

# Health & Retirement

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In any case, the meeting recommended regular contact between the aged and the rest of their families. The education of

children should include a "positive vision of our elders," it said.

At the same time, governments should create institutions that support private initiatives aimed at helping the aged. Legislation should offer the elderly the security they deserve.

## Caregiving

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Williams added that Medicaid and Medicare can often have to be sources of payment for such programs if a patient's family is unable to finance such care themselves.

Meanwhile, the Malvasos and their daughter pointed out that families of Alzheimer's patients

must keep a sense of humor about the disease and how it affects home life.

In particular, Hurley recalled her grandmother staying overnight at her home, only to wake Hurley up. As she stood in the doorway to the young woman's bedroom, the grandmother appeared to have a strange look in her eyes.

"It crept me out," Hurley said. "She had her fist

The statement warned against overlooking the potential contributions of the elderly. It noted that only a small percentage of the elderly risk senility, and many today are able to use their faculties well into old age.

clenched."

Then Hurley realized that her fear was unwarranted.

"She had \$5 in her hand that she wanted to give me for letting her stay with me," Hurley said as she smiled.

For information on caregiving and Alzheimer's, call the Alzheimer's Disease and Referral Center at 1-800/438-4380, or the National Alzheimer's Association Helpline at 800/272-3900.

## Bishops

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spend a week on the water than twice as long in the mountains or the seashore. I wouldn't know what to do with myself on the seashore."

His favorite project is close to home — St. Mary Magdalen

Church, next door to the chancery in Louisville. He celebrates Mass there on weekends. "My parents were married there," the bishop said. "It means something to me."

Retired Bishop Gerald F. O'Keefe of Davenport, Iowa, hasn't had a lot of practice at being retired; he stepped down fairly recently.

"I'm reading, I'm praying — a lot of praying. I help out, mostly in convents, when anybody needs me," he said. "The thing I look forward to is helping out."

He dismisses the cachet accorded him as a bishop when he assists at parishes. "They say, 'Oh, what a great honor,'" Bishop O'Keefe said, but "I'm just helping out."

"Every elderly person is a child of God, rich in experience and wisdom, to whom the present generations owe so much," it said. It recommended that governments and institutions set up educational centers for the elderly, so they can pursue studies that allow them to be socially active.

The church should not overlook the contributions of the el-

derly, either, the statement said. Older people can bring spiritual energies and experience to parish evangelization programs and associations.

The statement said the spiritual needs of the aged also need greater attention by the church. Often these needs are neglected or improperly understood, and "entertainment can easily become a substitute for meeting these needs," it said.

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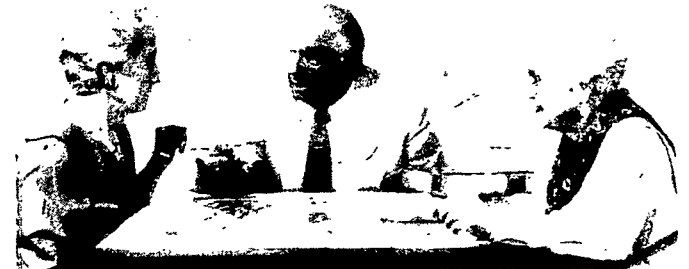
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