



World Day
for Grandparents
and the Elderly
2024



Pope Francis' Message for the Fourth World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

**Rediscovering fraternity, building bonds, and living a Day without loneliness:
pastoral guidelines from the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life**

Vatican City, 14 May 2024 - Pope Francis' Message on the occasion of the *Fourth World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly* was published today. The *Fourth World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly* will be celebrated on 28 July and will have “Do not cast me off in my old age” (Ps 71: 9) as its theme.

Cardinal Kevin Farrell, Prefect of the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life, in commenting on the text, said: "In the message, the Holy Father emphasises how – due to the crisis of communal belonging and the emergence of an increasingly individualistic mentality – the loneliness of the elderly is often not perceived as a problem. But the Church is called to build something different, to rediscover the taste for fraternity, and to build bonds between generations".

Concurrent with the publication of the message, the Dicastery is making available [a pastoral kit](#) that will be sent to the Bishops' Conferences and is now available at www.laityfamilylife.va.

“The kit”, explains Mr. Gleison De Paula Souza, Secretary of the Dicastery, “is a tool available to every Church community to help live a Day without loneliness. As usual, we propose to celebrate a Mass with the elderly of the community and to visit those who live in solitude. Our hope is that, as a result of this, the elderly become permanent protagonists in the life and pastoral care of the Church, and that attention be devoted to them every day of the year”.

For more information:

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