

Pope Francis loves the elderly and, from the beginning of his pontificate, and on numerous occasions, he has emphasized their indispensable role in dialogue with young people, in the transmission of the faith and in the youths' rediscovery of their own roots.

Faced with the lengthening of the average life and the aging of the population, Pope Francis affirmed that "even Christian spirituality was caught a little by surprise" and hoped for a renewed ecclesial reflection on what he called *the blessing of a long life*.

The Holy Father has asked the elderly to become protagonists and "not to pull back the oars into the boat". This period of life is different from the previous ones...we must therefore, also 'invent it' a little".

The first International Conference on the pastoral care of the elderly "The richness of many years of life" is the response of the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life to this calling of the Holy Father.

The meeting will focus on how to deal with the culture of discarding the elderly, their role in the family and their particular vocation in the Church. The Holy Father will receive the participants at a Special Audience.

Representatives of Episcopal Conferences, religious congregations, associations and lay movements from around the world involved in the pastoral care of the elderly are invited to the congress.

The richness of many years of life

International Conference
on the pastoral care of the elderly

Rome, January 29-31, 2020

Centro congressi "Augustinianum"
Via Paolo VI, 25 - 00193 Roma

Congress registration

bit.ly/congress-elderly



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The richness of many years of life

International Conference
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ROME, JANUARY 29-31, 2020

Programme

#ELDERLYCONGRESS



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2020

1° Session The Church with and for the Elderly

Moderator: *Philip Pullella* – Senior Correspondent for Reuters, Italy and Vatican

13:30 Registration

15:00 Introductory Prayer

15:15 **Introduction**
The Church and the Elderly
Card. *Kevin Farrell* – Prefect of the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life

15:30 **The Age of Longevity**
Giuseppe De Rita – President of Censis

16:00 **The Elderly, Richness for the Church**
Marco Impagliazzo – President of the Community of Sant'Egidio

16:30 Coffee Break

17:00 **Round Table**
The Church with and for the Elderly
- H.E. the Most Rev. *Antonio Peruzzo* – Archbishop of Curitiba, Brazil
- Fr. *Moises Lucondo*, O.F.M. Cap. – Senior Centre Martyrs of Love, Huambo, Angola

17:30 Discussion

18:30 Closing of the Working Session

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 2020

2° Session Family and the Elderly

Moderator: *Cristiane Murray* – Vice Director of the Holy See Press Office

9:00 **Family and the Elderly**
Donatella Bramanti – Catholic University of Sacred Heart, Milan

9:30 **The Dialogue between Generations**
Maria Voce – President of the Focolare Movement

10:00 **The Elderly, a generation to accompany spiritually**
Monique Bodhuin – President of Vie Montante International

10:30 Discussion

11:00 Coffee Break

11:30 **Round Table**
The Elderly: a Challenge and an Opportunity for the Family
- *Catherine Wiley* – President and Founder of the Catholic Grandparents Association, Ireland
- *Giovanni Paolo Ramonda* – President of Pope John XXIII Community Association, Italy

12:15 Discussion

13:00 Closing of the Working Session

3° Session The Vocation of the Elderly

Moderator: *Piero Damosso* – Journalist, Central Managing Editor TgI RAI

15:00 **The Vocation of the Elderly within the Church**
Card. *José Tolentino de Mendonça* – Archivist and librarian of the Holy Roman Church

15:30 **The spirituality of the Elderly and the roots of the holy faithful people of God**
Fr. *Alexandre Awi*, I.Sch – Secretary of the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life

16:00 Discussion

16:30 Coffee Break

17:00 **Round Table**
We must invent old age
- *Mario Noguer* – Caritas Chile
- *Mary Cohen* – Senior Ministry, Archdiocese of Atlanta, USA
- *Peter Kevern* – Staffordshire University, UK

17:45 **The Pastoral Care of the Elderly in ordinary pastoral care**
Maria Elisa Petrelli – Responsible for the Pastoral Care of the Elderly of the Episcopal Conference of Argentina

18:00 Discussion

18:30 **Conclusions - Towards a Pastoral Care of the Elderly**
Gabriella Gambino – Under-Secretary of the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 2020

9:00 **Holy Mass** at St Peter's Basilica

12:00 **Audience with the Holy Father**