

TO: HIS EXCELLENCY, THE REVEREND MEMBERS OF THE CLERGY, MEN AND WOMEN RELIGIOUS AND THE LAITY OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA

RE: WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY

Date: 27 July 2025 (Fourth Sunday of July)

Theme: “Blessed are those who have not lost hope” (cf. Pope Francis, Holy Year 2025)

Greetings of Grace and Peace!

We joyfully enjoin all parishes and institutions in our archdiocese to prepare for and fully celebrate the **5th World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly** on **27 July 2025 (Sunday)**, in union with the universal Church and in the spirit of the **Holy Year of Hope**.

This annual celebration, held on the Sunday closest to the feast of Saints Joachim and Anne, honors the vital vocation of grandparents and the elderly within the family of God. The theme this year, **“Blessed are those who have not lost hope”**, invites us to contemplate the steadfast faith of our elders as a wellspring of encouragement in times of change, loss, and uncertainty.

1. Pastoral Focus

We call on all parishes and institutions to center this celebration on:

- Honoring the elderly as **bearers of hope, memory, and faith**
- Creating **intergenerational encounters** that renew family and parish bonds
- Offering pastoral outreach to the **lonely, forgotten, and homebound elderly**
- Highlighting the elderly’s spiritual role as **intercessors and evangelizers**
- Affirming the Church’s commitment to build **a culture that cherishes age and wisdom**

2. Liturgical Celebration

All parishes and institutions are asked to:

- Dedicate the **Sunday Eucharist on July 27** to the theme of the day
- Preach a homily that reflects on **hope as lived and witnessed in old age**, drawing on Scripture (Simeon and Anna, Abraham and Sarah) and Pope Francis’ Catechesis on Old Age
- Include a **special blessing for grandparents and the elderly** at all Masses
- Incorporate children and youth in the celebration, offering gifts, letters, or symbolic tokens of gratitude to their grandparents or elders in the parish
- Feature intercessory prayers for grandparents, elderly persons without families, and young people to remain connected with the wisdom of their elders

3. Suggested Pastoral Activities

Parishes and institutions may adapt the following activities as appropriate to their context:

- **Novena for Grandparents and the Elderly** (July 18 to 26) leading up to the Sunday celebration
- **Home and care facility visits** to bring prayer, gifts, and the Pope's message to the elderly who cannot attend Mass
- **Storytelling sessions** or "Faith Across Generations" panels with elderly parishioners sharing testimonies of hope and endurance
- **Family activities** such as "Letter to My Grandparent" by children, or art/essay contests on the theme
- **Youth-Elder encounters** where young people interview and pray with their elders
- Parish display boards or exhibits titled "**Faces of Hope: Wisdom from Our Elders**"

4. Catechetical and Prayer Resources

Parishes and institutions are provided with the following:

- A template for the **Grandparents and the elderly**
- A special prayer for grandparents and the elderly
- Reflection questions for small groups or family conversations

5. Reflection Points for Parish Use

We invite all groups and ministries to reflect on the following in preparation for the celebration:

- In what ways have the elderly in our parish or family shown perseverance in faith and hope?
- How can we better include and accompany the elderly in our pastoral work?
- What are the obstacles our elderly face in their physical, emotional, and spiritual lives – and how can we respond with compassion?
- How can grandparents and elders be empowered as **transmitters of faith** to the younger generation?

Please find attached herewith the following:

1. Proposed Framework for Diocesan and Parish Celebrations
2. Novena for Grandparents and the Elderly
3. A Prayer for Grandparents and the Elderly

To all our grandparents and elderly parishioners: we thank you for your witness of fidelity, sacrifice, and joy. You are not forgotten. You are loved. You are essential to our Church. Like Simeon and Anna, you proclaim with your lives that **God's promises never fail**. You help us keep our gaze on heaven and remind us that no age is too late for mission.

Let us celebrate this day with **tenderness, creativity, and hope**. In doing so, we strengthen the bonds that unite the generations and open the doors of our parishioners to become truly "homes of the aged in spirit" – places where no one is left behind.

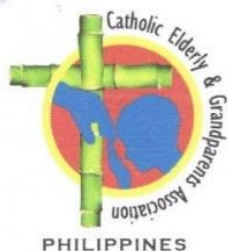
Santo Cristo del Perdon y Caridad – pakaluluan mu kami. Virgen de los Remedios, Indu ring Capaldanan, Tula ring Capampangan, Talayingat ning Arkidiocesis – ipanalangin mu kami.
Thank you for the kind attention, I remain

One with you as a servant to the servants of the Gospel,

(Sgd.) ✠ FLORENTINO G. LAVARIAS, D.D.
Archbishop of San Fernando
Pampanga

(Sgd.) REV. FR. DANNY Q. NACPIL
Chancellor

16 July 2025
Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel



CATHOLIC ELDERLY & GRANDPARENTS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES

PROPOSED FRAMEWORK FOR DIOCESAN AND PARISH CELEBRATIONS

Theme: *"Blessed are those who have not lost hope"*

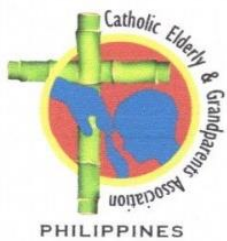
Date: Sunday, July 27, 2025

Context: Holy Year 2025 – A Year of Hope

Goal: Celebrate the sacred vocation of grandparents and the elderly as witnesses of hope, memory, and faith in families and communities.

1. PREPARATION PHASE (June–July 2025)

Activity	Lead	Timeline	Description
Circular Letter	Bishop / Diocesan CGA	June 30	Issue pastoral guidelines and reflection notes for all parishes.
Orientation & Planning	Vicariates / Parishes	June	Convene parish coordinators and lay elders to plan local activities.
Promotion Campaign	Parish CGA & Youth	June– July	Use social media, posters, pulpit announcements. Encourage family sharing of stories of hope.
Grandparents Novena	Parish Liturgical Team	July 18– 26	A 9-day novena of intercessory prayer for grandparents and the elderly, integrated in daily Mass or prayer services.



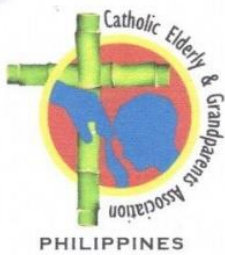
CATHOLIC ELDERLY & GRANDPARENTS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES

2. DIOCESAN-LEVEL CELEBRATION

Activity	Description
Mass with the Bishop	A solemn Eucharistic celebration at the cathedral with special blessing for grandparents and the elderly. Youth and children present tokens of love.
Awarding of Elders of Faith	Recognition of exemplary elderly parishioners who are witnesses of faith and service.
Testimonies of Hope	A segment where 2–3 elderly persons share life stories of hope and resilience during suffering.
Synodal Conversations	Breakout sessions with youth, grandparents, and clergy discussing hope across generations.
Cultural Prayer Concert	Musical presentation themed on intergenerational love and hope. Include choirs of youth and seniors.

3. PARISH-LEVEL CELEBRATION (Sunday Mass, July 27, 2025)

Liturgy Element	Description
Entrance Procession	Led by grandparents and elderly representatives, possibly with grandchildren.
Homily Theme	Focus on “Blessed are those who have not lost hope” – drawing from Abraham and Sarah, Simeon and Anna, and Pope Francis’ Catechesis.
Prayer of the Faithful	Special intercessions for the elderly, their vocation, the lonely, and intergenerational unity.



CATHOLIC ELDERLY & GRANDPARENTS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES

Special Blessing	After Communion, a solemn blessing for all grandparents and elderly.
Family Tokens	Grandchildren offer written prayers or handmade tokens to grandparents.

4. PASTORAL AND INTERGENERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Participants	Description
Home Visits	Youth & Parish Volunteers	Visit homebound elders with prayer cards, flowers, and the Pope's message.
Storytelling Circle	Elders & Youth	Grandparents share family and faith stories in parish halls or classrooms.
Grandparents Catechesis	Catechists / Lay Leaders	Short catechetical sessions on the mission of grandparents as faith witnesses.
Letter to a Grandparent	Students	Children and teens write letters to grandparents about what they admire and have learned from them.
Art or Essay Contest	School-age Youth	Theme: "My Grandparent, My Hope." Exhibit in parish grounds.
Rosary of Generations	All Ages	Each mystery led by a different generation; intention for family unity and the elderly in distress.



CATHOLIC ELDERLY & GRANDPARENTS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES

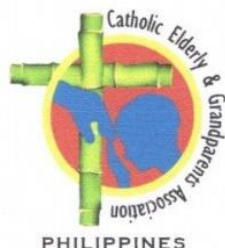
5. POST-EVENT FOLLOW-UP

Activity	Description
Documentation and Sharing	Collect photos, testimonies, and reflections to be shared in parish bulletins and diocesan media.
Launch Parish Elderly Ministry (if none yet)	Create parish-level Catholic Elderly and Grandparents Association (CGA).
Listening Session	Hold "Listening to God's Call in the Sunset of Life" retreat or focus group to hear the hopes of the elderly.
Visitation Ministry	Organize regular visits to homebound or institutionalized elderly in partnership with youth groups.

SUGGESTED THEMES FOR REFLECTION & PREACHING

- "The Old Shall Dream Dreams" (Joel 2:28) – the vocation of hope in later life.
- "Anna and Simeon: Prophets of Patience" – their prayerful waiting.
- "From Abraham to Lolo Kiko: A Journey of Hope through the Generations."
- "Hope Against All Hope: The Elderly as Bearers of God's Promise."

For any questions/inquiries, you may send an email to cga.ph1@gmail.com or cga.ph2@gmail.com



CATHOLIC ELDERLY & GRANDPARENTS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES

Template for a Grandparents Novena, designed to be used from **July 18 to July 26, 2025**, in preparation for the **5th World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly** on **July 27**. It can be prayed in homes, parishes, chapels, or small communities. Each day includes an intention, scripture, reflection, prayer, and intercession. This template is flexible and can be adapted for printed materials or parish bulletins.

NOVENA FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY

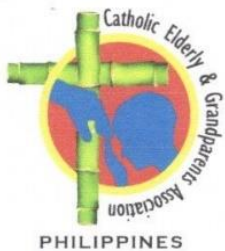
In Preparation for the 5th World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

Theme: "Blessed are those who have not lost hope"

Dates: July 18–26, 2025

Daily Format (To be repeated each day)

1. **Sign of the Cross**
 2. **Opening Prayer** (below)
 3. **Daily Intention and Scripture**
 4. **Short Reflection**
 5. **Novena Prayer** (same each day)
 6. **Intercessory Prayers**
 7. **Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be**
 8. **Concluding Prayer of Pope Leo** (optional - once available)
-



CATHOLIC ELDERLY & GRANDPARENTS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES

Opening Prayer (for all days)

Heavenly Father,
we thank You for the gift of life and for the blessing of our grandparents and the elderly.
They are the guardians of memory, the keepers of hope, and the transmitters of faith.
As we walk this novena in anticipation of the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly,
open our hearts to listen to their wisdom, honor their presence, and accompany them in
love.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

DAY 1 – July 18

Theme: Hope in Old Age

Scripture: *"Even to your old age I am he, and to gray hairs I will carry you."* (Isaiah 46:4)

Reflection: God's promise does not fade with the years. In every wrinkle, every scar, there is grace.

Prayer Intention: For elderly persons who feel forgotten or abandoned.

DAY 2 – July 19

Theme: Grandparents as Pillars of the Family

Scripture: *"Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine... your children like olive shoots around your table."* (Psalm 128:3)

Reflection: Grandparents help keep families rooted in faith, memory, and love.

Prayer Intention: For all grandparents raising their grandchildren with love and sacrifice.

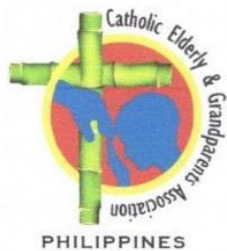
DAY 3 – July 20

Theme: Elders as Witnesses of God's Faithfulness

Scripture: *"Now, Lord, you may let your servant go in peace... for my eyes have seen your salvation."* (Luke 2:29–30)

Reflection: Like Simeon and Anna, the elderly help us recognize Christ in the ordinary.

Prayer Intention: For all elderly persons who spend their days in prayer and adoration.



CATHOLIC ELDERLY & GRANDPARENTS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES

DAY 4 – July 21

Theme: The Gift of Intergenerational Love

Scripture: *"One generation shall praise your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts."* (Psalm 145:4)

Reflection: When elders and the young walk together, a future filled with hope is born.

Prayer Intention: For stronger bonds between grandparents and their grandchildren.

DAY 5 – July 22

Theme: Hope in Suffering

Scripture: *"We do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, inwardly we are being renewed day by day."* (2 Corinthians 4:16)

Reflection: Physical weakness does not diminish the strength of faith.

Prayer Intention: For elderly persons who are sick, homebound, or in pain.

DAY 6 – July 23

Theme: The Vocation of Prayer

Scripture: *"They shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing."* (Psalm 92:14)

Reflection: The quiet prayers of grandparents hold up the world.

Prayer Intention: For elderly persons who intercede for their families and the Church.

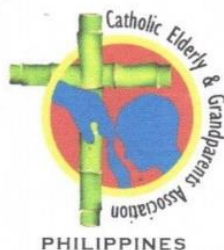
DAY 7 – July 24

Theme: The Wisdom of Years

Scripture: *"Wisdom is with the aged, and understanding in length of days."* (Job 12:12)

Reflection: The elderly are not a burden, but a treasure. Let us sit at their feet and learn.

Prayer Intention: For society to value and listen to the wisdom of its elders.



CATHOLIC ELDERLY & GRANDPARENTS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES

DAY 8 – July 25

Theme: The Joy of Giving Life

Scripture: *"Children's children are the crown of the aged."* (Proverbs 17:6)

Reflection: Grandparents take joy not just in life lived, but in life passed on.

Prayer Intention: For grandparents mourning the loss of a child or grandchild.

DAY 9 – July 26 (Feast of Saints Joachim and Anne)

Theme: Saints Joachim and Anne – Models of Faith

Scripture: *"The righteous flourish like the palm tree... planted in the house of the Lord."*
(Psalm 92:12–13)

Reflection: The grandparents of Jesus show us that our role never ends in God's plan.

Prayer Intention: For all grandparents and elderly persons, that they may find joy, companionship, and spiritual fulfillment.

Novena Prayer (for all days)

Lord Jesus,

You were born of the Virgin Mary,
the daughter of Saints Joachim and Anne.

Look with love on all grandparents and elderly persons.

Protect them! They are a source of wisdom, experience, and hope.

Bless them with good health, strong faith, and a loving family.

Help families and parishes to embrace and support them,
and may they always know their worth in Your eyes.

May the memory of their lives be a blessing
and their legacy bear fruit in future generations. Amen.

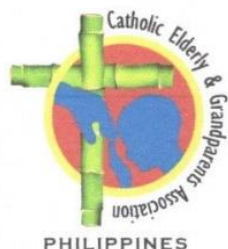
Optional Closing Prayer (Adapted from Pope Benedict XVI's Prayer for Grandparents)

Lord God,

bless and protect all grandparents.

Be with them as they age with grace and gratitude.

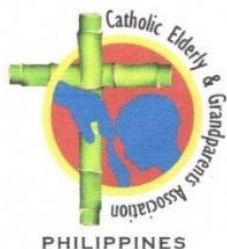
Grant them joy in their families,
peace in their hearts,



CATHOLIC ELDERLY & GRANDPARENTS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES

and the certainty of Your abiding presence.
May they continue to share faith, hope, and love
with the young and the old alike.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sample Homily Points and Intercessory Prayers for the 5th World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, aligned with the 2025 theme: *"Blessed are those who have not lost hope."*



CATHOLIC ELDERLY & GRANDPARENTS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES

A special prayer for grandparents and the elderly that can be used in liturgies, parish gatherings, or family celebrations on the 5th World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly:

A Prayer for Grandparents and the Elderly

Theme: "Blessed are those who have not lost hope"

Heavenly Father,
Lord of time and history,
we thank You for the gift of our grandparents and all the elderly in our lives.
They are the living roots of our families,
keepers of memories,
and gentle witnesses of Your enduring love.

Bless them with strength when their bodies grow weak,
with peace when their hearts carry burdens,
and with joy when they feel forgotten or alone.
May their wisdom continue to guide us,
their stories inspire us,
and their prayers uphold us.

In a world that often moves too fast to listen,
teach us to stop, to sit, and to honor them.
Help us to learn from their faith,
to walk beside them with tenderness,
and to never let them feel invisible or discarded.

As we celebrate this day in hope,
renew in all grandparents the sense of their sacred mission:
to pass on the faith,
to bless the generations,
and to proclaim—through their lives—that Your promises endure forever.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lived in the warmth of Mary, Joseph, and His grandparents,
and in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
now and always.

Amen.