



Newsletter- December 2023

CFSM Singapore

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ABUSE OF THE ELDERLY

SEE

It was reported in the Straits Times dated July 10 2023 that about one in 10 applications for a personal protection order (PPO) was by parents seeking security from their own children. The paper further stated that this figure has remained “relatively constant over the past five years”.

Abuse of the elderly can be physical, emotional, non-verbal, or neglect. Apart from children, the culprits can be the siblings, caregivers. Caregivers can be relatives or the domestic maid.

The above paper also reported the following cases:

Case One:

A 15-year old boy, diagnosed with social anxiety, was having a turbulent time at school. Not only did he get in trouble with his teachers for turning up late for school and not doing his homework, but he also had conflicts with his friends. Eventually, he stopped attending school. His parents tried to talk to him, but to no avail. One day, as his mother was telling him that he was making her life difficult he hit her on the head.

Case Two:

A 15-year old teen was so immersed in the world of gaming that he stopped going to school. One night, his father asked him to go out with the family for dinner. When the teen did not respond, his father threatened to turn off the house's wi-fi. The boy, who towered over his father and weighed over 100kg, retaliated by pushing the older man to the ground.

Case: Three:

A 14-year old boy with an internet gaming disorder harboured thoughts of killing his father for restricting his access to computer games. He eventually stabbed his father in the neck and the father died. The boy was accordingly charged and convicted and sentenced to five years' detention.

Apart from physical and mental illnesses, financial difficulties, lack of regular communication and quality time spent with children can also give rise to frictions between parents and children. Overloading the domestic helper with household work and treating the helper unreasonably can also cause the helper to break down. Care-givers can really be "burnt out".

According to La Croix International (publication dated 15 November 2023) the World Health Organization estimates that 1 in 6 people aged over 60 suffers from abuse – that means nearly 141 million people globally. This number might be much higher as abuse of the elderly is often hidden and under – reported.

Causes and Consequences

1. What are the causes that give rise to the abuse of the elderly?
2. What are the consequences of such abuse?

JUDGE

Personal Reflection:

1. How do I feel about the abuse of the elderly?
2. Am I guilty of any such abuse? Or did I encounter such cases before?
What was my reaction?

Christian Reflection:

1. What would our Lord Jesus say in the above reality?
2. What does the gospels, encyclicals and the Catholic Social Teachings of the Church say about abuse of the elderly?

ACT

1. What can I do to stop such abuse in my home, my neighbourhood, my parish and my society?
2. How can our Movement encourage the youth to respect the elderly?

Announcements

1. CFSM Exco and Base Group Leaders Retreat 2024

To Be Held on 12, 13 and 14 January 2024

12 January 2024 at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour at 8 pm

13 and 14 January 2024 at St Francis Xavier Major Seminary at Upper Bukit Timah Road (Full Day)

All base group leaders are invited for the session on Saturday 13 January 2024.

2. CFSM Member's Subscription Fee for Year 2024

As we draw to the end of 2023, the CFSM community seeks your generous support for the 2024 annual subscription of \$20 per family. This will help us to fulfill our mission to build God's Kingdom in Christian families by defraying our costs for the upcoming activities next year. Thank you and God bless. Please send your fees and donations to (please indicate your name and base group):

Christian Family & Social Movement

Account No: 04090521984

Bank: Maybank Limited



*Father Dominique
Deme and the
CFSM Exco wish all
CFSM members
and their families
a Blessed and Holy
Christmas 2023*