



# Newsletter – September 2023

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## Grandparents

### Introduction

Much is being said of the role of parents. They have been hailed as the first educators of their children. Our hearts go out to the orphaned and abandoned babies in society. Some of us even question the love of God when we see the number of orphans and the homeless.

What about grandparents? Do we appreciate the gift of our grandparents or of being grandparents? Is it a gift?

Psalm 17:6:

“Grandchildren are the crown of the aged, and the glory of children is their parents”.

Yes, the Psalmist instructs us to be thankful for the gift of grandparenthood. We realize that this gift is a gift from our Almighty Father. Some of us could not be grandparents. Some can. Some of us have never seen our grandparents but some of us live or had lived with our grandparents.

### SEE

Arising from this gift is the role of the grandparents in the families. They are an asset to the family or they are a liability to the family. When there is a close relationship, grandparents can help in the rightful character formation of their grandchildren. They help to imbue the faith and culture to their children. They also teach the language spoken in the family. They assist in bringing the grandchildren to school, tuition classes, and enrichment classes. They also help in the cooking. They help out because the parents are working or the granddad or grand mom is lonely and has the time to look after the grandchildren or they are needed due to the number of grandchildren, etc

In contrast, we have also heard comments that are adverse to the grandparents. We have heard that some grandparents “spoil” the ones under their care. They are just too lenient to these grandchildren who throw tantrums and want to have their own ways. Some of these grandparents interfere when the parents discipline their children.

Yet, we can understand and thank God for this precious gift. Daily, we see families especially single parent families struggling to bring up children without the assistance of anyone. It is an arduous task for these parents. Sometimes, the grandparents have serious health issues and are unable to assist in the family. The parents are thus deprived of their assistance. In fact, sick or fragile grandparents need to depend on their own children for care and assistance.

Finally, the Word of God says thus:

Proverbs 16:31:

“Gray hair is a crown of glory; it is gained in a righteous life.”

This Proverb reminds us to be grateful for our elders including grandparents.

### Causes

1. Why are some grandparents failing in their role in the family?
2. Are there factors outside the family that contribute to this failure?

### Consequences

What are the consequences of this failure?

## **JUDGE**

### Personal Reflection:

1. Do people appreciate the gift of being grandparents? If not, why?
2. What should be the actual role of grandparents today? Is/Are there specific role/roles for them today?
3. Have we missed the opportunity of being a good grandparent? How? Why?
4. Are we close to our grandchildren? How?

### Christian Reflection

1. How does Jesus instruct us on our role as grandparents? Even if not directly, what are the qualities that we must have to fulfill this role and gift?
2. What does the Encyclicals and Vatican documents teach us on this topic?

## **ACT**

1. How can we be the following in our capacity as grandparents?  
Educators  
Role Models  
Supporters  
Intermediaries/middlemen  
Communicators
  2. How can the Movement help our members who are grandparents? Should the Movement have special programs for grandparents?
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## **Announcement**

***Faith Formation Session  
Saturday 4 November 2023  
Look out for the details of this event  
All are welcome  
Bring your families and friends***

