

# GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY

## Pope Francis, Shepherd of Truth

Notable quotations from Pope Francis and official teachings  
of the Roman Catholic Church

### THE LORD'S PROMISE

“I am with you always” (Mt 28:20): this is the promise the Lord made to His disciples before He ascended into heaven. They are the words that He repeats to you today, dear grandfathers and grandmothers, dear elderly friends.

### CLOSE TO YOU

“I am with you always” are also the words that I, as Bishop of Rome and an elderly person like yourselves, would like to address to you on this first World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly. The whole Church is close to you — to us — and cares about you, loves you and does not want to leave you alone.

### NO RETIREMENT

The Lord is always — always — close to us. He is close to us with new possibilities, new ideas, new consolations, but always close to us. You know that the Lord is eternal; He never, ever goes into retirement.

### NEVER FORGET

... What is our vocation today, at our age? To preserve our roots, to pass on the faith to the young and to care for the little ones. Never forget this.



### SET OUT ANEW

... There is no retirement age from the work of proclaiming the Gospel and handing down traditions to your grandchildren. You just need to set out and undertake something new.

### “YOU ARE NEEDED”

... You are needed in order to help build, in fraternity and social friendship, the world of tomorrow... Among the pillars that support this new edifice, there are three that you, better than anyone else, can help to set up ... dreams, memory and prayer. The Lord's closeness will grant to all, even the frailest among us, the strength needed to embark on a new journey along the path of dreams, memory and prayer.

### BUILD THE FUTURE TOGETHER

The prophet Joel once promised: “Your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men will have visions.” (3:1). The future of the world depends on this covenant between the young and the old. Who, if not the young, can take the dreams of the elderly and make them come true? Yet for this to happen, it is necessary that we continue to dream. Our dreams of justice, of peace, of solidarity can make it possible for our young people to have new visions. In this way, together, we can build the future together.

### “A VERY PRECIOUS RESOURCE”

Your prayer is a very precious resource: a deep breath that the Church and the world urgently need...

### “KEEP MOVING FORWARD”

May each of us learn to repeat to all, and especially to the young, the words of consolation we have heard spoken to us today: “I am with you always”! Keep moving forward! May the Lord grant you His blessing.

(Message for World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly, 5/31/21)

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**Presentation Ministries**  
3230 McHenry, Cincinnati, Ohio 45211  
[www.presentationministries.com](http://www.presentationministries.com)  
(513) 662-5378 [orders@presentationministries.com](mailto:orders@presentationministries.com)