

Scripture Reading: 1 Timothy 5:4

But if she has children or grandchildren, their first responsibility is to show godliness at home and repay their parents by taking care of them. This is something that pleases God.

My mother has been caring for people for over 60 years. She and my father had three children in relatively quick succession, and then my little brother was born when I was 23 years old. She discovered she was pregnant the day before my wedding!

By the time my little brother left home after college, my Grandma was in her 80s, and her health and ability to drive began rapidly deteriorating. My parents convinced her to move in with them, and she sold her car and residence. Grandma lived with them for 7 years when my father developed cancer. Then Grandma temporarily moved in with my aunt, and my mother cared for my Dad for 6 months until he passed away. After my Dad's funeral, 88-year-old Grandma moved back in with my Mom.

For the next 15 years, Grandma lived under my Mom's care until January 13, 2022, when she died at 103 years old. Grandma had been moved to a skilled care facility for the final month of her life. Still, my Mom visited Grandma every day, fed her meals, and instructed the nurses at the facility how to care for her. Of course, we all prayed that Grandma would pass in her sleep and not suffer a long and painful decline, and that happened. But Grandma had a good long life, mainly because of the selfless care that my mother gave her.

Mom has had someone else dependent on her for almost 63 years. Now that it is time for my siblings and I to take care of my mother, I hope she will accept the loving care we want to provide.

Prayer: God, thank you for the selfless people and the example they set for the rest of us. Please reward them for their godliness, help them inspire others, and open their hearts to the loving care that family and others want to provide them.

~ Submitted by Steve Delaney for the Second Reading of Lent.