

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



Info: events@laityfamilylife.va

+39 06 69869300

  @laityfamilylife

The richness of many years of life

International Conference
on the pastoral care of the elderly

ROME, JANUARY 29-31, 2020

Programme

#ELDERLYCONGRESS



WEDNESDAY JANUARY 29, 2020

1° Session The Church with and for the Elderly

14.30 Congress 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**

17.45 Discussion

18.30 Closing of the Working Session

THURSDAY JANUARY 30, 2020

2° Session Family and the Elderly

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 Discussion

10.30 Coffee Break

11.00 **Round Table**
**The Elderly: a Challenge
and an Opportunity for the Family**

12.15 Discussion

13.00 Closing of the Working Session

3° Session The Vocation of the Elderly

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 Elderly and the Roots
of the Faithful People of God**

16.00 Discussion

16.30 Coffee Break

17.00 **Round Table**
We must invent old age

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**
Rev. Fr. *Alexandre Awi Mello*, I.Sch.
- Secretary of the Dicastery for the Laity,
Family and Life

18.45 Closing of the Working Session

FRIDAY JANUARY 31, 2020

9.00 Holy Mass

12.00 **Audience with the Holy Father**