

ELDERS PROJECT

Greetings:

My name is Sigifredo Crego. I am the Head Teacher of San Estanislao de Kostka, a school that belongs to the Society of Jesus.

I would like to tell you that in our school we consider intellectual development as something essential. We believe our students to be protagonists and for that purpose we use teaching methods that enhance a meaningful learning without ruling out discovery and perception. These methods help to achieve our commitment to promote Ignatian values: our students should be aware of the world they live in, proficient enough to work in it, compassionate so that they can worry about the problems closer to them and committed to improving the world around them.

That is the reason why, among all our projects, with three-year-old infants, we have decided to honour the oldest members of our education community: grandfathers and grandmothers.

They are the ones who have suffered the most – and still do – because of the pandemic. They have had to endure the harsh situation of being far from their grandchildren, from all their family and friends, when they would need them as close to them as possible. However, they have been able to adapt to this difficult situation, and in being strong, they are always ready to smile and to help their families in any way they can.

Because of our wish to honour them, our project was born. They have recorded some videos so that their grandchildren can see them in their classes, can get to know their stories and experiences and learn from them. The children have painted beautiful pictures, have talked about their grandparents. Our wish is for the children to know how grateful they must be, enjoying their tenderness, while they impatiently await for the moment the pandemic ends and they can hug and kiss them, and say a big THANK YOU, because we can never be grateful enough for everything they do for us when we are little.

There are some people who have helped us in our project: Mr. Ricardo Rivero – Rector of the University of Salamanca; Mrs. Isabel Macías, City Councillor of Elders; and our dear General Director of SAFA in Andalucía, Father Enrique Gómez-Puig, a former teacher in our school.

Thanks to all of them, and a special THANK YOU to our grandparents, who would never have imagined that one day they would record videos and become you-tubers, even if only beginners.

We also thank Amparo and Marta, teachers of our three-year-old infants, because of their dedication, determination and commitment to the comprehensive education of the little ones. This encourages us to go on working for a better world, fair and equal

for all. They know, without any doubt, that when their infants go home, they will be not only wiser, but better people.