

When Pope Francis gave his first general audience after two years of Covid restrictions, he spoke to the people in St. Peter's Square on April 20, 2022. He spoke of abuse of the elderly: to "despise the elderly and cast them from life, to put them aside, to put them down" and dishonor that is shown when roughness and abuse replace delicacy and affection, tenderness and respect.



The Holy Father noted the Commandment to honor our father and mother is the first of the Commandments that deal with how we treat our neighbor and that "an attitude of condescension—and even contempt—for the elderly, for their weaknesses and their precariousness, produces horrible things."

Pope Francis asked parents to foster in their children an honor for the elderly that will transform how they view life and its stages. He concluded: "Love for the human person that is common to us, including honoring a life lived...is an ambition that will bring radiance to the youth who inherit its best qualities. May the wisdom of God's Spirit grant us to open the horizon of this true cultural revolution with the necessary energy."

In the words of Venerable Mary Angeline Teresa, O.Carm. who consistently encouraged kindness to the elderly "Our concern and dedication for the old people is the expression of our love for God."