



July 22, 2021

World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly: A time for small acts of kindness

~ by Cindy Wooden, Catholic New Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Sunday, July 25th will be the first celebration of the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly.

Try a little tenderness. That's basically how Cardinal Kevin J. Farrell summarized Pope Francis' vision for what older people, their grandchildren and friends should do to change the world after the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Vatican as a whole is making a big deal out of the world day. The action focus is all about tenderness, too: Visit your grandparents and any older person living alone. Offer them a ride to Mass. Take them a bouquet of flowers. And, for those who cannot go to church, take them the Eucharist.

Calling Catholics around the world to mark the day after “dramatic months of difficulty.” Pope Francis invites people to embrace tenderness, especially toward the elderly, who suffered so much during the pandemic.



The expression on this woman's face tells it all as Pope Francis extends his hands in a greeting at St. Peter's Basilica.

The day is also about “the tenderness that grandparents show toward their grandchildren, especially in a time like the one we are living in, in which personal interaction has become rare.”

Cardinal Farrell said, “Tenderness is not just a private feeling, one that soothes wounds, but, a way of relating to others, which should be experienced in public. We have become accustomed to living alone, to not hugging each other, to considering the other as a threat to our health. Our societies, the Pope tells us in ‘Fratelli Tutti,’ are now fragmented.”

“Tenderness has a social value, the Cardinal insisted. “It is a remedy we all need, and our elderly are those who can provide it. In a frayed and hardened society emerging from the pandemic, not only is

there a need for vaccines and economic recovery – albeit fundamental – but also for relearning the art of relationships. In this, grandparents and the elderly can be our teachers. This is also why they are so important.” To read the complete article, please click [here](#)

UPDATE: Advocates: Ruling Against DACA Must Push Congress to Act

~ by Carol Zimmerman, Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Catholic immigration advocates are urging Congress and President Joe Biden to speed up legislation to protect immigrants after a federal judge ruled July 16 to end a program that prevents the deportation of thousands of immigrants brought into the U.S. illegally as children. These groups immediately took to social media to respond to the decision by U.S. District Judge Andrew Hanen, who said the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, was illegal.

His ruling, which plaintiffs plan to appeal, bars the government from approving any new applications to the program but leaves it open for current participants. The decision means that “tens of thousands of people who applied but had their initial cases stuck in limbo due to crisis-level processing delays...will not receive life-altering protection from deportation or stability, security, opportunity,” tweeted Lisa Parisio, Director of Advocacy for Catholic Legal Immigration Network or CLINIC.

Hanen ruled in favor of Texas and eight other states that filed suit in 2018 against DACA on the ground that former President Obama, who created the program by executive order in 2012, did not have the authority to do so because he bypassed Congress. The states that joined Texas in the lawsuit – Alabama, Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nebraska, South Carolina and West Virginia – also said the program has been a financial strain.



DACA has enabled about 700,000 qualifying young people, described as Dreamers to work, go to college, get health insurance, a driver's license and not face deportation.

Just last year, the Supreme Court ruled against efforts by the Trump administration to end the program, saying the actions taken to rescind it had been “arbitrary and capricious.” A federal judge at the end of last year ordered the Trump administration to fully restore DACA.

In response to the Supreme Court's ruling, the USCCB urged President Trump to “strongly reconsider terminating DACA” and they also urged U.S. senators to “immediately pass legislation

that provides a path to citizenship” for Dreamers, stressing that this kind of “permanent legislative protection” is long overdue.

Advocates had similar pleas right after Hanen’s ruling.

“Texas does not have the right to dictate federal immigration policy or to upend the lives of hundreds of thousands of DACA recipients. Congress and the President must act decisively and swiftly to enact lasting protections for Dreamers, including a pathway to citizenship, tweeted Hope Border Institute.



Similarly, the Cabrini Immigrant Services of New York tweeted, “We demand that Congress and @POTUS take immediate action to provide a pathway to citizenship. We cannot wait any longer. There are NO excuses.”

Biden pledged to protect DACA in his presidential campaign, and he has since proposed legislation that would provide immigrants with a pathway to citizenship. DACA supporters have long insisted that it’s up to Congress to pass legislation that would provide Dreamers with permanent relief.

Hanen similarly indicated that Congress needs to step in. When he rejected Texas’ request in 2018 to end DACA through a preliminary injunction, he wrote at the time: “If the nation truly wants to have a DACA program, it is up to Congress to say so.” To access the full article click [here](#)

Study: Immigrant Communities Face Unique Pandemic Difficulties

~ by Melissa Cedillo, National Catholic Reporter

Early on in the pandemic, Monica Ruiz-Caraballo of Casa San Jose in Pittsburgh knew responding to COVID-19 was going to look different for her community. “We work with primarily undocumented people who do not qualify for a stimulus check or unemployment benefits,” she explained during a July 14 webinar hosted by the Center for Migration Studies of New York, a non-profit that studies domestic and international immigration issues. The webinar focused on how Catholic organizations serving immigrant communities in the U.S. adapted during Donald Trump’s administration and the beginning of the pandemic.

The report found that immigrant communities faced difficulties in accessing online services during lockdown periods due to poor internet connection, limited computer access, and a lack of communications technology and training.

Alfonso Lara, Director of Centro San Juan Diego of the Denver Archdiocese, noted that much of the country’s essential workforce relies on labor from immigrant communities. “Many of our people are construction workers or domestic workers. They could not stay home or help their kids figure out how to use technology,” said Lara.

The migration center report found that Catholic organizations across the country set up resources to mitigate the blow of the pandemic for immigrant communities, but a looming fear of the previous administration’s immigration enforcement policies prevented immigrants from accessing those services. Vaccination is a new challenge – the Spanish speaking community is afraid to get the vaccine because they believe they might be deported as they show up at vaccination clinics.

To read the full account please click [here](#)

A Lively Birthday Celebration

Mother Cabrini's 171st birthday was celebrated with great joy last Saturday at St. Frances X. Cabrini Shrine in Upper Manhattan. Joining us were a dozen Missionary Sisters, several lay collaborators from Cabrini Immigrant Services of NYC and Dobbs Ferry, and hundreds of faithful families and friends. We had Mass with Bishop Gerald Walsh (English) and Bishop Josu Iriondo (Spanish), cake, mariachi, activities for kids, and a very, very good time. ~ submitted by Julia Attaway



From left: Taking part in all the festivities are Elpidia, a longtime Shrine volunteer, Sr. Angelina Randazzo, MSC and Sr. Albertina, MSC.



Sr. John Giani, MSC and Cherie Sprosty catch up during the party.



Julia Attaway, (3rd. l.) Executive Director of the St. F.X. Cabrini Shrine was delighted to welcome so many MSCs for the birthday celebration.

Weekly Update – Publication Notice

The Update will be published on July 29.

The Update goes on vacation during the month of August.

Publication will resume on Thursday, September 9.

Prayer requests are always welcome and will be published on Thursdays as they are received.

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Birthday Smiles All Around



Cabrini University celebrated Mother Cabrini's 171st birthday in traditional fashion with cake, candles and ice cream.

Photo above: Sr. Grace Waters, MSC (I) and Sr. Christine Marie Baltas, MSC do the honors as they teamed up to serve the birthday cake.

Photo below: Brian Eury, (I.) Chief of Staff and VP of External Relations, offers welcoming remarks as Cabrini faculty and staff gather for the birthday party for Mother Cabrini. Photo credit: Emily Rowan, Cabrini U.



One Minute Meditation

Today is the feast day of St. Mary Magdalene. Among the few details scripture gives us about her, the most important is that she, one of the women who stood by Jesus at the cross, was the first commissioned to preach his resurrection to the disciples in hiding. Scripture also identifies her as one from whom Jesus had driven seven demons, most likely implying that he had healed her of serious illness. While popular literature paints her in exotic colors, the opening line of today's reading from 2 Corinthians, "The love of Christ impels us," tells us the most about her. Mary Magdalene, the apostle to the apostles, reminds us that when the love of Christ drives us, faithfulness obscures all fear.

~ Mary M. McGlone, CSJ, *Words of Grace*

Prayer Requests

Erminia Cola

Your prayers are invited for Erminia Cola, who will begin dialysis this week. Erminia is the sister of our Sr. Damien Ciminera, MSC. Please pray that her treatments will go well.

Grandparents and Elders

On July 25th the World Day for Grandparents and Elderly, and each day, let us pray for their health and give thanks for their guidance and wisdom. Let us always treat them with kindness, respect and abundant love.

Honorata Lopez Reamon

Kindly pray for Honorata Lopez Reamon, the Mother of Christine Verzosa, a friend of Sr. Arlene Van Dusen, MSC, who fell and broke her hips and underwent surgery. Please pray that all goes well for her recovery.

Sr. James Skane, MSC

Please keep Sr. James in your prayers. She was hospitalized this week and is now recuperating at Sacred Heart Convent.

Milagros Torrabla

Please remember Milagros Torrabla, a friend of the Cabrini Sisters in NYC, who has been hospitalized and is now recuperating at St. Cabrini Nursing Home, Dobbs Ferry, in your prayers that he may be restored to full health.

With Grateful Hearts

A member of the Cabrinian community offers prayers of thanksgiving for the continuing recovery of a family member from a long-term illness. The family believes that it is prayer that has assisted in the recovery of their loved one and they are grateful to the Missionary Sisters and all in the community for their kindness and ongoing remembrance in prayer.

In Loving Memory

David Denesowicz

Your prayers are asked for the repose of the soul of David Denesowicz, who passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday, July 20th. David is the husband of Cabrini University staff member Mary Lou Denesowicz (MLou). David was known as a life-long learner. He was a veteran of the U.S. Coast Guard and a 2019 graduate of Cabrini University earning a B.A. in psychology. Please keep MLou, David's mother Millie, his four siblings and his niece, nephews and grandnephews in your prayers at this sad time. Your prayers would be a great comfort to MLou and the Denesowicz family. A visitation will begin at 11 AM followed by a prayer service at 1:15 PM on Monday, July 26th at the Bruckmann Chapel of St. Joseph, Cabrini University.



Prayer for the First World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

I thank You, Lord, for the comfort of your presence:
even in times of loneliness, you are my hope and my confidence,
You have been my rock and fortress since my youth!

I thank you for having given me a family and for having blessed me with a long life.

I thank you for the moments of joy and difficulty, for the dreams
that have already come true in my life and for those that are still ahead of me.

I thank you for this time of renewed fruitfulness to which you call me.

Increase, O Lord, my faith, make me a channel of your peace.

Teach me to embrace those who suffer more than me;
to never stop dreaming and to tell of your wonders to a new generation.

Protect and guide Pope Francis and the Church,
that the light of the Gospel might reach the ends of the earth.

Send your Spirit, O Lord, to renew the world,
that the storm of the pandemic be calmed, the poor consoled, and wars ended.

Sustain me in my weakness and help me to live life to the full
in each moment that you give me,
in the certainty that you are with me every day, even until the end of the age.

Amen.

~ USCCB

