

LITURGY BYTES

Sts. Joachim & Anne (Jesus' Grandparents)



This Monday, July 26th, the Church celebrates Sts. Joachim and Anne, the parents of our Blessed Mother and the grandparents of Jesus. As we reflect on the legacy of Anne and Joachim, let us look at the vital role played by all grandparents in completing the family unit and nurturing the faith of future generations. As we have seen in today's world, grandparents have taken a vital part in the training of their grandchildren to know about our Catholic faith. After all, Joachim and Anne cultivated in their daughter, Mary, a love for God, preparing her for her role in the life of Jesus.

Pope Francis has remarked about Joachim and Anne in these words: "In their home, Mary came into the world, accompanied by the extraordinary mystery of the Immaculate Conception." It was quite evident that the home Mary grew up in was one of love and faith. Saints Joachim and Anne were part of a long chain of people who had transmitted their faith and love for God, expressed in the warmth and love of family life, down to Mary who received the Son of God and gave him to the world and to us.

I am thinking today about the role of grandparents as a receptacle of wisdom and history for families. The experience of faith and life in general has enriched their judgment, making them invaluable sources of counsel for our younger generations. Very simply, grandparents remember the heritage of the family and share it with those they love. Does this remind you of someone in your life?

As the Church celebrates the gifts of both grandparents and seniors this weekend, let us take a moment to realize the importance of grandparents in family life for passing on the human and religious heritage which is so essential for society.

Perhaps, let us remember how important it is to have intergenerational exchanges and dialogue, especially within the context of the family. Children and the older members of society build the future of all people: children because they lead history forward, seniors because they transmit the experience and wisdom of their lives. This relationship and dialogue between generations is a treasure to be preserved, strengthened and celebrated.

Have a blessed, healthy, and safe week!!~~*Michele Hahn*

~~~ **ST. ANNE & ST. JOACHIM** ~~~  
**PRAY FOR US!**