

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ,



Greetings of peace and joy of Our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Let us reflect this week about the grandparents of our Lord. Grandparents play an important role in everyone's life. Indeed we are so much inspired by our grandparents' prayers, love and their dedication to the Lord. So, here we have the feast of Saints Joachim and Anne are the Patron Saints of **Grandparents** 26th of July.

In the sources, Anne and Joachim were married for many years in Nazareth but were childless. When Joachim went to offer sacrifices in the Temple, he was rejected because he was unworthy as he had no offspring. Joachim was brokenhearted and went to the mountains to take up his cause with God. There, he fasted and prayed for 40 days. Anne feared for his life, saying, "I lament that I am a widow and I lament that I am childless." She begged God to take away her sterility and promised to dedicate her child to His service.

God answered their prayers when an angel appeared to Anne, saying: "Anne, the Lord has looked upon thy tears; thou shalt conceive and give birth and the fruit of thy womb shall be blessed by all the world."

Meanwhile, Joachim had received his own revelation and had returned from his vigil. When she saw Joachim coming with his flocks, "Anne ran and wrapped herself around his neck, saying, 'Now I know that the Lord God has blessed me greatly. See, the widow is no longer a widow and the childless woman has conceived in her womb.'"

Anne gave birth to a daughter, Mary. When Mary was a young child, her parents reportedly brought her to the Temple of Jerusalem, in fulfillment of their promise to her dedication.

This is the "feast of grandparents." It reminds grandparents of their responsibility to establish a tone for generations to come: They must make the traditions live and offer them as a promise to little children. But the feast has a message for the younger generation as well. It reminds the young that older people's greater perspective, depth of experience, and appreciation of life's profound rhythms are all part of a wisdom not to be taken lightly or ignored.

Let us thank the Lord for the gift of grandparents in our lives as an encouragement, support and guidance.

Let us imbibe the great qualities of saints Joachim and Anne also love, listen and pray for our grandparents in our lives. May God Bless you all.

Fr.S.Vinner HGN.