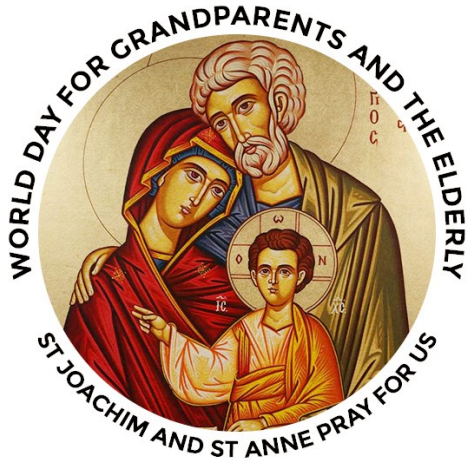


## FROM FR. JASON



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today we celebrate World Day for Grandparents & the Elderly. Pope Francis recently instituted this celebration. It will be held every year on the fourth Sunday of July, close to the liturgical memorial of Saints Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus and the main patrons of grandparents.

Pope Francis once said: “A population that does not take care of the elderly and of children and the young has no future, because it abuses both its memory and its promise.” With much gratitude to you, all of you who have witnessed for so many years to the Lord and transmitted so many good treasures to all of us, thank you. I especially invite today all grandchildren to make it very special for all our grandparents with a

phone call, flowers, or prayers for their grandparents, living or deceased. Their memory helps us to keep on our journey and fills us with gratitude and wisdom. On behalf of all of us here at Our Lady Mother of the Church, God bless our grandparents! St. Joachim and St. Anne, pray for us!

Continuing our summer series of reflections that help us to remain vigilant during this time and asking the grace of conversion every day in prayer, I found the following from the acts of Saint Ignatius in his own words, taken down by Luis González. We will celebrate the Memorial of St. Ignatius of Loyola on Wednesday, July 31.

“Ignatius was passionately fond of reading worldly books of fiction and tales of knight-errantry. When he felt he was getting better, he asked for some of these books to pass the time. But no book of that sort could be found in the house; instead, they gave him a life of Christ and a collection of the lives of saints written in Spanish.

By constantly reading these books he began to be attracted to what he found narrated there. Sometimes in the midst of his reading he would reflect on what he had read. Yet at other times he would dwell on many of the things which he had been accustomed to dwell on previously. **But at this point our Lord came to his assistance, ensuring that these thoughts were followed by others which arose from his current reading.**

While reading the life of Christ our Lord or the lives of the saints, he would reflect and reason with himself: “What if I should do what Saint Francis or Saint Dominic did?” In this way he let his mind dwell on many thoughts; they lasted a while until other things took their place. Then those vain and worldly images would come into his mind and remain a long time. This sequence of thoughts persisted with him for a long time.

But there was a difference. When Ignatius reflected on worldly thoughts, he felt intense pleasure; but when he gave them up out of weariness, he felt dry and depressed. **Yet when he thought of living the rigorous sort of life, he knew the saints had lived, he not only experienced pleasure when he actually thought about it, but even after he dismissed these thoughts, he still experienced great joy.** Yet he did not pay attention to this, nor did he appreciate it until one day, in a moment of insight, he began to marvel at the difference. **Then he understood his experience: thoughts of one kind left him sad, the others full of joy.** And this was the first time he applied a process of reasoning to his religious experience. Later on, when he began to formulate his spiritual exercises, he used this experience as an illustration to explain the doctrine he taught his disciples on the discernment of spirits.”

Peace,