

## Feeling Old?

rfm

Are you beginning to feel old and not yet feeling any sense of accomplishment in life? Consider the examples below and take heart!

Genesis tells us the Abram( who became Abraham) was 75 when he set out with Sarai and Lot for the land of Canaan.

Abraham was 100 when Isaac was born. Deuteronomy says that Moses was 120 at his death.

Commodore Vanderbilt added 100 million dollars to his fortune between the ages of 75 and 83.

Kant wrote his philosophical masterpiece at 74.

Tintoretto painted his biggest and most famous canvas when he was 75.

Verdi was 85 when he wrote "Ave Maria"

Cato decided to study Greek when he was 80.

Goethe was also 80 when he finished *Faust*.

Titian painted his historic "The Battle of Lepanto" when he was 96.

Tony Bennett won a Grammy at 77.

A few years ago Marv Levy was hired as the Buffalo Bill's General Manager and he was 80. Ralph Wilson, owner, 87, says Marv only looks about 70, and his IQ is probably twice that.

Ronald Regan was President at 78. Thurmond served in the Senate at 100.

When the democrats took over the House and Senate in 2006, key committee chairs were of ages: 72,74,63(Biden who is now VP),78,66,77,88,68,74,61,65,57.

Unfortunately employer's attitudes toward older workers are mixed and the Federal Government receives 15,000 to 20,000 discrimination complaints in a year. The Discrimination Act enacted in 1967 protected workers from mandatory retirement until age 65;in 1978 it was raised to 70 and then age was eliminated in 1986.

The Bible has some interesting examples of old age as noted above, and others as well. When Eleazar, one of the foremost scribes, a man of advanced age and noble appearance, was threatened with torture and death *he made up his mind in a noble manner, worthy of his years, the dignity of his advanced age, the merited distinction of his gray hair, and of the admirable life he had lived from childhood; and so he declared that above all he would be loyal to the holy laws given by God.*(2Mc 6:20-24)

There seem to be many examples of secular successes for the elderly but we appear to have forgotten the faith, deeds, and good works of the many older faithful Christians. And there are those who believe they have wasted much of their lives and feel it is useless to turn to God when they are so near the end.

On the contrary there is hope and there is an interesting parable told by Jesus concerning laborers in a vineyard (Matthew 20:1-13). Workers were hired by the owner early in the morning, the 3rd hour, the 6th hour, the 9th hour and the 11th hour. Those brought in last were paid first, a reversal of the sequence in which they were hired. Expectations were simply shattered as the owner was so generous as to pay those who worked the least hours the same wage as those who worked the complete day. Now imagine the work in the vineyard your life's work and consider the payoff! A clear message that Jesus does not discriminate against age and his call to come to the Father holds without fail where ever you are and whatever your past is, so simply forget the time constraints and do the best you can and the Holy Spirit will guide you.

Fr. Peter M. Rookie, 94, gives us the Miracle Prayer and suggests it be said daily.

Lord Jesus, I come before you just as I am.

I am sorry for my sins, I repent of my sins,

Please forgive me.

In your name I forgive all others

for what they have done to me.

I renounce Satan, all evil spirits and their works.

I give you my entire self, Lord Jesus, now and forever.

I invite you into my life Jesus,

I accept you as my Lord, my God, and my Savior.

Please heal me, change me, strengthen me

in body, soul, mind, and spirit.

Come Lord Jesus, cover me with your sacred and precious blood,

fill me with your Holy Spirit,

I love you, Lord Jesus, I praise you Jesus,

I thank you Jesus, I shall follow you

every day of my life. Amen.

(Do a Google search on Miracle Prayer and you can hear Fr. Rookie give this prayer on youtube)