



Newsletter – January 2022

CFSM Singapore
2 Highland Road, #03-12
Singapore 549102

Website: <http://www.cfsm.org.sg>
Contact email: cfsmsg@gmail.com

Elderly At Work

SEE

In Singapore it is acceptable to consider men and women who are 60 years old and above as elderly or sometimes known as senior citizens. However, there are some men and women who consider themselves elderly or aged only when they are in the late 70s or in their 80s. We can find the elderly in the 60s, 70s and 80s and even 90s in our own families, amongst our relatives, in our neighbourhood and also in our parish. Some of them are retired and some still working. Some are looked after by family members or relatives or caregivers and some live alone in their flats. Some are single while some living with their equally elderly spouses. A number of them are in Homes for the Elderly and Nursing Homes. Depending on the Covid-19 measures currently in place, family members, relatives and caregivers may or may not be able to visit them.

According to the Ministry of Manpower website, in 2010, 83.5% of the working population was aged 15 to 54 years old. 16.5% was aged 55 and older. In 2020, 74.3% was aged 15 to 54 and 25.7% was aged 55 and older. We can see an increase in the older section of the Singapore society in the working population. One can easily come up with a valid explanation for this increase in older workers such as cost of living, medical costs, need to stand on one's own feet, neglect by children, etc. Furthermore, one school of thought believes that the elderly are "forced" to resign from their current jobs by the pressures imposed on them by their employers. This results in these seniors being removed from their company after working there for a long time. In addition, in some families, some the seniors have to work to support their unemployed children, or children with special needs. The seniors are usually the care-givers for such children. Some are retrenched due to bad times in the Singapore economy. Financial Planners have stated that many seniors have not planned for their retirement when they were young. This failure resulted in financial woes in old age. This is further compounded when the economy turns bad or they do not receive support from their children or other family members.

We must however note that the Singapore Government has various schemes to the help the family, medical and financial needs of the elderly such as the CPF Life, Silver

Housing Bonus (SHB), Community Health Assist Scheme (CHAS), Caregivers Training Grant (CTG), etc.



Case 1

Mr. X, 85, food court cleaner, works 3pm to 11pm. He said he has children but he like to smoke and drink and so he works to support his habit and enjoy life. He does not ask his children for money.

Case 2

Mr. Y, 67, has been working since the age of 13. He did courses at the Employment and Employability Institute and now draws \$1,000 per month, working as a gardener, Monday to Friday.

Case 3

The writer's uncle, Mr. Z, is a pensioner. He is aged 82. He has medical issues. Yet he has to look after his mentally incapacitated nephew aged 40. His nephew's parents have passed on and the nephew has no siblings. Fortunately, Mr. Henry's children are helping him out.

JUDGE

Personal Reflection

1. How do I feel about the elderly and aged still working?
2. How can I personally help to alleviate the situation?

Christian Reflection:

1. From a Catholic's point of view, should the elderly work?
2. What does the bible, our Catholic Social Teachings and the Vatican documents tell us about this situation?
3. Can you recount any instances of such a situation in the bible?

ACT

1. How can you as a CFSM member do for the elderly?
2. What can the Movement do to help the elderly? For example, can we as a Movement make a regular financial donation to the Homes?
3. How can you help the elderly parishioners in your parish?

Announcements

1. CFSM Executive Committee will have their Annual Review from 14 January 2022 to 16 January 2022. Please pray for the Committee.
2. CFSM Annual General Meeting is scheduled to be held on 5 March 2022.
Further details will be released in due course.