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BOLLETTINO

SALA STAMPA DELLA SANTA SEDE

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Press Release of the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life: Theme of the Fourth World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

The IV World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly will be celebrated on Sunday, 28 July 2024. The theme chosen by the Holy Father – “Do not cast me off in my old age” (cf. *Psalm* 71:9) – is meant to call attention to the fact that, sadly, loneliness is the bitter lot in life of many elderly persons, so often the victims of the throw-away culture.

In this year of preparation for the Jubilee, which the Holy Father wishes to be devoted to prayer, the theme of the World Day is taken from *Psalm* 71, the plea of an elderly person who reflects on the story of his friendship with God.

By cherishing the charisms of grandparents and the elderly, and the contribution they make to the life of the Church, the World Day seeks to support the efforts of every ecclesial community to forge bonds between the generations and to combat loneliness, in the awareness that – as Scripture states – “It is not good for man to be alone” (*Gen* 2:18).