wonderful parishes in the lakes area, and who knows, you may even see a familiar face! (P.S. Your children are watching and learning by your example.)



OUT OF PARISH NEWS

REACH'S SCHOOL SUPPLY & WINTER GEAR DISTRIBUTION

REACH's school supply and winter gear distribution will be coming up later this summer and fall. We are in need of school supplies, backpacks, snow pants, winter coats, boots, hats, and gloves. Items can be donated at the Thrift Store and the office. If you have any questions about how to donate or questions about the programs, please call Steph at 483-3145 or email at familysupportcoordinator@ruralenrichment.org. Thank you!

MAKE A CURSILLO



Take care of your spiritual health! Many in our parish have attended Cursillo weekends over the years and give great testimony to the power of such weekends. Cursillo weekends include quiet time, inspirational talks, and most importantly, time to be with Jesus without the many distractions of daily life. Held at Sand

Hill Bible Camp, near Fosston, Applications can be printed at crookstoncursillo.weebly.com

Women's weekend: Sept 23-26, 2021

Men's weekend: Oct 28-31, 2021

Holy Rosary Catholic Church and School is seeking a full-time Director of Music and Liturgy. Duties include providing music accompaniment at sacramental celebrations, weekend and holy day liturgies, assisting with funeral and wedding liturgies, as well as weekly school Masses, facilitating the adult choir, advising the liturgy committee, educating the parish on liturgical matters, and recruiting, coordinating and providing formation for musicians and liturgical ministers. **Please send letter of application, resume, and three references to: Search Committee, Holy Rosary Catholic Church, 1043 Lake Ave, Detroit Lakes MN 56501**

St. Joseph's School is seeking a 4th grade elementary teacher for the 2021-2022 academic year. Interested candidates should submit the attached application, resume, and three references to Mrs. Laurie Johnson (mail: 1005 2nd Ave. S. Moorhead, MN 56560) or (email: laurie.johnson@stjoesmhdschool.com). For more information please visit: www.stjoesmhdschool.com/contact-us/employment/

Instead of waiting for a campus minister to reach out when they get to campus this fall, students can download Newman Connect for their iPhone or Android device and find their college campus ministry, instantly! Signup.newmanconnection.com



The Franciscan Sisters of Dillingen in Hankinson, ND, invite you to join them for their annual Mother-Daughter Days. Session is **July 26-28**. Spend some quality time together, have a little fun, nourish your spiritual life and even learn a little about the life of Sisters. To register contact Sr. Jean Louise, OSF at ndfranciscan@yahoo.com or text her at 701-208-1245.

The Presentation Prayer Center in Fargo is seeking an Executive Director. Part-time position – 12 to 15 hours per week. For qualifications see www.fargodiocese.org/jobopenings. If you are interested, please send a resume to Fr. Gary Luiten, Board Chair, at gary@bscwf.org or call him at 701-282-3321.

Real Presence Radio has an exciting Business Manager/Executive Assistant opening in Fargo, ND. The right candidate will have a love for the Catholic faith and a call to serve God in spreading the love and gospel of Jesus Christ. This position will function as Business Manager and Executive Assistant at the local station office and ensure operating integrity of the station office from all perspectives. If you would like more information on the position, please call Brittany at 877-795-0122.

65th Annual Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of the Prairies is Sunday, **August 15**, at Carmel of Mary Monastery, 17765 78th St SE, Wahpeton. Schedule of events:

2 p.m. - Guest Speaker, Father Peter Anderl

3 p.m. - Rosary 5 p.m. - Mass with Bishop John Folda

6 p.m. - Picnic

For more information, call 701-610-6152 or 701-612-2360.

CHURCHES UNITED ANNUAL COMMUNITY PICNIC

This year's picnic will occur on **Thursday, August 12**, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the large shelter at Gooseberry Park in Moorhead.

Why We Love the Annual Community Picnic:

The picnic is free of charge, open to all ages, and does three important things:

- **Says a big "Thank You!" to the hundreds of adults and youth volunteers** who keep our meal service functioning 365 days a year, who work at the Dorothy Day Food Pantries, and who help our guests in dozens of other ways through additional acts of service.
- **Provides our guest with a fun, and safe summer event to look forward to.**
- **Builds Community.** We have been separated this last year and a half due to Covid, and we miss you! Let's get to know each other and connect again!

Who Should Attend:

Everyone is invited. We hope you, your members, friends, and families will attend our celebration.

How You Can Help:

If interested, please consider becoming a **2021 Community Picnic Sponsor**. All proceeds received will go to help Churches United's mission.

We are also asking churches to **bring baked desserts** like cookies or bars. If you would like to do so, please contact me!

We thank you for all you do for Churches United!

We look forward to seeing you there!

JoRelle Grover, Development Director
218-829-9106

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Awesome marriages don't just happen ~ couples create them! Begin creating the marriage of your dreams by attending the August 21-22 Marriage Encounter. Weekends are held at Mt Olivet Conference and Retreat Center in Farmington. Visit www.marriages.org for additional information or call 651.454.3238. If you have any questions, please call Mary Jackson at 651.454.3238.



- Do you find yourself turning to food for comfort?
- Is your eating affecting your health or the way you live your life?
- Do you find your mind preoccupied with thoughts of food?

If any of these describes you, we invite you to come and join us as we work through a Twelve Step program for those who struggle with their relationship with food.

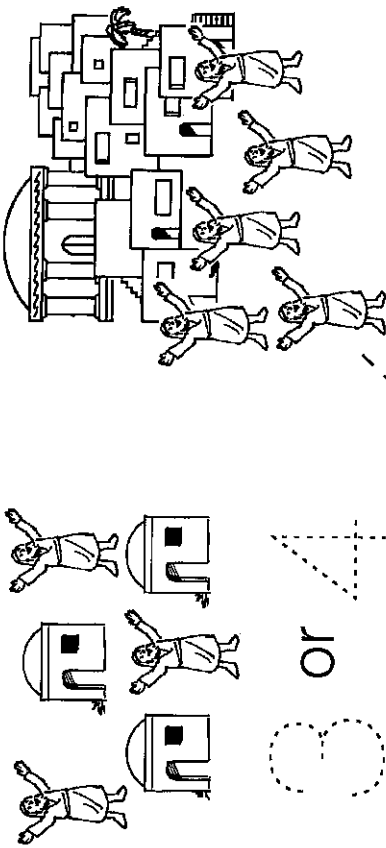
No diets to follow, no weigh-ins, no fees.

The OA Serenity Group meets on Tuesdays at noon at Holy Rosary Catholic Church, 1043 Lake Avenue, Detroit Lakes. Please use the south parking lot entrance.

The Freedom from Bondage OA Group meets on Sundays at 6 p.m. in the Community Alliance Church, 408 West Elm Street, Detroit Lakes. Please use the east door.

Jesus went into the villages, towns and countryside. He healed many sick people.

Trace how many were healed in each place.

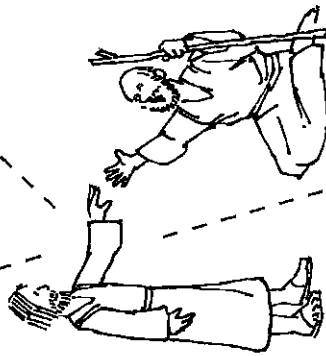


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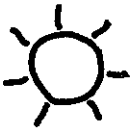


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Children's Worship Bulletin™



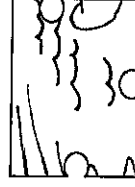
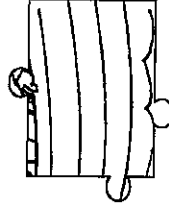
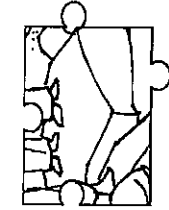
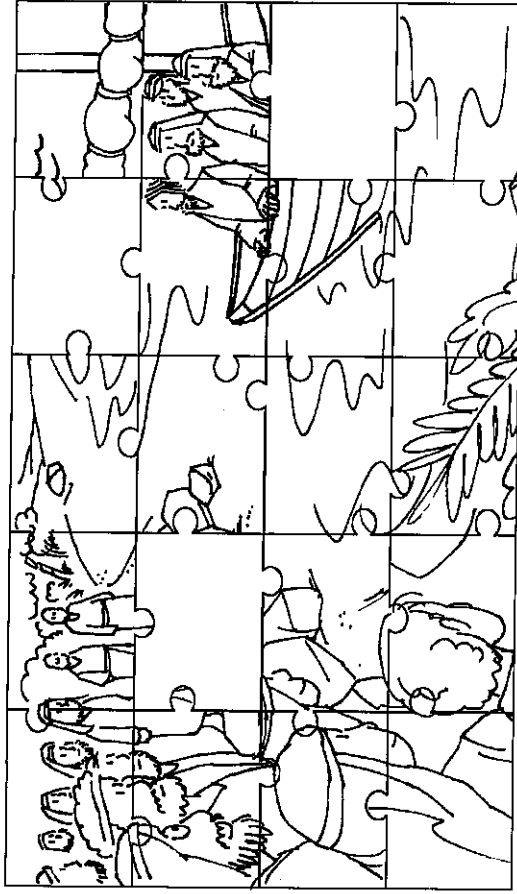
Ages 3+

July 18, 2021 • Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

Jesus Teaches and Heals

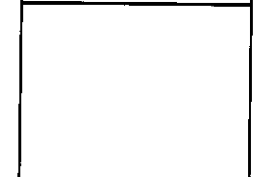
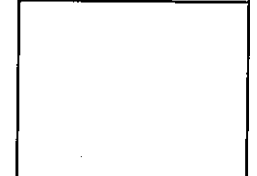
Jesus took His disciples to a quiet place to rest. But crowds came to meet them.

Match the puzzle pieces to finish the picture.






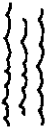
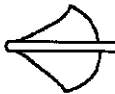
Jesus cared about the people.
They were like sheep without a shepherd.

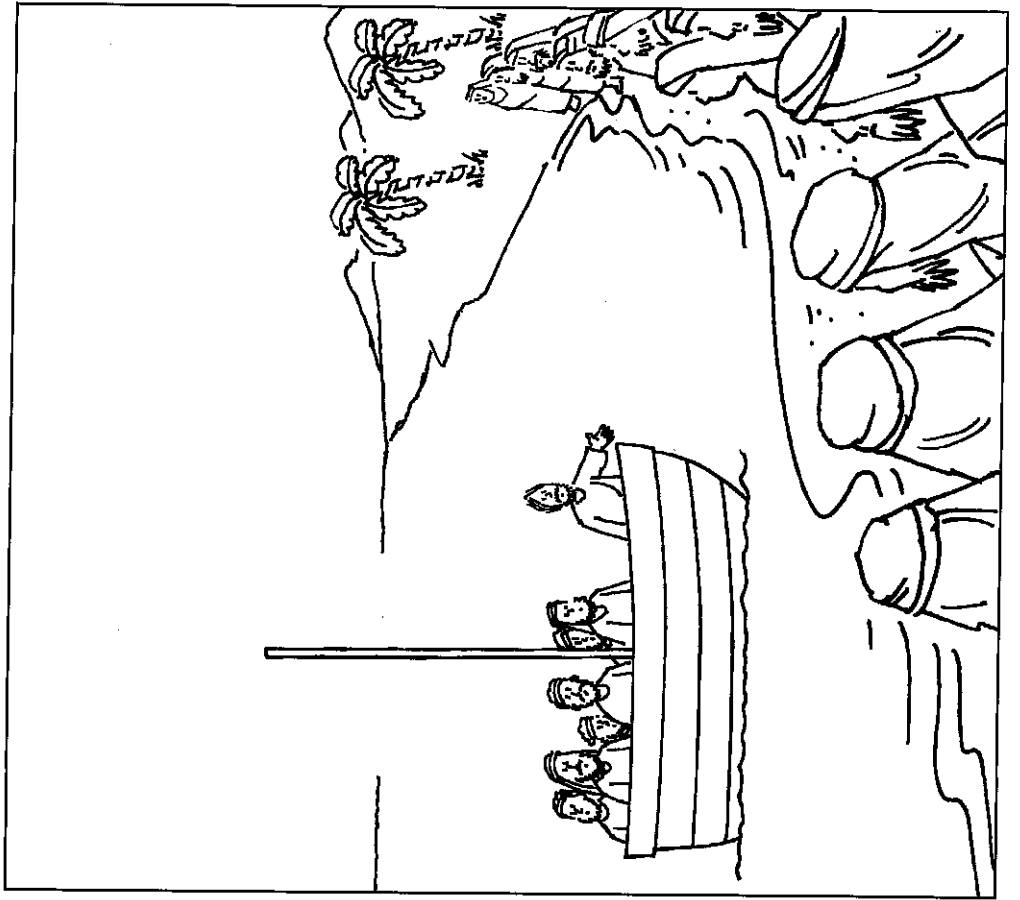
Match the sheep and write the letter.



Jesus and His disciples sailed to another place. More people gathered there.

Finish the picture by drawing ...

	sun		cloud		bird
	more waves		a sail	on the boat	





Office of the General Secretary

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Most Reverend José H. Gomez
Archbishop of Los Angeles
President

Monsignor Jeffrey D. Burrill, S.T.L.
General Secretary

Rev. Michael J. K. Fuller, S.T.D.
Theresa Ridderhoff, M.Ed.
Anthony R. Picarello, Esq.
Associate General Secretaries

MEMORANDUM

To: All Bishops

From: Fr. Michael J.K. Fuller, Associate General Secretary

Date: June 29, 2021

Subject: World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

Your Eminence / Your Excellency,

The Holy Father has announced the first World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly to be celebrated next month on July 25. To honor and celebrate the contribution of grandparents and elderly to our families and society, the Dicastery for Laity, Family, and Life has made available resources to assist with the pastoral and liturgical planning of this day in all dioceses/eparchies.

Please find attached a letter from Cardinal Farrell and the resources provided to our episcopal conference for the commemoration of this event. His Eminence encourages all parishes nationwide to dedicate one Sunday Mass to grandparents and elderly in advance of the liturgical memorial of Ss. Joachim and Anne on July 26.

Here in the United States, since July 25 is the start of Natural Family Planning Week (July 25-31, 2021), it is also appropriate for NFP Week catechesis to include reflection upon the vital role that grandparents play in the lives of their grandchildren. You can find resources to share with your marriage and family ministry leaders at: <https://www.usccb.org/topics/natural-family-planning/nfp-week-celebrates-grandparents>.

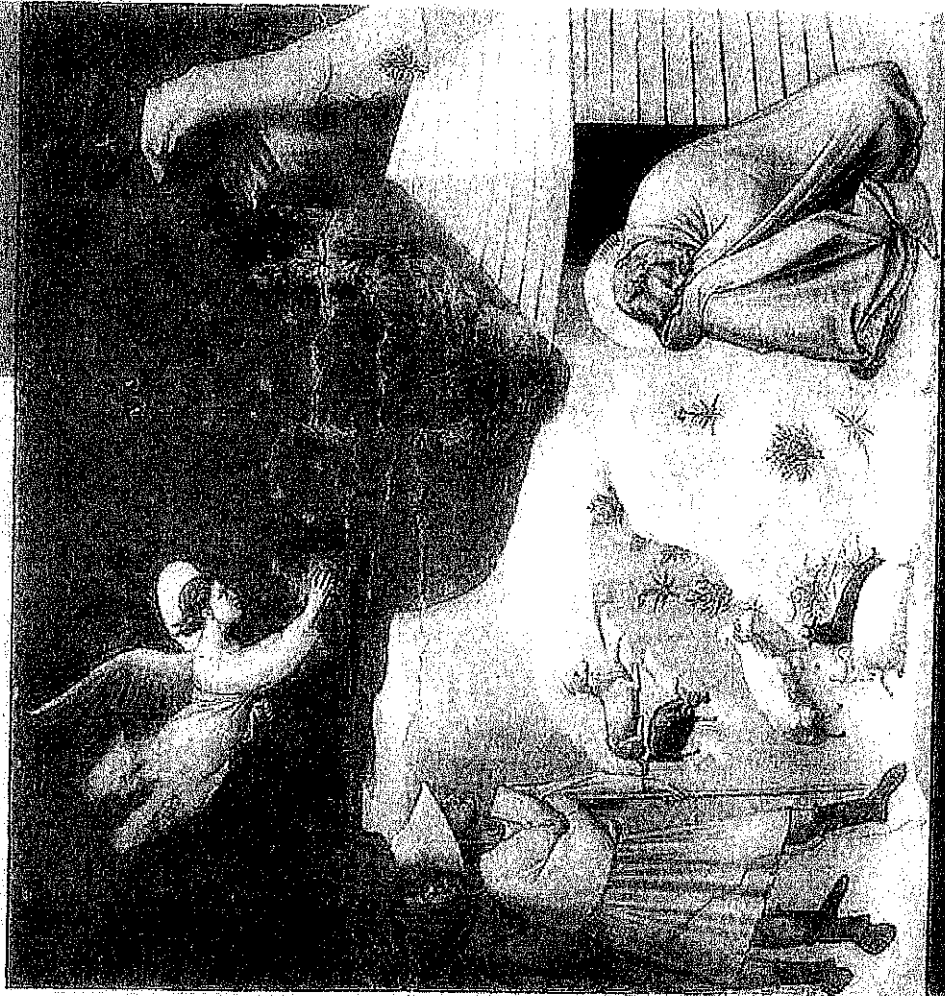
Finally, it is timely to recall that the recent approval of the National Pastoral Framework for Marriage and Family Life Ministry, *Called to the Joy of Love*, includes guidelines for the pastoral care of grandparents and the elderly. More resources and implementation guides will be forthcoming for the care of these members of our families in the coming months.

Thank you.

**I AM WITH YOU
ALWAYS**

**WORLD DAY
FOR
GRANDPARENTS
AND THE
ELDERLY**

#IAMWITHYOUALWAYS



Message of Pope Francis

Dear Grandfathers and Grandmothers,
Dear Elderly Friends,

“I am with you always” (Mt 28:20): this is the promise the Lord made to his disciples before he ascended into heaven. They are the words that he repeats to you today, dear grandfathers and grandmothers, dear elderly friends. “I am with you always” are also the words that I, as Bishop of Rome and an elderly person like yourselves, would like to address to you on this first World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly. The whole Church is close to you – to us – and cares about you, loves you and does not want to leave you alone!

I am well aware that this Message comes to you at a difficult time: the pandemic swept down on us like an unexpected and furious storm; it has been a time of trial for everyone, but especially for us elderly persons. Many of us fell ill, others died or experienced the death of spouses or loved ones, while others found themselves isolated and alone for long periods.

The Lord is aware of all that we have been through in this time. He is close to those who felt isolated and alone, feelings that became more acute during the pandemic. Tradition has it that Saint Joachim, the grandfather of Jesus, felt estranged from those around him because he had no children; his life, like that of his wife Anne, was considered useless. So the Lord sent an angel to console him. While he mused sadly outside the city gates, a messenger from the Lord appeared to him and said, “Joachim, Joachim! The Lord has heard your insistent prayer”.¹ Giotto, in one of his celebrated frescoes,² seems to set the scene at night, one of those many sleepless nights, filled with memories, worries and longings to which many of us have come to be accustomed.

¹ The episode is narrated in the Protoevangelium of James.

² This image has been chosen as the logo for the World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly.

Even at the darkest moments, as in these months of pandemic, the Lord continues to send angels to console our loneliness and to remind us: "I am with you always". He says this to you, and he says it to me. That is the meaning of this Day, which I wanted to celebrate for the first time in this particular year, as a long period of isolation ends and social life slowly resumes. May every grandfather, every grandmother, every older person, especially those among us who are most alone, receive the visit of an angel!

At times those angels will have the face of our grandchildren, at others, the face of family members, lifelong friends or those we have come to know during these trying times, when we have learned how important hugs and visits are for each of us. How sad it makes me that in some places these are still not possible!

The Lord, however, also sends us messengers through his words, which are always at hand. Let us try to read a page of the Gospel every day, to pray with the psalms, to read the prophets! We will be comforted by the Lord's faithfulness. The Scriptures will also help us to understand what the Lord is asking of our lives today. For at every hour of the day (cf. Mt 20:1-16) and in every season of life, he continues to send labourers into his vineyard. I was called to become the Bishop of Rome when I had reached, so to speak, retirement age and thought I would not be doing anything new. The Lord is always – always – close to us. He is close to us with new possibilities, new ideas, new consolations, but always close to us. You know that the Lord is eternal; he never, ever goes into retirement.

In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus tells the Apostles, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you" (28:19-20). These words are also addressed to us today. They help us better understand that our vocation is to preserve our roots, to pass on the faith to the young, and to care for the little ones. Think about it: what is our vocation today, at our age? To preserve our roots, to pass on the faith to the young and to care for the little ones. Never forget this.

(2)

It makes no difference how old you are, whether you still work or not, whether you are alone or have a family, whether you became a grandmother or grandfather at a young age or later, whether you are still independent or need assistance. Because there is no retirement age from the work of proclaiming the Gospel and handing down traditions to your grandchildren. You just need to set out and undertake something new.

At this crucial moment in history, you have a renewed vocation. You may wonder: How this can be possible? My energy is running out and I don't think I can do much. How can I begin to act differently when habit is so much a part of my life? How can I devote myself to those who are poor when I am already so concerned about my family? How can I broaden my vision when I can't even leave the residence where I live? Isn't my solitude already a sufficiently heavy burden? How many of you are asking just that question: isn't my solitude already a sufficiently heavy burden? Jesus himself heard a similar question from Nicodemus, who asked, "How can a man be born when he is old?" (Jn 3:4). It can happen, the Lord replies, if we open our hearts to the working of the Holy Spirit, who blows where he wills. The Holy Spirit whose freedom is such that goes wherever, and does whatever, he wills.

As I have often observed, we will not emerge from the present crisis as we were before, but either better or worse. And "God willing... this may prove not to be just another tragedy of history from which we learned nothing... If only we might keep in mind all those elderly persons who died for lack of respirators... If only this immense sorrow may not prove useless, but enable us to take a step forward towards a new style of life. If only we might discover once for all that we need one another, and that in this way our human frailty can experience a rebirth" (Fratelli Tutti, 35). No one is saved alone. We are all indebted to one another. We are all brothers and sisters.

Given this, I want to tell you that you are needed in order to help build, in fraternity and social friendship, the world of tomorrow: the world in which we, together with our children and grandchildren, will

(3)

live once the storm has subsided. All of us must "take an active part in renewing and supporting our troubled societies" (ibid., 77). Among the pillars that support this new edifice, there are three that you, better than anyone else, can help to set up. Those three pillars are dreams, memory and prayer. The Lord's closeness will grant to all, even the frailest among us, the strength needed to embark on a new journey along the path of dreams, memory and prayer.

The prophet Joel once promised: "Your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men will have visions" (3:1). The future of the world depends on this covenant between young and old. Who, if not the young, can take the dreams of the elderly and make them come true? Yet for this to happen, it is necessary that we continue to dream. Our dreams of justice, of peace, of solidarity can make it possible for our young people to have new visions; in this way, together, we can build the future. You need to show that it is possible to emerge renewed from an experience of hardship. I am sure that you have had more than one such experience: in your life you have faced any number of troubles and yet were able to pull through. Use those experiences to learn how to pull through now.

Dreams are thus intertwined with memory. I think of the painful memory of war, and its importance for helping the young to learn the value of peace. Those among you who experienced the suffering of war must pass on this message. Keeping memory alive is a true mission for every elderly person: keeping memory alive and sharing it with others. Edith Bruck, who survived the horror of the Shoah, has said that "even illuminating a single conscience is worth the effort and pain of keeping alive the memory of what has been." She went on to say: "For me, memory is life."³ I also think of my own grandparents, and those among you who had to emigrate and know how hard it is to leave everything behind, as so many people continue to do today, in hope of a future. Some of those people may

³ Memory is life, writing is breath. *L'Osservatore Romano*, January 26, 2021.

even now be at our side, caring for us. These kinds of memory can help to build a more humane and welcoming world. Without memory, however, we will never be able to build; without a foundation, we can never build a house. Never. And the foundation of life is memory.

Finally, prayer. As my predecessor, Pope Benedict, himself a saintly elderly person who continues to pray and work for the Church, once said: "the prayer of the elderly can protect the world, helping it perhaps more effectively than the frenetic activity of many others."⁴ He spoke those words in 2012, towards the end of his pontificate. There is something beautiful here. Your prayer is a very precious resource: a deep breath that the Church and the world urgently need (cf. *Evangelii Gaudium*, 262). Especially in these difficult times for our human family, as we continue to sail in the same boat across the stormy sea of the pandemic, your intercession for the world and for the Church has great value: it inspires in everyone the serene trust that we will soon come to shore.

Dear grandmother, dear grandfather, dear elderly friends, in concluding this Message to you, I would also like to mention the example of Blessed (and soon Saint) Charles de Foucauld. He lived as a hermit in Algeria and there testified to "his desire to feel himself a brother to all" (*Fratelli Tutti*, 287). The story of his life shows how it is possible, even in the solitude of one's own desert, to intercede for the poor of the whole world and to become, in truth, a universal brother or sister.

⁴ Visit to the Group Home "Viva gli Anziani", 2 November 2012.

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I ask the Lord that, also through his example, all of us may open our hearts in sensitivity to the sufferings of the poor and intercede for their needs. May each of us learn to repeat to all, and especially to the young, the words of consolation we have heard spoken to us today: "I am with you always"! Keep moving forward! May the Lord grant you his blessing.

Franciscus

Rome, St. John Lateran, May 31, 2021,
Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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