

PASTORAL VISIT OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS
TO PIETRELCINA AND TO SAN GIOVANNI ROTONDO,
ON THE 50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE SAINTS DEATH
MEETING WITH THE FAITHFUL
ADDRESS OF HIS HOLINESS

Square in front of the liturgical hall, Pietrelcina
Saturday, 17 March 2018

[Link](#)

[...] The internal migration of young people is a problem. Pray to Our Lady that she may give you the grace that the young may find work here, among you, near the family, and that they are not compelled to go away and search elsewhere, leaving the town to decline. The population ages, but this is a treasure, the elderly are a treasure! Please, do not marginalize the elderly. The elderly must not be marginalized, no. The elderly have wisdom. And may the elderly learn to converse with the youth and may the young learn to talk to the elderly. They know the village, the elderly. When I arrived I had the pleasure of greeting a man of 99 years, and a woman of 97, a youngster. Wonderful! They are your wisdom! Talk to them. May they be the protagonists of the growth of this town. May the intercession of your Saint and fellow citizens support the intention of joining forces, so as to offer to the young generations in particular concrete perspectives for a future of hope. May caring attention, full of tenderness, not be lacking — as I said, — for the elderly, who are the wealth of our communities. It would be good if for once, the Nobel Prize were to be awarded to the elderly who retain humanity's memory..[...]