

“The evils that plague our world, including wars and armed conflicts and the illusion that just peace can be achieved by force, are rooted in these dynamics. Just as destructive is the belief that all of creation, and this includes humans themselves, can be exploited at will for profit. A consequence of this reality is the creation of barriers that divide, including amongst Christian communities, resulting in inequalities whereby some have possibilities that are denied to others. These are inequalities such as between men and women, racial prejudices, caste divisions, discrimination against people with disabilities, violation of the rights of minorities of all kinds and the reluctance to accept migrants. Even our relationship with our mother and sister earth (cf. LS 1), bears the mark of a fracture that endangers the lives of countless communities, particularly among those most poor, if not entire peoples and perhaps all of humanity. The most radical and dramatic rejection is that of human life itself; this leads to the discarding of the unborn, as well as of the elderly. (FD 54)

Scripture:

Psalms 71:9, 17-18: Do not cast me off in the time of old age; do not forsake me when my strength is spent. O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds. So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to all the generations to come.

Sirach 8:9: Do not ignore the discourse of the aged, for they themselves learned from their parents; from them you learn how to understand and to give an answer when the need arises.

For Reflection and Discussion:

- Have we identified the longtime parishioners (community builders, pillars) who are no longer able to attend communal or eucharistic celebrations, and how do we serve them?
- How are we called to support those who are caring for aging parents or grandparents?
- How do we listen and learn from the wise voices of our elders?
- What are we doing to foster community among the diverse generations in our parish?

World Day of Prayer for Grandparents and the Elderly

Celebrate World Day of Prayer for Grandparents and the Elderly - typically the last Sunday in July, watch for resources from the diocese for your parish.