



# family MATTERS

## THE MONTH OF *September*

July 26th is the feast day of St. Joachim and St. Anne- the parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary; the *grandparents* of Jesus. This year celebrate the secular holiday of Grandparents Day AND the feast day of St. Joachim and St. Anne with your grandparents.

**National Grandparents Day falls each year on the first Sunday after Labor Day, this year it will be celebrated September 9th.**

Grandparents Day was initiated by West Virginian Marian Lucille Hemdon McQuade, and her husband Joseph L. McQuade. They had 15 children, 43 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, and one great-great grandchild.

Grandparents day is a day to celebrate the wisdom that is given to those who have been granted a blessing of years, who in those years have learned the importance of the gospel, and how to pass that word of God on to their grandchildren and great children through sacrifice and their witness to Jesus Christ.



A tradition that was prominently featured when this holiday was created, was the presentation of the flower, Forget Me Not's, to one's grandparents. It was particularly important to present this flower to grandparents who were living in nursing homes, or to place them on their graves if they were deceased. However, it can also be given to those who are still alive and/or living on their own or in their children's home. What a great tradition to start with your grandparents !



### A GRANDPARENT'S PRAYER

DEAREST GOD,

THANK YOU FOR THE WONDERFUL GIFT OF MY GRANDCHILDREN. PLEASE HELP ME TO BE A GOOD AND LOVING GRANDPARENT. LET ME GENTLY PASS ON TO THEM THE GREAT TREASURE OF MY FAITH.

SHOW ME HOW TO TEACH THEM COMPASSION. THROUGH MY WITNESS, LET MY GRANDCHILDREN LEARN TO FEED THE HUNGRY, GIVE DRINK TO THE THIRSTY AND CARE FOR THOSE WHO SUFFER.

GIVE ME THE DESIRE, STRENGTH AND TIME TO ASSIST MY FAMILY IN WAYS MOST HELPFUL TO THEM. MAY THEY LEARN FROM ME HOW TO BE SERVANTS TO ONE ANOTHER. INSPIRE ME TO GIVE MY GRANDCHILDREN A DEEP APPRECIATION FOR THE SPLENDOR OF YOUR CREATION. TOGETHER, LET US TREAT THIS WORLD GENTLY —  
FOR THE SAKE OF GRANDCHILDREN EVERYWHERE.

HELP ME TO RESPECT THE WISHES AND THE DECISIONS OF MY GRANDCHILDREN'S PARENTS. EVEN IF I AM TEMPTED TO DISAGREE, PLEASE REMIND ME THAT IT IS YOU WHO HAVE SET THESE PARENTS IN AUTHORITY OVER MY GRANDCHILDREN. LEAD ME ON THE PATH OF CONTENTMENT, SO I WILL KNOW HOW TO TEACH MY GRANDCHILDREN THIS MOST IMPORTANT LIFE LESSON.

LET US BE GRATEFUL FOR ALL YOU HAVE GIVEN US, KNOWING THAT IT IS ENOUGH. AND FINALLY, DEAR LORD, WHEN YOU CALL ME HOME, LET ME LEAVE MY GRANDCHILDREN A LITTLE CLOSER TO YOU, BECAUSE OF THE TIME YOU HAVE ALLOWED ME TO SHARE WITH THEM.

AMEN.

THE CATHOLIC GRANDPARENTS HANDBOOK BY LORENE DUQUIN (AVAILABLE AT [BOOKSTOORE.WAU.ORG](http://BOOKSTOORE.WAU.ORG)) REMINDS US THAT GRANDPARENTING IS A VOCATION UNTO ITSELF.

When our son or daughter becomes a parent, something marvelous happens to us. We become grandparents! The ancient blessing from Psalm 128:5-6 is fulfilled for us: "May you live to see your children's children." A new life wraps itself around our hearts, our eyes fill with tears of joy, and we are blessed in a most amazing way! Although parents are the most important teachers in a child's life, grandparents also have a role to play. Pope Francis tells us in *Amoris Laetitia* ("The Joy of Love"): "Very often it is grandparents who ensure that the most important values are passed down to their grandchildren, and many people can testify that they owe their initiation into the Christian life to their grandparents. How will I leave that spiritual legacy with your grandchildren?"

- ### Ways to Share Your Faith
- ✝ Take your grandchildren to the parish you belonged to as a child.
  - ✝ Share memories and photos of the sacramental milestones in your life.
  - ✝ Give grandchildren religious gifts such as rosaries, Bibles, prayer books, medals and crucifixes.
  - ✝ Read stories of the saints to your grandchildren.
  - ✝ Plan a trip to a nearby shrine, monastery, or cathedral.