

A Generous Lap

A Spirituality of Grandparenting

KATHY COFFEY

ORBIS  BOOKS
Maryknoll, New York 10545

The publishing arm of the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, Orbis seeks to explore the global dimensions of the Christian faith and mission, to invite dialogue with diverse cultures and religious traditions, and to serve the cause of reconciliation and peace. The books published reflect the views of their authors and do not represent the official position of the Maryknoll Society. To learn more about Maryknoll and Orbis Books, please visit our website at www.orbisbooks.com.

Copyright © 2023 by Kathy Coffey.

Published by Orbis Books, Box 302, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0302.

All rights reserved.

Excerpts from *Turn Thanks: Poems* by Lorna Goodison. Copyright 1999 by Lorna Goodison. Used with permission of the University of Illinois Press.

“The Letter,” from Billy Elliot. Music by Elton John. Lyrics by Lee Hall. Copyright © 2005 WAB Mgt. Ltd. and Universal Music Publishing Ltd. All Rights for WAB Mgt. Ltd. in the U.S. and Canada controlled and administered by Universal – Songs of Polygram International, Inc. All Rights for Universal Music Publishing Ltd. in the U.S. and Canada controlled and administered by Universal – Polygram International, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Reprinted by permission of Hal Leonard LLC

No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or any information storage or retrieval system, without prior permission in writing from the publisher.

Queries regarding rights and permissions should be addressed to: Orbis Books, P.O. Box 302, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0302.

Manufactured in the United States of America.

Manuscript editing and typesetting by Joan Weber Laflamme.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Coffey, Kathy, author.

Title: A generous lap : a spirituality of grandparenting / Kathy Coffey.

Description: Maryknoll, NY : Orbis Books, [2023] |

Identifiers: LCCN 2023007275 (print) | LCCN 2023007276 (ebook) |

ISBN 9781626985315 | ISBN 9781608339891 (epub)

Subjects: LCSH: Grandparents—Religious life. | Grandparenting—Religious aspects—Christianity.

Classification: LCC BV4528.5 .C63 2023 (print) | LCC BV4528.5 (ebook) | DDC 248.8/45—dc23/eng/20230426

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2023007275>

LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2023007276>

Contents

INTRODUCTION	1
<i>“EXCLUSIVE INVITATION”—POEM</i>	9
1. THE SPIRITUAL SIDE	11
2. WHO WE ARE FOR THEM	25
3. WHO THEY ARE FOR US	43
4. SEASONED—THE VOICES OF EXPERTS	59
5. FINE MODELS	85
6. STRONG SUITS AND PRACTICAL STRATEGIES	115
7. A “CUPPA” WITH GOD	133
<i>“POISED, PRE-READING”—POEM</i>	143