1.4 FROM AGE TO AGE

CHALLENGES

Every stage of a family's life cycle is characterized by specific developmental milestones, involving continuous reworking of the relationships between the couple, as well as the parents-children, adult children-elderly parents and grandparents-grandchildren relationships.

Nowadays, providing care represents a challenge upon which the well-being of individuals and families is being played out.

SUGGESTIONS

Suggestions must take into account all actors involved in the family network and involve all generations: young children, adults and the elderly.

Caring for loved ones is a right/duty that should be guaranteed throughout the entire life cycle of the family.

SPECIFIC ACTIONS

• enhancing the family member's own resources and preventing new problems

• enhancing the Church's contribution

• formation for families on the tasks for providing care and education

• intra-generational dialogue between siblings in their caring duties toward their parents

• promoting family associationism

• supporting the needs of the more fragile families in organizing, managing and providing care

• simplifying how to provide public services to the elderly

• home-based services for the care of non-self-sufficient people and co-housing

Guidelines for family-focused university research

Further research should be conducted on:

- intergenerational dimension of public policies and effective models in this field

- intergenerational communication of family lifestyles, values, family patterns

- economic impact of breaking intergenerational ties between different generations and caregiving relationships

- conception, design and evaluation of intergenerational interventions and services

- cost-effective models for extending paternity and maternity leaves

- family-oriented models of care (e.g., co-housing) instead of pure welfarism

- abuse of the elderly and abandonment and economic poverty

- psychological and social motivations that encourage the elderly to seek euthanasia

- migration and the effects in terms of tearing apart intergenerational ties

FAMILY
GLOBAL
COMPACT