



## Newsletter – April 2024

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### **Being Grandparents- Bridging the Generation Gap**

I know what fatherhood is all about. I have a clear mind about it and am ready with answers if someone will to ask me what my duties are as a father or parent. I am confident that I have faithfully discharged my duties as a father. However, six months ago, my daughter delivered her first child. I was overjoyed to be a grandfather. My grandson is a gift from God. I adore him.

Despite this joy, I started wondering what I must do as a grandfather, that is, what my duties are as a grandparent. There is a big generation gap between me and my grandson – two generations to be exact.

My daughter and my son-in-law are the first educators of the boy. Being parents they hold the main responsibility in raising him up. One school of thought says grandparents spoil their grandchildren in giving in to the grandchildren often especially in leisure and recreation. Is it true? Well, I do not wish to be in that category if it is true. My wife and I hope to be a “good grandparents”.

First and foremost we must be good role models in our Catholic faith. We would like to see our grandson having a strong faith in God. Whenever time permits, we bring him to Church. Of course now he is too young to understand anything. However, as he grows, he will realise the tenets of our faith and the importance of the Sunday Mass.

Another challenge will be sharing our past with him. I say this is a challenge because one’s experiences cannot be replicated. The boy will not fully understand what we went through. We can only hope that he can draw some lessons from our past history and avoid the mistakes we made in our lives.

I feel we need to work hand-in-hand with his parents in raising him up. We have to be sensitive to the expectations of his parents and act accordingly. We are sure his parents will set the parameters for us, the grandparents and thus we need to watch the parameters and not breach them.

The future is not known to us, whether our future or his future. However, our faith teaches us to live in the present not the past or future, placing all our needs before God and trusting in His Love and Mercy.

As for me, by the time I was born, my grandparents on both sides had already passed on. Therefore I do not possess the experiences of living with my grandparents. My grandson and many grandchildren in this world receive the gift of seeing and interacting with their grandparents. Hopefully they are grateful to God for this precious gift.

In conclusion, my wife and I are thankful to God and pray for His Grace to let us see him growing up to be a fine gentleman.

## **SEE**

1. What is/are the reality/realities above?
2. What are the causes of this situations?
3. What are the consequences if we are not good grandparents?

## **JUDGE**

### Personal Reflection

1. What are your personal feelings about this reality?
2. Share your experiences, if any and what actions you had taken.

### Christian Reflection

1. Do the gospels, the Vatican documents and the Catholic Social Teachings provide guidance on this matter?
2. What advice does our Lord Jesus give to you and me when we are grandparents? [If we can be].

## **ACT**

1. What can we do as grandparents in our family to strengthen the bonds of our families?
2. As a community of believers, how do we encourage each other in this senior family role?

*Article contributed by: Gabriel Sebastian*