

friends. I go to church for religious reasons rather than for social contact. My grandmother went to shop at stores where she was well known and carefully served. I shop at the supermarket. Occasionally grandmother went on a journey to visit a relative a few hundred miles away. I live in Connecticut and commute to Washington and Philadelphia and Baltimore, driving alone over thru-ways and parkways and tunnels and over-heads to teach, to help revise home economics curricula, to attend endless committee meetings, incidentally meeting people from many places and of many qualities.

Grandmother's life was strangely contrasted to mine in that she lived in her home and her community; I have been thrown into many activities and live in the wide, wide world. Yet fundamentally we had much in common—similarities of tastes, sensitivities, abilities, strength of interest, the same imagination and quality of intelligence. But my life hasn't followed the lines of my adored grandmother's. It has a different tempo, a different kind of service, a different sense of achievement. And necessarily circumstances have led us to develop different attitudes. There are tremendous differences in the performances, the work, the play, the family life of grandmother's life and mine.

It may be a challenge to you in your preparation for the future to know that there will be greater differences between your way of living and mine, than between mine and my grandmother's. For instance in my electric stove I have a burner with a brain—thermostat control. I have to know how it works and what utensils to

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A PRAYER ON GROWING OLDER

Lord, Thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing older, and will some day be old.

Keep me from getting talkative, and particularly from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion.

Release me from craving to try to straighten out everybody's affairs.

Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details—give me wings to get me to the point.

I ask for grace enough to listen to the tales of others' pains. Help me to endure them with patience.

But seal my lips on my own aches and pains—they are increasing and my love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by.

Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally it is possible that I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet; I do not want to be a saint—some of them are hard to live with—but a sour old woman is one of the crowning works of the devil.

Make me thoughtful, but not moody; helpful, but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all—but Thou knowest, Lord, I want a few friends at the end.

Prayer composed by an unnamed Mother Superior, and quoted by Thomas E. Dewey of New York.

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use. You will have to know this and more—probably you will be cooking by electronics.

You have two big learning jobs ahead of you—learning to live and learning to make a living. In learning to live you need a cultural education for the enrichment of life—something of reading, music and art or the appreciation of these. This can be ours but only if you work and study. You will need to develop a competence in homemaking so that you can have better food, better clothing, a better place to live than you could have without these skills. Learning to make a living means gaining efficiency in a vocational field for gainful employment. You will have more vocations to choose from than I had, and more jobs to choose from. That adds another responsibility. For to get the most from a vocation it is important that you choose work that will bring you a money income, that will be a joy to do, and that will be of service. Also choose work for which you have abilities—for example if you have not an aptitude for manual skills do not choose a vocation in which these are required.

But there are skills we will all need as women in our homes. One of the first of these is caring for children. The hours for this work have not changed with the years but knowledge has, with new skills following. Automation with all its new household appliances requires the homemaker to be something of a mechanic to understand her equipment and to know how to use and care for it. In clothing, the production line turns out a woman's cotton suit in less than six minutes. It may be that the home dressmaker can not compete with the production line in making the same sort of cotton suit; but the woman who is a skilled dressmaker can compete in turning out a piece of creative work in clothing. It is in this creative work, this work for beauty in clothing and home furnishing that our skills are important.

The homemaker of the future must know more and more about how to spend money. If we are going to be good buyers we must learn to resist high pressure advertising. One motorist with a car radio reports being subjected to a tooth paste advertisement one hundred and ninety-two times in a half day's journey.

But perhaps more important than anything else in the business of homemaking are the homemaker's own attitudes—her understanding of herself, her ability to get along with others, the rapport she is able to establish in the family. Of all people the homemaker needs education in the behavior sciences.

My grandmother would not have talked about education to help you make a living—she did not approve of girls working for a living; but I am concerned about it. In 1951 one out of every four women in the United States was gainfully employed at one or more times during her life. This was not entirely due to necessity; some of the reasons married women worked were to buy extra comforts for the family, or because extra funds were needed at expensive times in the family cycle, or in the case of wealthy women, for the satisfaction of achievement.

In my youth we worked before marriage. Now many girls marry before there is time for work