

Caring for the congregation, as expressed by U.S. Bishops in their 1999 pastoral message, *Blessings of Age*:

- Older people are providers, not just recipients, of pastoral care.
- Older people themselves should help to identify their pastoral needs and decide how they are met.
- Older people are as diverse, if not more so, than other generational groups.
- Older people need a mix of activities that connect them with each other as well as the larger community.
- Spiritual health affects and is affected by the individual's physical, emotional, mental, and social health. Although the faith community is especially concerned about meeting spiritual needs, it cannot ignore these other realities.

Excerpted from "Aging Catholic Clergy: A Silver Lining Revealed," Fr. Robert Rost, *Generations*, Summer 2008.