



My Dear Parishioners,

Praised be Jesus Christ! As I type this column on Saturday the 16<sup>th</sup> for the July 24 bulletin, my thoughts are oriented toward Al DiNorscia who passed away yesterday, July 15. Al was a Kennett Square legend; a life-long parishioner of St. Patrick and a part of our daily Mass crew. Less than 24 hours since his passing, Al is already missed by our community, the wider KSQ community but most of all by his son and daughters.

As a nonagenarian (90+) year old man, Al was a member of what has become known as the **greatest generation** and as such was a “grandfather-figure” to many. His generation is dying off very quickly which is natural, for we don’t live on this earth forever. But there is something else that is happening with that generation, not only are they dying physically, but something else is dying and it’s not being replaced. There is an absence, a poverty in our society that is growing and worth noting.

In recent years, the relationship among the generations has changed significantly. Today, grandparents live longer and take a much more functional role in the lives of their grandchildren. All of which is good. Grandparents after all are the best, least expensive baby-sitters and often they are happy to fill that role. But in filling that **functional role**, their **“being-role”** can be missed. They and we can overlook **their being**: their wisdom, greatness, experience and their going before us. This is a great tragedy, a real poverty of our modern day and we all feel it.

Pope Francis speaks often about this. His intention for this month of July is all about it. His intention reads as follows:

**For the elderly. We pray for the elderly, who represent the roots and memory of a people; may their experience and wisdom help young people to look towards the future with hope and responsibility.**

This Tuesday, July 26, we celebrate the Feast day of Jesus Grandparents: Sts. Joachim and Ann, the parents of Mary. We don’t know if Jesus ever met them or knew them. But we know that Jesus had them and Mary shared with Jesus stories about her mom and dad. What a grace there is in that sharing! How much wisdom, grace and life is gained in that way!

This week, I encourage you to consider not the function role but the being role of grandparents. If you are a grandparent, praise God and be a good one. If you have one and we all do, pray for them. If your grandparent is living, appreciate them this week. If deceased, still appreciate them. Mahammad Ghandi once said **“The true measure of society can be found in how it treats its most vulnerable members.”** May God have mercy on us for our failings in this regard! And may His Mercy inspire us even more as we live another week.

Peace,

Fr. Rogers



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