



PRAYER FOR THE FOURTH WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY

You who never leaves us alone
and who accompanies us through every season of life,
Do not abandon us, take care of us,
and grant us, once again, the ability to discover ourselves and
recognise that we are Your children.

Renew our hearts with your Word
and do not allow anyone to be cast aside.

May your Spirit of love fill us with Your tenderness
and teach us to say: "I will not abandon you!"

To those we meet on our journey.
With the help of your beloved Son,
may we not lose the taste for fraternity
and may we not conform to the sadness of loneliness.

Help us to look to the future with renewed hope,
and make the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly
a day without loneliness, and a day abundant with the
first-fruits of Your peace.

Amen.



From Psalm 71



...I have been as a portent to many;
but thou art my strong refuge.

My mouth is filled with thy praise,
and with thy glory all the day.

Do not cast me off in the time of old age;
forsake me not when my strength is spent...

...O God, from my youth, thou hast taught me,
and I still proclaim thy wondrous
deeds. So even to old age and grey
hairs, O God, do not forsake me,
till I proclaim thy might
to all the generations to come.

Thy power and thy righteousness, O God,
reach the high heavens...

“God never abandons his children, never. Even when our age advances and our powers decline, when our hair grows white and our role in society lessens, when our lives become less productive and can risk appearing useless. God does not regard appearances (cf. 1 Sam 16:7); he does not disdain to choose those who, to many people, may seem irrelevant. God discards no stone; indeed, the “oldest” are the firm foundation on which “new” stones can rest, in order to join in erecting a spiritual edifice (cf. 1 Peter 2:5).

Pope Francis