

Grandparents Day – Love... The Bond of Perfection

Introduction

I would like to extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to all the grandparents who are with us today. We are especially blessed today by your presence with us at Mass. The faculty, staff, administration, and our student body celebrate and honor the invaluable contribution you have made to the formation of your grandchildren. You have given us your very best and we are so grateful to you!

Reflection on the Scriptures

St. Paul highlights the many virtues that are lived out in family life like... Compassion... kindness... humility... gentleness... patience... and especially forgiveness. But over all these virtues he places love... The bond of perfection

Luke describes the presentation of Jesus by his parents. A ceremony which emphasized the sacredness of a child, and the conviction that a child is a gift from God. We see in this story the figures of Simeon and Anna, who were promised that they would not rest until they saw the Messiah. Simeon's words express his deep gratitude to God for keeping his word. He takes Jesus into his arms. In seeing Jesus... Simeon has seen the future... he sees comfort and a light... a light that reveals the glory of God. This is the moment of a lifetime... the moment one lives for... It is a grandparent's moment.

Reflection on being a grandparent

Being a grandparent is a little different from being a parent. You never really stop being a parent... you just change roles. A grandparent possesses experience, wisdom, and a completely different set of filters that they did not have as parents. Grandparents are more excited about the bigger picture... as parents they were immersed in moment-by-moment decisions. Grandparents are more attentive to the details... the little things come into sharper focus. It is as if we are noticing things for the first time. It is a time filled with hope, love, trust and a sense of wonder.

Grandparents can see things from a more removed viewpoint. It is a perspective that is unpressured... something to be thankful for. To watch your child grow-up and become a parent is an amazing and surreal aspect parenthood. It is a cause for great introspection... Much of what you have shared as a parent is adopted and much is

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not. Things that you never considered are embraced and become a part of your child's new family. It is a chance to reflect on the road you traveled. You come to realize that hindsight has given you a less urgent point-of-view that the real-time day-to-day decision-making did not allow for. The beautiful and the harmonious amidst the chaos and the struggle unfolds before your very eyes.

It is amazing how quickly we can fall in love with a child that is not one of our own children. Samara, Isabella, Bennett, Madaline, Evelyn and Rory are anchored to my heart in a deep and meaningful way. Finally it is a chance to relive the things we missed because of the busyness of life. The little things like first steps, peek-a-boo and naps in ones favorite chair.

Being a people after God's own heart.

These kinds of experiences have their origins in the divine love of God the Father. They give us a sense of the kind of love God has for us. They are the roots of our identity... a heritage steeped in faith, hope and a deep abiding love. When we look to our grandparents we see living proof of resilience and perseverance. We gain the confidence to know that we can survive anything life throws at us. We come to know that we are loved for who we are and not how we perform. It is a love that is so true, and so unconditional that it encourages us to fly, while assuring us of a safe landing. It is the witness of sacrifice and the willingness to do whatever it takes to provide for the good of the family... that makes a grandparent a person after God's own heart. It is a living witness to the virtues that Paul talked about. A witness that places love above all else.

The blessings of being a grandparent

It is a great blessing to be a grandparent. Our grandchildren are a constant reminder of just how precious life is. We get the chance to live in the joy and wonder of anticipating the future with our grandkids... It is the chance to return once more to the cherished moments of parenthood... the best parts... to feed, to hold, to hug, and to play. And what do those best parts look like? Something like this... It is playing peek-a-boo as you learn to walk. To hear the shrieks of delight in being found. To hear the laughter, to see the smile, to see the joy in a little ones eyes. It is the presence of love... the bond of perfection.

Celebrating family life to the fullest.

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This is what it means to be family... to be a part of something bigger than yourself. This is what Simeon and Anna longed for... It is what God promised them. And it was ultimately what they possessed... the promise of family, the promise of joy and unconditional love. To see the light that reveals the glory of God. A chance to see the future... and to hold it. It is the moment of a lifetime. This is the joy of being a grandparent

Conclusion

How can we ever say thank you for all you have done? For making our lives richer and fuller? How do we begin to honor the many sacrifices, challenges and struggles you have overcome? How do we celebrate the wisdom, and love you so willingly share? How do we celebrate lives lived well? Simply with this... A short video, a card, a hand drawn picture, a visit, a smile, a wave, a hug... a kiss... and the words... Thank you and I love you