



Catholic Schools Week 2020

Catholic Schools: Living in Harmony with God's Creation



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS:
LIVING IN HARMONY
WITH GOD'S CREATION

26 JANUARY – 2 FEBRUARY 2020



Wednesday: Grandparents Day: Living in Harmony with all Generations

29 January 2020

Keywords:

Intergenerational, Solidarity, Respect, Support, Trust, Parents, Grandparents, Love, Family, Reciprocity, Faith, Learning, Role Models, Friendship



Watch this video, which shows a unique experiment where students live for free in a home for elderly people. In return, they agree to give thirty hours a month interacting with the residents.

London's News Reports/BBC - Students in a retirement-home in The Netherlands (5:47 mins)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C5ToCi3owMQ>



Discussion:

What are the advantages for the students in living here?

What are the advantages for the elderly?

The presenter mentions the word 'reciprocity'. What does that word mean?

What might the students be learning from the elderly?

Watch this video, by clicking here, which shows a number of grandparents talking about their very special grandchildren (4:39): <https://vimeo.com/242641382>



Think, Pair, Share:

Think: Take a moment to reflect on a particular moment that struck you from the video.

Pair: Share with someone else the moment that you chose and why. Let the other person do the same.

Share: Pick another pair and repeat the process. Finally, discuss as a class.





Discussion: As a class, discuss the roles that older people can play in the lives of younger people. How important is it to know and relate to people of other generations?

Numeracy moment: Look up 2 Timothy 1:5.

Who are the two women mentioned here? Write the verse into your copy.

St Paul was the most important missionary in the early Church, who spread the message of Jesus far beyond Israel. Timothy was one of his favourite helpers.

What point is Paul making about the two women who are mentioned?

Extension: Find out more about Paul and Timothy and see where they travelled together. They were from different generations but worked very well together.

Discussion: Are young people more influenced when it comes to faith and belief by people of their own age or by older people?



‘Attention to the elderly makes the difference in a society. Does a society show concern for the elderly? Does it make room for the elderly? Such a society will move forward if it respects the wisdom of the elderly’.

Pope Francis, *Amoris Laetitia*, 191

Numeracy moment: In the table below, list five ways in which old people are respected in our society and five ways in which they are not shown respect.



Prayer of Grandparents

I know that every period of our lives has its responsibilities as well as its joys. Today it seems that grandparents have either too little use or too much – either we are shunted aside to do nothing or we are called upon to do everything. Help me to know just where my duties lie in my particular situation and to carry them out the best that I can. Take care of my family – my children and their children. Inspire them all to follow your Son and to lead truly Christian lives. Keep all of us in your loving care, never let us turn away from you and help us in the end to receive the joy of entering into your glorious presence forever. Amen.

Prayers for All Occasions, Catholic Book Publishing Company, New York



Reflection: What do you think the prayer means by 'too little use or too much'? How can parents create an atmosphere of harmony with grandparents?



Activity:

How might you show appreciation to an older person? Consider writing and posting a letter to your grandparents or another older family member, a neighbour or a teacher, expressing thanks and appreciation.

