



Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth
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MEMORANDUM

To: All Bishops

From: Most Reverend Robert E. Barron, Chairman,
Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth

Date: April 21, 2023

Re: **Update – Third World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly**

I offer the following letter from His Eminence Kevin Cardinal Farrell, Prefect of the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life, regarding the celebration of the Third World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly.

In 2021, Pope Francis established throughout the Church the celebration of the World Day for Grandparents and Elderly on the fourth Sunday of July, near the liturgical memorial of Saints Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus (July 26).

The theme for this year is *His Mercy is from Age to Age* (Luke 1:50). In view of the close proximity of the celebration of World Youth Day (August 1-6, 2023), the Dicastery will provide resources that emphasize the continuity of generations and the intergenerational relationships between young people and the elderly.

In the United States, the celebration of World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly in the U.S. has been transferred to the first weekend after Labor Day in September to coincide with National Grandparents Day in the United States as many local communities, schools, and parishes have been accustomed to observing.

Additionally, the USCCB will be sharing resources to connect older generations and the youth and young adults who will be engaging in the 2023 World Youth Day pilgrimage this summer, as well as the Global Celebration of Young People on Christ the King Sunday in November.

These and other resources from the USCCB (and from other collaborators) will be forthcoming and made available at: [Grandparents & Elderly | USCCB](#).

+ Robert Barron



DICASTERIUM
PRO LAICIS, FAMILIA ET VITA

Vatican, 13 April 2023

Prot. N. 2023/255

Excellency,

The Holy Father has chosen as the theme for the *Third World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly*, which will be celebrated this year on Sunday, July 23, the verse from the Gospel of Luke "**His mercy is from age to age**" (**Lk 1:50**), to emphasize the link between this celebration and the World Youth Day that will take place a few days later in Lisbon (August 1 - 6, 2023).

Dialogue between generations is, in fact, a valuable resource for every Christian community, which can thus recognize itself as the People of God and understand how the Lord's mercy is faithfully manifested throughout history.

In view of how close the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly is to the World Youth Day, we suggest that young people, who will be leaving for Lisbon, and those who will experience it with local initiatives, fulfill a gesture of solidarity and friendship toward the elderly in their community.

With this in mind, the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life will provide the particular Churches with some pastoral tools that we will send to you and that will be published on the Dicastery's website. As usual, we suggest that at the heart of the Day there should be a Eucharistic celebration together with the grandparents and the elderly of the community and a visit to those living in solitary conditions.

A message from the Holy Father is scheduled to be published as well.

Most Reverend Timothy BROGLIO
President
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
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In the hope that celebrating the Day will represent an opportunity to convey to grandparents and the elderly the closeness of the Church, I send you my cordial greetings in Christ.

Kevin Card. Farrell
Kevin Card. Farrell
Prefect