



I am come
that they might have



Life

and that they might have it



More Abundantly (Jn 10:10)



Learning Intention:

Students will learn the importance of intergenerational solidarity in a Christian community.

Success Criteria:

Students will be able to explain the words intergenerational solidarity and identify different examples of them.

Students will be able to analyse the advantages and disadvantages of being at different stages of life.

Students will be able to identify the reasons why the Catholic Church has recently instituted an International Day for Grandparents.



Keywords:

Intergenerational Solidarity, Role Models, Trust, Respect, Support, Neighbours, Talents, Parents, Grandparents, Love, Family, Reciprocity, Learning, Friendship, Faith





Photo: iStock photo, Getty images



1. What emotions are shown during the reunion above? How are they being shown?
2. Did you have older relatives, neighbours or friends whom you could not see during lockdowns due to the Covid-19 pandemic? If not, did you have friends who had older relatives, neighbours or friends in this situation?
3. How or when were you (or your friends) reunited with relatives?
4. What was the worst part about being separated from family and friends during lockdowns due to the pandemic? What was the best part about being reunited?
5. Were there other activities that older people missed during lockdowns, such as attending religious services?
6. What is different about good relationships with older people as compared to relationships with people your own age?



Think – Pair – Share:

An American grandmother, Deborah Haddix, made a list of benefits of getting older (see below). Before you read them, try to make your own list.

Think:

Name five benefits you can think of connected to getting older.

Pair:

Share with someone else the benefits you chose and why. Let the other person do the same. Create a list that incorporates both of your suggestions.

Share:

Finally, discuss as a class.





Photo: iStock photo, Getty images



Listen to your teacher (or someone else) reading the list of benefits as described by Deborah Haddix. How closely does it resemble the list created by the class?

Do any of the benefits she lists surprise you?

What are the biggest benefits of being young?

Deborah Haddix is a Christian grandmother from the US. Here are some of the benefits that she sees to getting older:

1. Abiding Contentment: Contentment comes from following God's plan. 'We're more comfortable in our own skins ... We can be our selves. We know what matters most.'
2. Increased Wisdom: 'In fact, "seniors" are the one who have truly "been there; done that!"'
3. New Roles: Being grandparents or role models in other ways.
4. Spiritual Strength: Physical strength decreases but a person's spirit can become stronger.
5. More Time: 'So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.' – Psalm 90:12. 'One of the benefits of aging is that we have a deeper appreciation for time and seek to use it well.'

(From: Deborah Haddix, '8 Benefits of Aging Worth Celebrating', [crosswalk.com](https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/seniors/8-benefits-of-aging-worth-celebrating.html); <https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/seniors/8-benefits-of-aging-worth-celebrating.html>, accessed 17 November 2021.)



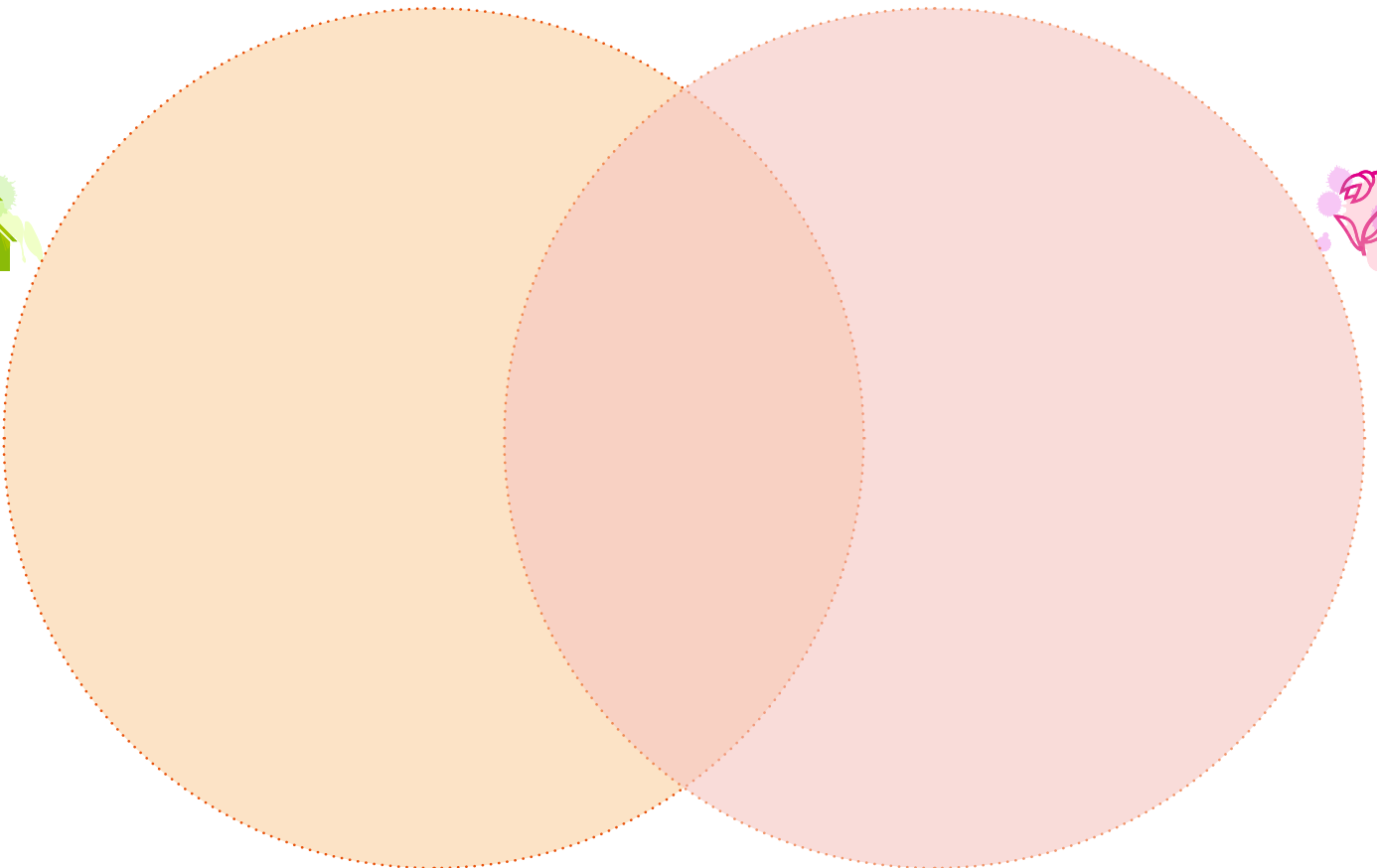


Numeracy:

Find the following Bible references and make a note of them in your copy.

1. Proverbs 3:13
2. Psalm 90:12

Why might they be relevant for both younger and older people?



Copy this diagram and fill in (a) the advantages of being younger, (b) the advantages of being older, and (c) the advantages both age groups may have in common





Photo: www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org



On 25 July 2021, the first World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly was celebrated. Catherine Wiley founded the Catholic Grandparents Association (GCA) in 2001 when she and her husband became grandparents. One of the first branches outside the UK was in Ireland as the Wileys own a home near Knock. In 2008, the CGA requested Pope Benedict to write a prayer for grandparents, which he did. In 2012, at a speech at the International Eucharistic Congress in Dublin, the CGA requested that there be a World Day for Grandparents, as there was already a very successful gathering on a regular basis for World Youth Day. At the 2017 National Grandparents Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine, a formal appeal to Pope Francis was launched and blessed by Archbishop Michael Neary, Archbishop Emeritas of Tuam and Patron of the CGA. The request was granted in 2021 and the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly will be held every year from now on.



Please watch the following clip from EWTN News (1:04 to 5:23): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kSVRc6eN1YM&t=64s>

After watching the clip, copy the mind map below and fill in the following: people associated setting up the day, the saints with which it is associated, the reason why it was set up, and ways in which it is celebrated.





Extension Activity:

The Church has other days dedicated to other groups. Pick one and research when it is held and why it is held.

World Day of the Sick: <https://dublindiocese.ie/world-day-of-the-sick-2021/>

World Day of the Poor:

<https://www.catholicbishops.ie/2017/11/17/message-of-pope-francis-for-the-first-world-day-of-the-poor/>

World Day of Migrants:

<https://migrants-refugees.va/world-day-of-migrants-refugees/>

World Youth Day:

<https://worldyouthday.com/about-wyd>



Now, as I watch the fading soft colors of dusk,
I pause, breathe deeply, and remember You.
My heart is tired, yet I am filled with hope.
My body aches, but my spirit is at home.
As I stretch and lie down for the evening,
Let my worrying cease,
my tired muscles relax,
my nose stop running,
my plans wait for morning...
my heart be at peace.
Yes, let me sleep in Your arms
Until a fresh clear morning awakens me,
So I can greet You with love...once again.
Amen.

– Robert J. Wicks



This prayer was written by Robert Wicks, a clinical psychologist and leading writer about the connections between spirituality and psychology. He wrote it for himself as an older person for use by others. (Used with permission of the author.)





A large green scalloped border frames a central white area. Inside the white area, there are 18 horizontal lines for writing, arranged in a single column.

