

Fr. Martin's Reflection – 07/25/21 Bulletin

“Even to your old age I am he, even when you turn gray I will carry you. I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save.” – Isaiah 46:4

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Today marks the first celebration of the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. Instituted by Pope Francis in January, it exhorts the faithful to remember the elderly, and pray for those who have been isolated during the pandemic. In establishing this day, Pope Francis declared:

“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!”

With the celebration of the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, we are reminded of all the ways these figures have blessed us in life, and lift them up in prayer. Grandparents pass on wisdom to new generations, teaching them the practice of faith and perseverance in the face of hardship. Let us, in a very special way, keep our grandparents and the elderly in our community in our thoughts and prayers not only today but also throughout the coming year.

Prayer for a Blessing on a Long Life

God of mercy, you have given your children the gift of long life, and they ask for your blessing. Let them feel the tenderness and strength of your presence. As they look back to the past, let them rejoice in your mercy. As they look to the future, may they persevere in hope that does not fade. To you be praise and glory for ever.

Prayer for Blessing of Grandparents

Lord God almighty, bless our grandparents with long life, happiness, and health. May they remain constant in your love and be living signs of your presence to their children and grandchildren. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Fr. Martin