

Dear Parishioners:

This coming Monday, July 26, is the Memorial of Saints Joachim and Anne, the parents of Mary, the Blessed Mother. That also makes them the grandparents of Jesus. Pope Francis has proclaimed a special Sunday in the church year. From now on, the 4th Sunday of July will be: **The World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly**. For this year, Pope Francis has chosen the theme: "I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20). Pope Francis wrote:

'I am with you always' is also a promise of closeness and hope that young and old can mutually share. Not only are grandchildren and young people called upon to be present in the lives of older people, but older people and grandparents also have a mission of evangelization, proclamation and prayer, and of encouraging young people in their faith.

Earlier in his pontificate, Pope Francis said:

There are some things we really need to take care of: children and grandparents... Grandparents are the living memory of the family. They passed on the faith; they transmitted the faith to us...How important grandparents are for family life, for the passing on of the human and religious heritage which is so essential to each and every society. How important it is to have intergenerational exchanges and dialogues, especially within the context of the family.

I would especially like to encourage all grandparents to take seriously the responsibility of passing on the Catholic faith to our grandchildren. Take the grandkids to Mass, teach them the *Hail Mary*, *Our Father*, etc. Tell them your spiritual stories and how you treasure Jesus in your life!

I would also like to take this opportunity to highlight the **Catholic Ministries Appeal**. As you may recall, this is a yearly appeal from the Diocese to fund the good works of the diocese. The Catholic Ministries Appeal is not new; in fact, the Appeal is over 40 years old. The Appeal first began under Bishop McGann!

As part of the Appeal, every parish has a goal. The goal for Our Lady of Lourdes is \$107,500. Currently, we have \$63,000 in pledges, about 60% of our goal. That's good but we are not yet at the finish line of 100% of our goal. We have 259 parishioners contributing to the Appeal so far. Let's see if we can get to 400 by the end of August. There are envelopes at the doors of the church. As you may recall from bulletin inserts about the Appeal, the Appeal helps pay for the great work of Catholic Charities (meals-on-wheels, senior citizen housing, unwed mothers, etc.), Catholic school and clergy formation for priests and deacons, Young Adult and college Campus Ministry, etc. I, myself, make a pledge each year because I believe that the work of the Appeal is important. Please join with me; no gift is too small. A pledge card and more information can be found on page 9 of the bulletin.

Remember: Together, we can do something beautiful for God.

In Christ,

Fr. Brian