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METLIFE INC
Form S-3
May 18, 2001

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AS FILED WITH THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION ON MAY 18, 2001.
REGISTRATION NO. 333-

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM S-3
REGISTRATION STATEMENT
UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

METLIFE, INC.
(EXACT NAME OF REGISTRANT AS SPECIFIED IN ITS CHARTER)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| DELAWARE (STATE OR OTHER JURISDICTION OF INCORPORATION OR ORGANIZATION) | 6719 (PRIMARY STANDARD INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION CODE NUMBER) | 13-4075851 (I.R.S. EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NO.) |
|---|---|---|

METLIFE CAPITAL TRUST II
(EXACT NAME OF REGISTRANT AS SPECIFIED IN ITS CHARTER)

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| DELAWARE (STATE OR OTHER JURISDICTION OF INCORPORATION OR ORGANIZATION) | 6719 (PRIMARY STANDARD INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION CODE NUMBER) | (TO BE APPLIED FOR) (I.R.S. EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NO.) |
|---|---|--|

METLIFE CAPITAL TRUST III
(EXACT NAME OF REGISTRANT AS SPECIFIED IN ITS CHARTER)

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| DELAWARE (STATE OR OTHER JURISDICTION OF INCORPORATION OR ORGANIZATION) | 6719 (PRIMARY STANDARD INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION CODE NUMBER) | (TO BE APPLIED FOR) (I.R.S. EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NO.) |
|---|---|--|

ONE MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10010-3690
(212) 578-2211
(ADDRESS, INCLUDING ZIP CODE, AND TELEPHONE NUMBER, INCLUDING AREA CODE,
OF REGISTRANT'S PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICES)

GARY A. BELLER, ESQ.
SENIOR EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT AND GENERAL COUNSEL

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METLIFE, INC.
ONE MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10010-3690
(212) 578-2211
(NAME, ADDRESS, INCLUDING ZIP CODE, AND TELEPHONE NUMBER,
INCLUDING AREA CODE, OF AGENT FOR SERVICE)

COPY TO:
PHYLLIS G. KORFF, ESQ.
SUSAN J. SUTHERLAND, ESQ.
SKADDEN, ARPS, SLATE, MEAGHER & FLOM LLP
FOUR TIMES SQUARE
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10036-6522
(212) 735-3000

APPROXIMATE DATE OF COMMENCEMENT OF PROPOSED SALE TO THE PUBLIC: From time to time after the effective date of this Registration Statement as determined by the registrants

If the only securities being registered on this Form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box. []

If any of the securities being registered on this Form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box. [X]

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. []

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. []

If delivery of the prospectus is expected to be made pursuant to Rule 434, please check the following box. []

THE REGISTRANTS HEREBY AMEND THIS REGISTRATION STATEMENT ON SUCH DATE OR DATES AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO DELAY ITS EFFECTIVE DATE UNTIL THE REGISTRANTS SHALL FILE A FURTHER AMENDMENT WHICH SPECIFICALLY STATES THAT THIS REGISTRATION STATEMENT SHALL THEREAFTER BECOME EFFECTIVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 8(a) OF THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933 OR UNTIL THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE ON SUCH DATE AS THE COMMISSION, ACTING PURSUANT TO SAID SECTION 8(a), MAY DETERMINE.

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| TITLE OF EACH CLASS OF SECURITIES TO BE REGISTERED | AMOUNT TO BE REGISTERED | PROPOSED MAXIMUM OFFERING PRICE PER UNIT (1) (2) | PROPOSED MAX AGGREGATE OFFERING PRICE |
|--|-------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| Debt Securities of MetLife, Inc. (4)..... | -- | -- | -- |
| Preferred Stock of MetLife, Inc., \$0.01 par value (5)..... | -- | -- | -- |
| Common Stock of MetLife, Inc., \$0.01 par value, including Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock purchase rights attached thereto (6)..... | -- | -- | -- |
| Trust Preferred Securities of MetLife Capital Trust II and MetLife Capital Trust III..... | -- | -- | -- |
| Guarantees of MetLife, Inc. with respect to the Trust Preferred Securities of MetLife Capital Trust II and MetLife Capital Trust III (7)..... | -- | -- | -- |
| TOTAL..... | \$4,000,000,000 | 100% | \$4,000,000,000 |

(1) The proposed maximum offering price per unit will be determined from time to time by the registrants in connection with the issuance by the registrants of the securities registered hereunder.

(2) Estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee pursuant to Rule 457 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended. The aggregate public offering price of all securities registered hereby will not exceed \$4,000,000,000 or the equivalent thereof on the date of issuance in one or more foreign currencies, foreign currency units or composite currencies. Such amount represents the issue price rather than the principal amount of any debt securities issued at an original issue discount.

(3) Exclusive of accrued interest, distributions and dividends, if any.

(4) Including such indeterminate principal amount of debt securities as may, from time, be issued (i) at indeterminate prices or (ii) upon conversion or exchanges of securities registered hereunder to the extent any such securities are, by their terms, convertible into or exchangeable for debt securities.

(5) Including such indeterminate number of shares of preferred stock as may, from time to time, be issued (i) at indeterminate prices or (ii) upon conversion or exchange of securities registered hereunder, to the extent any such securities are, by their terms, convertible into or exchangeable for preferred stock.

(6) Including such indeterminate number of shares of common stock as may,

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from time to time, be issued (i) at indeterminate prices or (ii) upon conversion or exchange of securities registered hereunder, to the extent any such securities are, by their terms, convertible into or exchangeable for common stock. The Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock purchase rights initially are attached to and trade with all the shares of common stock outstanding as of, and issued subsequent to, April 4, 2000, pursuant to the terms of the Company's Rights Agreement, dated as of April 4, 2000. Until the occurrence of certain prescribed events, the rights are not exercisable, are evidenced by the certificates for the common stock and will be transferred only with the common stock. The value attributable to such rights, if any, is reflected in the market price of the common stock.

- (7) MetLife, Inc. is also registering under this registration statement all other obligations that it may have with respect to Trust Preferred Securities issued by MetLife Capital Trust II and MetLife Capital Trust III. No separate consideration will be received for any Guarantee or any such other obligations.

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THE INFORMATION IN THIS PROSPECTUS IS NOT COMPLETE AND MAY BE CHANGED. METLIFE, INC., METLIFE CAPITAL TRUST II AND METLIFE CAPITAL TRUST III MAY NOT SELL THESE SECURITIES UNTIL THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT FILED WITH THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION IS EFFECTIVE. THIS PROSPECTUS IS NOT AN OFFER TO SELL THESE SECURITIES AND IT IS NOT SOLICITING AN OFFER TO BUY THESE SECURITIES IN ANY STATE WHERE THE OFFER OR SALE IS NOT PERMITTED.

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED _____, 2001

PROSPECTUS

\$4,000,000,000

METLIFE, INC.

DEBT SECURITIES, PREFERRED STOCK AND COMMON STOCK

METLIFE CAPITAL TRUST II
METLIFE CAPITAL TRUST III
TRUST PREFERRED SECURITIES

FULLY AND UNCONDITIONALLY GUARANTEED BY METLIFE, INC.,
AS SET FORTH HEREIN

MetLife, Inc., MetLife Capital Trust II and MetLife Capital Trust III will provide the specific terms of these securities in supplements to this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement carefully before you make your investment decision.

THIS PROSPECTUS MAY NOT BE USED TO SELL SECURITIES UNLESS ACCOMPANIED BY A PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT.

MetLife, Inc., MetLife Capital Trust II and MetLife Capital Trust III may offer securities through underwriting syndicates managed or co-managed by one or more underwriters, or directly to purchasers. The prospectus supplement for each offering of securities will describe in detail the plan of distribution for that offering. For general information about the distribution of securities offered, please see "Plan of Distribution" in this prospectus.

MetLife, Inc.'s common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the trading symbol "MET".

None of the Securities and Exchange Commission, any state securities

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commission, the New York Superintendent of Insurance or any other regulatory body has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus or the accompanying prospectus supplement is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The date of this prospectus is _____, 2001

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ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

Unless otherwise stated or the context otherwise requires, references in this prospectus to "MetLife," "we," "our," or "us" refer to MetLife, Inc., together with Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, and their respective direct and indirect subsidiaries, while references to "MetLife, Inc." refer only to the holding company on a nonconsolidated basis. References in this prospectus to the "trusts" refer to MetLife Capital Trust II and MetLife Capital Trust III.

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that MetLife, Inc., MetLife Capital Trust II and MetLife Capital Trust III filed with the SEC using a "shelf" registration process. Under this shelf process, MetLife, Inc. may, from time to time, sell any combination of debt securities, preferred stock and common stock, and MetLife Capital Trust II and MetLife Capital Trust III may, from time to time, sell trust preferred securities guaranteed by MetLife, Inc., as described in this prospectus, in one or more offerings up to a total dollar amount of \$4,000,000,000 or the equivalent thereof on the date of issuance in one or more foreign currencies, foreign currency units or composite currencies. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities MetLife, Inc. and the trusts may offer. Each time that securities are sold, a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering will be provided. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with additional information described under the heading "Where You Can Find More Information."

You should rely on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. Neither MetLife, Inc. nor the trusts have authorized anyone to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different

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or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. Neither MetLife, Inc. nor the trusts are making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

You should assume that the information in this prospectus is accurate as of the date of the prospectus. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since that date.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

MetLife, Inc. files reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. These reports, proxy statements and other information, including the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, can be read and copied at the SEC's public reference room at 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the operation of the public reference room. The SEC maintains an internet site at <http://www.sec.gov> that contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information regarding companies that file electronically with the SEC, including MetLife, Inc. MetLife, Inc.'s common stock is listed and traded on the New York Stock Exchange. These reports, proxy statements and other information can also be read at the offices of the NYSE, 20 Broad Street, New York, New York 10005.

The SEC allows "incorporation by reference" into this prospectus of information that MetLife, Inc. files with the SEC. This permits MetLife, Inc. to disclose important information to you by referencing these filed documents. Any information referenced this way is considered part of this prospectus, and any information filed with the SEC subsequent to the date of this prospectus will automatically be deemed to update and supersede this information. MetLife, Inc. incorporates by reference the following documents which have been filed with the SEC:

- Registration Statement on Form 8-A, dated March 31, 2000, relating to registration of shares of MetLife, Inc.'s common stock and Registration Statement on Form 8-A, dated March 31, 2000, relating to registration of MetLife, Inc.'s Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock purchase rights;
- Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2000;
- Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2001;

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- Current Report on Form 8-K dated May 8, 2001; and
- Proxy Statement for the Annual Meeting of Shareholders Held on April 24, 2001.

MetLife, Inc. incorporates by reference the documents listed above and any future filings made with the SEC in accordance with Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 until MetLife, Inc., MetLife Capital Trust II and MetLife Capital Trust III file a post-effective amendment which indicates the termination of the offering of the securities made by this prospectus.

MetLife, Inc. will provide without charge upon written or oral request, a copy of any or all of the documents which are incorporated by reference into this prospectus, other than exhibits which are specifically incorporated by reference into those documents. Requests should be directed to Investor Relations, MetLife, Inc., One Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10010-3690

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(telephone number 1-800-649-3593). You may also obtain some of the documents incorporated by reference into this document at MetLife's website, www.metlife.com. You should be aware that the information contained on MetLife's website is not a part of this document.

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement may contain or incorporate by reference information that includes or is based upon forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements give expectations or forecasts of future events. You can identify these statements by the fact that they do not relate strictly to historical or current facts. They use words such as "anticipate," "estimate," "expect," "project," "intend," "plan," "believe," and other words and terms of similar meaning in connection with a discussion of future operating or financial performance. In particular, these include statements relating to future actions, prospective services or products, future performance or results of current and anticipated services or products, sales efforts, expenses, the outcome of contingencies such as legal proceedings, trends in operations and financial results.

Any or all forward-looking statements may turn out to be wrong. They can be affected by inaccurate assumptions or by known or unknown risks and uncertainties. Many such factors will be important in determining MetLife's actual future results. These statements are based on current expectations and the current economic environment. They involve a number of risks and uncertainties that are difficult to predict. These statements are not guarantees of future performance, and there are no guarantees about the performance of any securities offered by this prospectus. Actual results could differ materially from those expressed or implied in the forward-looking statements. Among factors that could cause actual results to differ materially are:

- changes in general economic conditions, including the performance of financial markets and interest rates;
- heightened competition, including with respect to pricing, entry of new competitors and the development of new products by new and existing competitors;
- unanticipated changes in industry trends;
- MetLife, Inc.'s primary reliance, as a holding company, on dividends from its subsidiaries to meet debt payment obligations and the applicable regulatory restrictions on the ability of the subsidiaries to pay such dividends;
- deterioration in the experience of the "closed block" established in connection with the reorganization of MetLife, Inc.'s subsidiary Metropolitan Life Insurance Company;
- catastrophe losses;
- regulatory, accounting or tax changes that may affect the cost of, or demand for, our products or services;

- downgrades in our ratings;
- discrepancies between actual claims experience and assumptions used in

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setting prices for our products and establishing the liabilities for our obligations for future policy benefits and claims;

- adverse litigation or arbitration results;
- our ability to identify and consummate on successful terms any future acquisitions, and to successfully integrate acquired businesses with minimal disruption;
- other risks and uncertainties described from time to time in MetLife, Inc.'s or the trusts' filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission;
- the risk factors or uncertainties listed herein or listed from time to time in prospectus supplements or any document incorporated by reference herein; and
- other risks and uncertainties that have not been identified at this time.

Neither MetLife, Inc. nor the trusts undertake any obligation to publicly correct or update any forward-looking statement if MetLife, Inc. or the trusts later become aware that it is not likely to be achieved. You are advised, however, to consult any further disclosures MetLife, Inc. or the trusts make on related subjects in reports to the SEC.

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METLIFE, INC.

We are a leading provider of insurance and financial services to a broad spectrum of individual and institutional customers. We currently provide individual insurance, annuities and investment products to approximately nine million households, or one of every 11 households in the U.S. We also provide group insurance and retirement and savings products and services to approximately 70,000 corporations and other institutions, including 87 of the FORTUNE 100 largest companies. Our institutional clients have approximately 33 million employees and members.

We distribute our products and services nationwide through multiple channels, with the primary distribution systems being our core career agency system, our general agency distribution systems, our regional sales forces, our dedicated sales forces, financial intermediaries, independent agents and product specialists. We operate in the international markets that we serve through subsidiaries and joint ventures. Our international segment focuses on the Asia/Pacific region, Latin America and selected European countries and currently has insurance operations in twelve countries.

MetLife, Inc. is incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware. Its principal executive offices are located at One Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10010-3690. Its telephone number is (212) 578-2211.

THE REORGANIZATION

On April 7, 2000, pursuant to an order by the New York Superintendent of Insurance approving its plan of reorganization, as amended, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company converted from a mutual life insurance company to a stock life insurance company and became MetLife, Inc.'s wholly owned subsidiary. In connection with the plan of reorganization, each policyholder's membership interest was extinguished and each eligible policyholder received, in exchange for that interest, trust interests representing shares of MetLife, Inc.'s common stock to be held in the MetLife Policyholder Trust, cash or an adjustment to

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policy values in the form of policy credits, as provided in the plan of reorganization. A total of 494,466,664 shares of MetLife, Inc.'s common stock were distributed to the MetLife Policyholder Trust for the benefit of policyholders. For more information regarding the MetLife Policyholder Trust, see "Description of Securities -- Description of Capital Stock -- MetLife Policyholder Trust."

Immediately following the demutualization, MetLife, Inc. conducted an initial public offering of a total of 232,300,000 shares of common stock, and MetLife, Inc. and MetLife Capital Trust I, a Delaware statutory business trust that MetLife, Inc. wholly owns, conducted a public offering of a total of 20,125,000 8.00% equity security units. Concurrently with the foregoing offerings, MetLife, Inc. sold a total of 60,000,000 shares of common stock in private placements. For more information regarding the private placements, see "Description of Securities -- Description of Capital Stock -- Registration Rights Granted, and Restrictions Imposed, in Connection With Private Placements of MetLife, Inc.'s Common Stock."

THE TRUSTS

MetLife Capital Trust II and MetLife Capital Trust III are statutory business trusts formed on May 17, 2001 under Delaware law pursuant to declarations of trust between the trustees named therein and MetLife, Inc. and the filing of certificates of trust with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware. MetLife, Inc., as sponsor of the trusts, and the trustees named in the declarations of trust will amend and restate the declarations of trust in their entirety substantially in the form filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part, as of or prior to the date the trusts issue any trust preferred securities. The declarations of trust will be qualified as indentures under the Trust Indenture Act.

The trusts exist for the exclusive purposes of:

- issuing preferred securities and common securities;
- investing the gross proceeds of the preferred securities and common securities in related series of debt securities, which may be senior or subordinated, issued by MetLife, Inc.; and

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- engaging in only those other activities which are necessary, appropriate, convenient or incidental to the purposes set forth above.

The payment of periodic cash distributions on the trust preferred securities and payments on liquidation and redemption with respect to the trust preferred securities, in each case to the extent the trusts have funds legally and immediately available, will be guaranteed by MetLife, Inc. to the extent set forth under "Description of Guarantees."

MetLife, Inc. will own, directly or indirectly, all of the common securities of the trusts. The common securities will represent an aggregate liquidation amount equal to at least 3% of each trust's total capitalization. The preferred securities of each trust will represent the remaining 97% of each trust's total capitalization. The common securities will have terms substantially identical to, and will rank equal in priority of payment with, the preferred securities. However, if MetLife, Inc. defaults on the related series of debt securities, then cash distributions and liquidation, redemption and other amounts payable on the common securities will be subordinate to the trust preferred securities in priority of payment.

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The trusts each have a term of approximately 55 years, but may terminate earlier as provided in their respective declarations of trust. The trusts' business and affairs will be conducted by the trustees appointed by MetLife, Inc., as the direct or indirect holder of all of the common securities. The holder of the common securities of each trust will be entitled to appoint, remove or replace any of, or increase or reduce the number of, the trustees of the trust. However, the number of trustees shall be at least two, at least one of which shall be an administrative trustee. The duties and obligations of the trustees will be governed by the declaration of trust for each trust. A majority of the trustees of each trust will be persons who are employees or officers of or affiliated with MetLife, Inc. One trustee of each trust will be a financial institution which will be unaffiliated with MetLife, Inc. and which will act as property trustee and as indenture trustee for purposes of the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, pursuant to the terms set forth in a prospectus supplement. In addition, unless the property trustee maintains a principal place of business in the State of Delaware, and otherwise meets the requirements of applicable law, one trustee of each trust will have its principal place of business or reside in the State of Delaware.

The property trustee will hold title to the debt securities for the benefit of the holders of the trust securities and the property trustee will have the power to exercise all rights, powers and privileges under the indenture as the holder of the debt securities. In addition, the property trustee will maintain exclusive control of a segregated noninterest bearing bank account to hold all payments made in respect of the debt securities for the benefit of the holders of the trust securities. The property trustee will make payments of distributions and payments on liquidation, redemption and otherwise to the holders of the trust securities out of funds from this property account.

The rights of the holders of the trust preferred securities, including economic rights, rights to information and voting rights, are provided in the declarations of trust of MetLife Capital Trust II and MetLife Capital Trust III, including any amendments thereto, the trust preferred securities, the Delaware Business Trust Act and the Trust Indenture Act.

MetLife, Inc. will pay all fees and expenses related to the trusts and the offering of trust preferred securities. The principal offices of each trust is: c/o Bank One Delaware, Inc., Three Christiana Center, 201 North Walnut Street, Wilmington, New Castle County, Delaware 19801. The telephone number of each trust is: (212) 373-1105.

For financial reporting purposes,

- the trusts will be treated as MetLife, Inc.'s subsidiaries; and
- the accounts of the trusts will be included in MetLife, Inc.'s consolidated financial statements.

The financial statements of the trusts will be consolidated in MetLife, Inc.'s consolidated financial statements, with the trust preferred securities shown on MetLife, Inc.'s consolidated balance sheets. The notes to our consolidated financial statements will disclose that the sole assets of the trusts will be the debt securities issued by MetLife, Inc. to the trusts. Distributions on the trust preferred securities will be reported as a charge

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to minority interest, which is included in Other Expenses in MetLife, Inc.'s consolidated statements of income, whether paid or accrued.

Please read the prospectus supplement relating to the trust preferred securities for further information concerning the trusts and the trust preferred

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securities.

USE OF PROCEEDS

Unless otherwise set forth in a prospectus supplement, we intend to use the proceeds of any securities sold for general corporate purposes. The trusts will use all of the proceeds they receive from the sale of trust preferred securities to purchase debt securities issued by MetLife, Inc.

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

The following table sets forth MetLife's ratio of earnings to fixed charges.

| | THREE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, | YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|------|------|------|------|
| | 2001 | 2000 | 1999 | 1998 | 1997 | 1996 |
| | ----- | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- |
| Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges(1)..... | 1.36 | 1.39 | 1.31 | 1.65 | 1.56 | 1.43 |

 (1) For purposes of this computation, earnings are defined as income before provision for income taxes and discontinued operations and excluding undistributed income and losses from equity method investments, minority interest and fixed charges, excluding capitalized interest. Fixed charges are the sum of interest and debt issue costs, interest credited to policyholder account balances and an estimated interest component of rent expense.

DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES

This prospectus contains summary descriptions of the debt securities, common stock and preferred stock that MetLife, Inc. may sell from time to time, and the trust preferred securities guaranteed by MetLife, Inc. that MetLife Capital Trust II and MetLife Capital Trust III may sell from time to time. These summary descriptions are not meant to be complete descriptions of each security. However, this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement contain the material terms of the securities being offered.

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

As used in this prospectus, debt securities means the debentures, notes, bonds and other evidences of indebtedness that MetLife, Inc. may issue from time to time. The debt securities will either be senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities. Senior debt securities will be issued under a "Senior Indenture" and subordinated debt securities will be issued under a "Subordinated Indenture". This prospectus sometimes refers to the Senior Indenture and the Subordinated Indenture collectively as the "Indentures". Unless the applicable prospectus supplement states otherwise, the trustee under the Indentures will be Bank One Trust Company, N.A., a national banking association.

The forms of Indentures are filed as exhibits to the registration statement. The statements and descriptions in this prospectus or in any prospectus supplement regarding provisions of the Indentures and debt securities are summaries thereof, do not purport to be complete and are subject to, and are

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qualified in their entirety by reference to, all of the provisions of the Indentures and the debt securities, including the definitions therein of certain terms.

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GENERAL

The debt securities will be direct unsecured obligations of MetLife, Inc. The senior debt securities will rank equally with all of MetLife, Inc.'s other senior and unsubordinated debt. The subordinated debt securities will be subordinate and junior in right of payment to all of MetLife, Inc.'s present and future senior indebtedness.

Because MetLife, Inc. is principally a holding company, its right to participate in any distribution of assets of any subsidiary, including Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, upon the subsidiary's liquidation or reorganization or otherwise, is subject to the prior claims of creditors of the subsidiary, except to the extent MetLife, Inc. may be recognized as a creditor of that subsidiary. Accordingly, MetLife, Inc.'s obligations under the debt securities will be effectively subordinated to all existing and future indebtedness and liabilities of its subsidiaries, including liabilities under contracts of insurance and annuities written by MetLife, Inc.'s insurance subsidiaries, and holders of debt securities should look only to MetLife, Inc.'s assets for payment thereunder.

The Indentures do not limit the aggregate principal amount of debt securities that MetLife, Inc. may issue and provide that MetLife, Inc. may issue debt securities from time to time in one or more series, in each case with the same or various maturities, at par or at a discount. MetLife, Inc. may issue additional debt securities of a particular series without the consent of the holders of the debt securities of such series outstanding at the time of the issuance. Any such additional debt securities, together with all other outstanding debt securities of that series, will constitute a single series of debt securities under the applicable Indenture. The Indentures also do not limit our ability to incur other debt.

Each prospectus supplement will describe the terms relating to the specific series of debt securities being offered. These terms will include some or all of the following:

- the title of debt securities and whether they are subordinated debt securities or senior debt securities;
- any limit on the aggregate principal amount of the debt securities;
- the price or prices at which MetLife, Inc. will sell the debt securities;
- the maturity date or dates of the debt securities;
- the rate or rates of interest, if any, which may be fixed or variable, per annum at which the debt securities will bear interest, or the method of determining such rate or rates, if any;
- the date or dates from which any interest will accrue or the method by which such date or dates will be determined;
- the right, if any, to extend the interest payment periods and the duration of any such deferral period, including the maximum consecutive period during which interest payment periods may be extended;

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- whether the amount of payments of principal of (and premium, if any) or interest on the debt securities may be determined with reference to any index, formula or other method, such as one or more currencies, commodities, equity indices or other indices, and the manner of determining the amount of such payments;
- the dates on which MetLife, Inc. will pay interest on the debt securities and the regular record date for determining who is entitled to the interest payable on any interest payment date;
- the place or places where the principal of (and premium, if any) and interest on the debt securities will be payable;
- if MetLife, Inc. possesses the option to do so, the periods within which and the prices at which MetLife, Inc. may redeem the debt securities, in whole or in part, pursuant to optional redemption provisions, and the other terms and conditions of any such provisions;
- MetLife, Inc.'s obligation, if any, to redeem, repay or purchase debt securities by making periodic payments to a sinking fund or through an analogous provision or at the option of holders of the debt

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securities, and the period or periods within which and the price or prices at which MetLife, Inc. will redeem, repay or purchase the debt securities, in whole or in part, pursuant to such obligation, and the other terms and conditions of such obligation;

- the denominations in which the debt securities will be issued, if other than denominations of \$1,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000;
- the portion, or methods of determining the portion, of the principal amount of the debt securities which MetLife, Inc. must pay upon the acceleration of the maturity of the debt securities in connection with an Event of Default (as described below), if other than the full principal amount;
- the currency, currencies or currency unit in which MetLife, Inc. will pay the principal of (and premium, if any) or interest, if any, on the debt securities, if not United States dollars;
- provisions, if any, granting special rights to holders of the debt securities upon the occurrence of specified events;
- any deletions from, modifications of or additions to the Events of Default or MetLife, Inc.'s covenants with respect to the applicable series of debt securities, and whether or not such Events of Default or covenants are consistent with those contained in the applicable Indenture;
- the application, if any, of the terms of the Indenture relating to defeasance and covenant defeasance (which terms are described below) to the debt securities;
- whether the subordination provisions summarized below or different subordination provisions will apply to the debt securities;
- the terms, if any, upon which the holders may convert or exchange such debt securities into or for MetLife, Inc.'s common stock or other securities or property;

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- whether any of the debt securities will be issued in global form and, if so, the terms and conditions upon which global debt securities may be exchanged for certificated debt securities;
- any change in the right of the trustee or the requisite holders of debt securities to declare the principal amount thereof due and payable because of an Event of Default;
- the depository for global or certificated debt securities;
- any special tax implications of the debt securities;
- any trustees, authenticating or paying agents, transfer agents or registrars or other agents with respect to the debt securities; and
- any other terms of the debt securities not inconsistent with the provisions of the Indentures, as amended or supplemented.

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, the debt securities will not be listed on any securities exchange.

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, debt securities will be issued in fully-registered form without coupons.

Debt securities may be sold at a substantial discount below their stated principal amount, bearing no interest or interest at a rate which at the time of issuance is below market rates. The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the federal income tax consequences and special considerations applicable to any such debt securities. The debt securities may also be issued as indexed securities or securities denominated in foreign currencies or currency units, as described in more detail in the prospectus supplement relating to any of the particular debt securities. The prospectus supplement relating to specific debt securities will also describe any special considerations and certain additional tax considerations applicable to such debt securities.

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SUBORDINATION

The prospectus supplement relating to any offering of subordinated debt securities will describe the specific subordination provisions. However, unless otherwise noted in the prospectus supplement, subordinated debt securities will be subordinate and junior in right of payment to all of MetLife, Inc.'s Senior Indebtedness.

Under the Subordinated Indenture, "Senior Indebtedness" means all amounts due on obligations in connection with any of the following, whether outstanding at the date of execution of the Subordinated Indenture or thereafter incurred or created:

- the principal of (and premium, if any) and interest in respect of indebtedness of MetLife, Inc. for borrowed money and indebtedness evidenced by securities, debentures, bonds or other similar instruments issued by MetLife, Inc.;
- all capital lease obligations of MetLife, Inc.;
- all obligations of MetLife, Inc. issued or assumed as the deferred purchase price of property, all conditional sale obligations of MetLife, Inc. and all obligations of MetLife, Inc. under any title retention

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agreement (but excluding trade accounts payable in the ordinary course of business);

- all obligations of MetLife, Inc. for the reimbursement on any letter of credit, banker's acceptance, security purchase facility or similar credit transaction;
- all obligations of MetLife, Inc. in respect of interest rate swap, cap or other agreements, interest rate future or options contracts, currency swap agreements, currency future or option contracts and other similar agreements;
- all obligations of the types referred to above of other persons for the payment of which MetLife, Inc. is responsible or liable as obligor, guarantor or otherwise; and
- all obligations of the types referred to above of other persons secured by any lien on any property or asset of MetLife, Inc. whether or not such obligation is assumed by MetLife, Inc.

Senior Indebtedness does not include:

- indebtedness or monetary obligations to trade creditors created or assumed by MetLife, Inc. in the ordinary course of business in connection with the obtaining of materials or services;
- indebtedness that is by its terms subordinated to or ranks equal with the subordinated debt securities; and
- any indebtedness of MetLife, Inc. to its affiliates (including all debt securities and guarantees in respect of those debt securities issued to any trust, partnership or other entity affiliated with MetLife, Inc. that is a financing vehicle of MetLife, Inc. in connection with the issuance by such financing entity of preferred securities or other securities guaranteed by MetLife, Inc.) unless otherwise expressly provided in the terms of any such indebtedness.

The terms of MetLife, Inc.'s guarantees with respect to the capital securities and common securities of MetLife Capital Trust I and the terms of MetLife, Inc.'s 8.00% Debentures due 2005 held by MetLife Capital Trust I expressly provide that each shall rank equally in right of payment with all other senior unsecured debt of MetLife, Inc.

Senior Indebtedness shall continue to be Senior Indebtedness and be entitled to the benefits of the subordination provisions irrespective of any amendment, modification or waiver of any term of such Senior Indebtedness.

Unless otherwise noted in the accompanying prospectus supplement, if MetLife, Inc. defaults in the payment of any principal of (or premium, if any) or interest on any Senior Indebtedness when it becomes due and payable, whether at maturity or at a date fixed for prepayment or by declaration or otherwise, then, unless and until such default is cured or waived or ceases to exist, MetLife, Inc. will make no direct or indirect payment (in cash, property, securities, by set-off or otherwise) in respect of the principal of or interest on the

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subordinated debt securities or in respect of any redemption, retirement, purchase or other requisition of any of the subordinated debt securities.

In the event of the acceleration of the maturity of any subordinated debt

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securities, the holders of all senior debt securities outstanding at the time of such acceleration will first be entitled to receive payment in full of all amounts due on the senior debt securities before the holders of the subordinated debt securities will be entitled to receive any payment of principal (and premium, if any) or interest on the subordinated debt securities.

If any of the following events occurs, MetLife, Inc. will pay in full all Senior Indebtedness before it makes any payment or distribution under the subordinated debt securities, whether in cash, securities or other property, to any holder of subordinated debt securities:

- any dissolution or winding-up or liquidation or reorganization of MetLife, Inc., whether voluntary or involuntary or in bankruptcy, insolvency or receivership;
- any general assignment by MetLife, Inc. for the benefit of creditors; or
- any other marshaling of MetLife, Inc.'s assets or liabilities.

In such event, any payment or distribution under the subordinated debt securities, whether in cash, securities or other property, which would otherwise (but for the subordination provisions) be payable or deliverable in respect of the subordinated debt securities, will be paid or delivered directly to the holders of Senior Indebtedness in accordance with the priorities then existing among such holders until all Senior Indebtedness has been paid in full. If any payment or distribution under the subordinated debt securities is received by the trustee of any subordinated debt securities in contravention of any of the terms of the Subordinated Indenture and before all the Senior Indebtedness has been paid in full, such payment or distribution or security will be received in trust for the benefit of, and paid over or delivered and transferred to, the holders of the Senior Indebtedness at the time outstanding in accordance with the priorities then existing among such holders for application to the payment of all Senior Indebtedness remaining unpaid to the extent necessary to pay all such Senior Indebtedness in full.

The Subordinated Indenture does not limit the issuance of additional Senior Indebtedness.

If debt securities are issued to a trust in connection with the issuance of trust preferred securities, such debt securities may thereafter be distributed pro rata to the holders of such trust securities in connection with the dissolution of such trust upon the occurrence of certain events described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS

Unless an accompanying prospectus supplement states otherwise, the following restrictive covenants shall apply to each series of senior debt securities:

Limitation on Liens. So long as any senior debt securities are outstanding, neither MetLife, Inc. nor any of its subsidiaries will create, assume, incur or guarantee any debt which is secured by any mortgage, pledge, lien, security interest or other encumbrance on any capital stock of:

- Metropolitan Life Insurance Company;
- any successor to substantially all of the business of Metropolitan Life Insurance Company which is also a subsidiary of MetLife, Inc.; or
- any corporation (other than MetLife, Inc.) having direct or indirect control of Metropolitan Life Insurance Company or any such successor.

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However, this restriction will not apply if the debt securities then outstanding are secured at least equally and ratably with the otherwise prohibited secured debt so long as it is outstanding.

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Limitations on Dispositions of Stock of Certain Subsidiaries. So long as any senior debt securities are outstanding and subject to the provisions of the Senior Indenture regarding mergers, consolidations and sales of assets, neither MetLife, Inc. nor any of its subsidiaries will sell or otherwise dispose of any shares of capital stock (other than preferred stock having no voting rights of any kind) of:

- Metropolitan Life Insurance Company;
- any successor to substantially all of the business of Metropolitan Life Insurance Company which is also a subsidiary of MetLife, Inc.; or
- any corporation (other than MetLife, Inc.) having direct or indirect control of Metropolitan Life Insurance Company or any such successor;

Except for, in each case:

- a sale or other disposition of any of such stock to a wholly-owned subsidiary of MetLife, Inc. or of such subsidiary;
- a sale or other disposition of all of such stock for at least fair value (as determined by MetLife, Inc.'s board of directors acting in good faith); or
- a sale or other disposition required to comply with an order of a court or regulatory authority of competent jurisdiction, other than an order issued at MetLife, Inc.'s request or the request of any of MetLife, Inc.'s subsidiaries.

CONSOLIDATION, MERGER, SALE OF ASSETS AND OTHER TRANSACTIONS

MetLife, Inc. may not (i) merge with or into or consolidate with another corporation or sell, assign, transfer, lease or convey all or substantially all of its properties and assets to, any other corporation other than a direct or indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of MetLife, Inc., and (ii) no corporation may merge with or into or consolidate with MetLife, Inc. or, except for any direct or indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of MetLife, Inc., sell, assign, transfer, lease or convey all or substantially all of its properties and assets to MetLife, Inc., unless:

- MetLife, Inc. is the surviving corporation or the corporation formed by or surviving such merger or consolidation or to which such sale, assignment, transfer, lease or conveyance has been made, if other than MetLife, Inc., has expressly assumed by supplemental indenture all the obligations of MetLife, Inc. under the debt securities, the Indentures, and any guarantees of preferred securities or common securities issued by the trusts;
- immediately after giving effect to such transaction, no default or Event of Default has occurred and is continuing;
- if at the time any preferred securities of the trusts are outstanding, such transaction is not prohibited under the applicable declaration of trust and the applicable preferred securities guarantee of each trust;

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and

- MetLife, Inc. delivers to the trustee an officers' certificate and an opinion of counsel, each stating that the supplemental indenture complies with the applicable Indenture.

EVENTS OF DEFAULT, NOTICE AND WAIVER

Unless an accompanying prospectus supplement states otherwise, the following shall constitute "Events of Default" under the Indentures with respect to each series of debt securities:

- MetLife, Inc.'s failure to pay any interest on any debt security of such series when due and payable, continued for 30 days;

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- MetLife, Inc.'s failure to pay principal (or premium, if any) on any debt security of such series when due, regardless of whether such payment became due because of maturity, redemption, acceleration or otherwise, or is required by any sinking fund established with respect to such series;
- MetLife, Inc.'s failure to observe or perform any other of its covenants or agreements with respect to such debt securities for 90 days after MetLife, Inc. receives notice of such failure;
- certain defaults with respect to MetLife, Inc.'s debt (other than the debt securities or non-recourse debt) in any aggregate principal amount in excess of \$100,000,000 consisting of the failure to make any payment at maturity or that results in acceleration of the maturity of such debt;
- certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization of MetLife, Inc.; and
- certain events of dissolution or winding-up of the trusts in the event that debt securities are issued to the trusts or a trustee of the trusts in connection with the issuance of securities by the trusts.

If an Event of Default with respect to any debt securities of any series outstanding under either of the Indentures shall occur and be continuing, the trustee under such Indenture or the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the debt securities of that series outstanding may declare, by notice as provided in the applicable Indenture, the principal amount (or such lesser amount as may be provided for in the debt securities of that series) of all the debt securities of that series outstanding to be due and payable immediately; provided that, in the case of an Event of Default involving certain events in bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization, acceleration is automatic; and, provided further, that after such acceleration, but before a judgment or decree based on acceleration, the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series may, under certain circumstances, rescind and annul such acceleration if all Events of Default, other than the nonpayment of accelerated principal, have been cured or waived. Upon the acceleration of the maturity of original issue discount securities, an amount less than the principal amount thereof will become due and payable. Reference is made to the prospectus supplement relating to any original issue discount securities for the particular provisions relating to acceleration of maturity thereof.

Any past default under either Indenture with respect to debt securities of any series, and any Event of Default arising therefrom, may be waived by the holders of a majority in principal amount of all debt securities of such series

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outstanding under such Indenture, except in the case of (i) default in the payment of the principal of (or premium, if any) or interest on any debt securities of such series or (ii) default in respect of a covenant or provision which may not be amended or modified without the consent of the holder of each outstanding debt security of such series affected.

The trustee is required, within 90 days after the occurrence of a default (which is known to the trustee and is continuing), with respect to the debt securities of any series (without regard to any grace period or notice requirements), to give to the holders of the debt securities of such series notice of such default; provided, however, that, except in the case of a default in the payment of the principal of (and premium, if any) or interest, or in the payment of any sinking fund installment, on any debt securities of such series, the trustee shall be protected in withholding such notice if it in good faith determines that the withholding of such notice is in the interests of the holders of the debt securities of such series.

The trustee, subject to its duties during default to act with the required standard of care, may require indemnification by the holders of the debt securities of any series with respect to which a default has occurred before proceeding to exercise any right or power under the Indentures at the request of the holders of the debt securities of such series. Subject to such right of indemnification and to certain other limitations, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series under either Indenture may direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee, or exercising any trust or power conferred on the trustee with respect to the debt securities of such series.

No holder of a debt security of any series may institute any action against MetLife, Inc. under either of the Indentures (except actions for payment of overdue principal of (and premium, if any) or interest on such debt security or for the conversion or exchange of such debt security in accordance with its terms) unless

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(i) the holder has given to the trustee written notice of an Event of Default and of the continuance thereof with respect to the debt securities of such series specifying an Event of Default, as required under the applicable Indenture, (ii) the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the debt securities of that series then outstanding under such Indenture shall have requested the trustee to institute such action and offered to the trustee reasonable indemnity against the costs, expenses and liabilities to be incurred in compliance with such request and (iii) the trustee shall not have instituted such action within 60 days of such request.

MetLife, Inc. is required to furnish annually to the trustee statements as to MetLife, Inc.'s compliance with all conditions and covenants under each Indenture.

DISCHARGE, DEFEASANCE AND COVENANT DEFEASANCE

If indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, MetLife, Inc. may discharge or defease its obligations under each Indenture as set forth below.

MetLife, Inc. may discharge certain obligations to holders of any series of debt securities issued under either the Senior Indenture or the Subordinated Indenture which have not already been delivered to the trustee for cancellation and which have either become due and payable or are by their terms due and payable within one year (or scheduled for redemption within one year) by irrevocably depositing with the trustee cash or, in the case of debt securities

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payable only in U.S. dollars, U.S. government obligations (as defined in either Indenture), as trust funds in an amount certified to be sufficient to pay when due, whether at maturity, upon redemption or otherwise, the principal of (and premium, if any) and interest on such debt securities.

If indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, MetLife, Inc. may elect either (i) to defease and be discharged from any and all obligations with respect to the debt securities of or within any series (except as otherwise provided in the relevant Indenture) ("defeasance") or (ii) to be released from its obligations with respect to certain covenants applicable to the debt securities of or within any series ("covenant defeasance"), upon the deposit with the relevant Indenture trustee, in trust for such purpose, of money and/or government obligations which through the payment of principal and interest in accordance with their terms will provide money in an amount sufficient, without reinvestment, to pay the principal of (and premium, if any) or interest on such debt securities to maturity or redemption, as the case may be, and any mandatory sinking fund or analogous payments thereon. As a condition to defeasance or covenant defeasance, MetLife, Inc. must deliver to the trustee an opinion of counsel to the effect that the holders of such debt securities will not recognize income, gain or loss for federal income tax purposes as a result of such defeasance or covenant defeasance and will be subject to federal income tax on the same amounts and in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if such defeasance or covenant defeasance had not occurred. Such opinion of counsel, in the case of defeasance under clause (i) above, must refer to and be based upon a ruling of the Internal Revenue Service or a change in applicable federal income tax law occurring after the date of the relevant Indenture. In addition, in the case of either defeasance or covenant defeasance, the Company shall have delivered to the trustee (i) an officers' certificate to the effect that the relevant debt securities exchange(s) have informed it that neither such debt securities nor any other debt securities of the same series, if then listed on any securities exchange, will be delisted as a result of such deposit and (ii) an officers' certificate and an opinion of counsel, each stating that all conditions precedent with respect to such defeasance or covenant defeasance have been complied with.

MetLife, Inc. may exercise its defeasance option with respect to such debt securities notwithstanding its prior exercise of its covenant defeasance option.

MODIFICATION AND WAIVER

Under the Indentures, MetLife, Inc. and the applicable trustee may supplement the Indentures for certain purposes which would not materially adversely affect the interests or rights of the holders of debt securities of a series without the consent of those holders. MetLife, Inc. and the applicable trustee may also modify the Indentures or any supplemental indenture in a manner that affects the interests or rights of the holders of debt securities with the consent of the holders of a least a majority in aggregate principal amount of

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the outstanding debt securities of each affected series issued under the Indenture. However, the Indentures require the consent of each holder of debt securities that would be affected by any modification which would:

- extend the fixed maturity of any debt securities of any series, or reduce the principal amount thereof, or reduce the rate or extend the time of payment of interest thereon, or reduce any premium payable upon the redemption thereof;
- reduce the amount of principal of an original issue discount debt security or any other debt security payable upon acceleration of the maturity thereof;

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- change the currency in which any debt security or any premium or interest is payable;
- impair the right to enforce any payment on or with respect to any debt security;
- adversely change the right to convert or exchange, including decreasing the conversion rate or increasing the conversion price of, any debt security (if applicable);
- reduce the percentage in principal amount of outstanding debt securities of any series, the consent of whose holders is required for modification or amendment of the Indentures or for waiver of compliance with certain provisions of the Indentures or for waiver of certain defaults;
- reduce the requirements contained in the Indentures for quorum or voting; or
- modify any of the above provisions.

If debt securities are held by a trust or a trustee of a trust, a supplemental indenture that affects the interests or rights of the holders of debt securities will not be effective until the holders of not less than a majority in liquidation preference of the preferred securities and common securities of the applicable trust, collectively, have consented to the supplemental indenture; provided, further, that if the consent of the holder of each outstanding debt security is required, the supplemental indenture will not be effective until each holder of the preferred securities and the common securities of the applicable trust has consented to the supplemental indenture.

The Indentures permit the holders of at least a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series issued under the Indenture which is affected by the modification or amendment to waive MetLife, Inc.'s compliance with certain covenants contained in the Indentures.

PAYMENT AND PAYING AGENTS

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, payment of interest on a debt security on any interest payment date will be made to the person in whose name a debt security is registered at the close of business on the record date for the interest.

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, principal, interest and premium on the debt securities of a particular series will be payable at the office of such paying agent or paying agents as MetLife, Inc. may designate for such purpose from time to time. Notwithstanding the foregoing, at MetLife, Inc.'s option, payment of any interest may be made by check mailed to the address of the person entitled thereto as such address appears in the security register.

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, a paying agent designated by MetLife, Inc. and located in the Borough of Manhattan, The City of New York will act as paying agent for payments with respect to debt securities of each series. All paying agents initially designated by MetLife, Inc. for the debt securities of a particular series will be named in the applicable prospectus supplement. MetLife, Inc. may at any time designate additional paying agents or rescind the designation of any paying agent or approve a change in the office through which any paying agent acts, except that MetLife, Inc. will be required to maintain a paying agent in each place of payment for the debt securities of a particular series.

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All moneys paid by MetLife, Inc. to a paying agent for the payment of the principal, interest or premium on any debt security which remain unclaimed at the end of two years after such principal, interest or premium

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has become due and payable will be repaid to MetLife, Inc. upon request, and the holder of such debt security thereafter may look only to MetLife, Inc. for payment thereof.

DENOMINATIONS, REGISTRATIONS AND TRANSFER

Unless an accompanying prospectus supplement states otherwise, debt securities will be represented by one or more global certificates registered in the name of a nominee for The Depository Trust Company, or DTC. In such case, each holder's beneficial interest in the global securities will be shown on the records of DTC and transfers of beneficial interests will only be effected through DTC's records.

A holder of debt securities may only exchange a beneficial interest in a global security for certificated securities registered in the holder's name if:

- DTC notifies MetLife, Inc. that it is unwilling or unable to continue serving as the depository for the relevant global securities or DTC ceases to maintain certain qualifications under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and no successor depository has been appointed for 90 days; or
- MetLife, Inc. determines, in its sole discretion, that the global security shall be exchangeable.

If debt securities are issued in certificated form, they will only be issued in the minimum denomination specified in the accompanying prospectus supplement and integral multiples of such denomination. Transfers and exchanges of such debt securities will only be permitted in such minimum denomination. Transfers of debt securities in certificated form may be registered at the trustee's corporate office or at the offices of any paying agent or trustee appointed by MetLife, Inc. under the Indentures. Exchanges of debt securities for an equal aggregate principal amount of debt securities in different denominations may also be made at such locations.

GOVERNING LAW

The Indentures and debt securities will be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the internal laws of the State of New York, without regard to its principles of conflicts of laws.

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE TRUSTEES

The trustee under the Indentures is Bank One Trust Company, N.A. MetLife, Inc. and its subsidiaries maintain ordinary banking and trust relationships with a number of banks and trust companies, including the trustee under the Indentures.

CONVERSION OR EXCHANGE RIGHTS

The prospectus supplement will describe the terms, if any, on which a series of debt securities may be convertible into or exchangeable for MetLife, Inc.'s common stock, preferred stock or other debt securities. These terms will include provisions as to whether conversion or exchange is mandatory, at the option of the holder or at MetLife, Inc.'s option. These provisions may allow or

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require the number of shares of MetLife, Inc.'s common stock or other securities to be received by the holders of such series of debt securities to be adjusted.

DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

MetLife, Inc.'s authorized capital stock consists of:

- 200,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$0.01 per share, of which no shares were issued or outstanding as of the date of this prospectus;
- 10,000,000 shares of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock, par value \$0.01 per share, of which no shares were issued or outstanding as of the date of this prospectus; and

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- 3,000,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, of which 749,733,176 shares, as well as the same number of rights to purchase shares of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock pursuant to the stockholder rights plan adopted by MetLife, Inc.'s board of directors on September 29, 1999, were outstanding as of May 4, 2001. See "-- Stockholder Rights Plan" for a description of the Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock. The remaining shares of authorized and unissued common stock will be available for future issuance without additional stockholder approval.

COMMON STOCK

Dividends. The holders of common stock, after any preferences of holders of any preferred stock, are entitled to receive dividends as determined by the board of directors. The issuance of dividends will depend upon, among other factors deemed relevant by MetLife, Inc.'s board of directors, MetLife's financial condition, results of operations, cash requirements, future prospects and regulatory restrictions on the payment of dividends by Metropolitan Life Insurance Company and MetLife, Inc.'s other subsidiaries. There is no requirement or assurance that MetLife, Inc. will declare and pay any dividends. In addition, the indenture governing the terms of our debentures issued to MetLife Capital Trust I in connection with the offering of equity security units prohibits the payment of dividends on common stock of MetLife, Inc. during a deferral of interest payments on the debentures or an event of default under the indenture or the related guarantee.

Voting Rights. The holders of common stock are entitled to one vote per share on all matters on which the holders of common stock are entitled to vote and do not have any cumulative voting rights.

Liquidation and Dissolution. In the event of MetLife, Inc.'s liquidation, dissolution or winding-up, the holders of common stock are entitled to share equally and ratably in MetLife, Inc.'s assets, if any, remaining after the payment of all of MetLife, Inc.'s liabilities and the liquidation preference of any outstanding class or series of preferred stock.

Other Rights. The holders of common stock have no preemptive, conversion, redemption or sinking fund rights. The holders of shares of MetLife, Inc.'s common stock are not required to make additional capital contributions.

Transfer Agent and Registrar. The transfer agent and registrar for MetLife, Inc.'s common stock is Mellon Investor Services, successor to ChaseMellon Shareholder Services, L.L.C.

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PREFERRED STOCK

General. MetLife, Inc.'s board of directors has the authority to issue preferred stock in one or more series and to fix the number of shares constituting any such series and the designations, powers, preferences, limitations and relative rights including dividend rights, dividend rate, voting rights, terms of redemption, redemption price or prices, conversion rights and liquidation preferences of the shares constituting any series, without any further vote or action by stockholders.

MetLife, Inc. has authorized 10,000,000 shares of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock for issuance in connection with its stockholder rights plan. See "-- Stockholder Rights Plan" for a description of the Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock.

Voting Rights. The Delaware General Corporation Law provides that the holders of preferred stock will have the right to vote separately as a class on any proposal involving fundamental changes in the rights of holders of such preferred stock.

Conversion or Exchange. The prospectus supplement will describe the terms, if any, on which the preferred stock may be convertible into or exchangeable for MetLife, Inc.'s common stock, debt securities or other preferred stock. These terms will include provisions as to whether conversion or exchange is mandatory, at the option of the holder or at MetLife, Inc.'s option. These provisions may allow or require the number of shares of MetLife, Inc.'s common stock or other securities to be received by the holders of preferred stock to be adjusted.

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CERTAIN PROVISIONS IN METLIFE, INC.'S CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION AND BY-LAWS AND IN DELAWARE AND NEW YORK LAW

A number of provisions of MetLife, Inc.'s certificate of incorporation and by-laws deal with matters of corporate governance and rights of stockholders. The following discussion is a general summary of selected provisions of MetLife, Inc.'s certificate of incorporation and by-laws and regulatory provisions that might be deemed to have a potential "anti-takeover" effect. These provisions may have the effect of discouraging a future takeover attempt which is not approved by MetLife, Inc.'s board of directors but which individual stockholders may deem to be in their best interests or in which stockholders may receive a substantial premium for their shares over then current market prices. As a result, stockholders who might desire to participate in such a transaction may not have an opportunity to do so. Such provisions will also render the removal of the incumbent board of directors or management more difficult. Some provisions of the Delaware General Corporation Law and the New York Insurance Law may also have an anti-takeover effect. The following description of selected provisions of MetLife, Inc.'s certificate of incorporation and by-laws and selected provisions of the Delaware General Corporation Law and the New York Insurance Law is necessarily general and reference should be made in each case to MetLife, Inc.'s certificate of incorporation and by-laws, which are incorporated by reference as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part, and to the provisions of those laws.

CLASSIFIED BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND REMOVAL OF DIRECTORS

Pursuant to MetLife, Inc.'s certificate of incorporation, the directors are divided into three classes, as nearly equal in number as possible, with each class having a term of three years. The classes serve staggered terms, such that the term of one class of directors expires each year. Any effort to obtain control of MetLife, Inc.'s board of directors by causing the election of a

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majority of the board may require more time than would be required without a staggered election structure. MetLife, Inc.'s certificate of incorporation also provides that, subject to the rights of the holders of any class of preferred stock, directors may be removed only for cause at a meeting of stockholders by a vote of a majority of the shares then entitled to vote. This provision may have the effect of slowing or impeding a change in membership of MetLife, Inc.'s board of directors that would effect a change of control.

EXERCISE OF DUTIES BY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MetLife, Inc.'s certificate of incorporation provides that while the Metropolitan Life Policyholder Trust is in existence, each MetLife, Inc. director is required, in exercising his or her duties as a director, to take the interests of the trust beneficiaries into account as if they were holders of the shares of common stock held in the trust, except to the extent that any such director determines, based on advice of counsel, that to do so would violate his or her duties as a director under Delaware law.

RESTRICTION ON MAXIMUM NUMBER OF DIRECTORS AND FILLING OF VACANCIES ON METLIFE, INC.'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Pursuant to MetLife, Inc.'s by-laws and subject to the rights of the holders of any class of preferred stock, the number of directors may be fixed and increased or decreased from time to time by resolution of the board of directors, but the board of directors will at no time consist of fewer than three directors. Subject to the rights of the holders of any class of preferred stock, stockholders can only remove a director for cause by a vote of a majority of the shares entitled to vote, in which case the vacancy caused by such removal may be filled at such meeting by the stockholders entitled to vote for the election of the director so removed. Any vacancy on the board of directors, including a vacancy resulting from an increase in the number of directors or resulting from a removal for cause where the stockholders have not filled the vacancy, subject to the rights of the holders of any class of preferred stock, may be filled by a majority of the directors then in office, although less than a quorum. If the vacancy is not so filled it will be filled by the stockholders at the next annual meeting of stockholders. The stockholders are not permitted to fill vacancies between annual meetings, except where the vacancy resulted from a removal for cause. These provisions give incumbent directors significant authority that may have the effect of limiting the ability of stockholders to effect a change in management.

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ADVANCE NOTICE REQUIREMENTS FOR NOMINATION OF DIRECTORS AND PRESENTATION OF NEW BUSINESS AT MEETINGS OF STOCKHOLDERS; ACTION BY WRITTEN CONSENT

MetLife, Inc.'s by-laws provide for advance notice requirements for stockholder proposals and nominations for director. In addition, pursuant to the provisions of both the certificate of incorporation and the by-laws, action may not be taken by written consent of stockholders; rather, any action taken by the stockholders must be effected at a duly called meeting. Moreover, the stockholders do not have the power to call a special meeting. Only the chief executive officer or the secretary pursuant to a board resolution or, under some circumstances, the president or a director who also is an officer, may call a special meeting. These provisions make it more procedurally difficult for a stockholder to place a proposal or nomination on the meeting agenda and prohibit a stockholder from taking action without a meeting, and therefore may reduce the likelihood that a stockholder will seek to take independent action to replace directors or with respect to other matters that are not supported by management for stockholder vote.

LIMITATIONS ON DIRECTOR LIABILITY

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MetLife, Inc.'s certificate of incorporation contains a provision that is designed to limit the directors' liability to the extent permitted by the Delaware General Corporation Law and any amendments to that law. Specifically, directors will not be held liable to MetLife, Inc. or its stockholders for an act or omission in their capacity as a director, except for liability as a result of:

- a breach of the duty of loyalty to MetLife, Inc. or its stockholders;
- acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law;
- payment of an improper dividend or improper repurchase of MetLife, Inc.'s stock under Section 174 of the Delaware General Corporation Law; or
- actions or omissions pursuant to which the director received an improper personal benefit.

The principal effect of the limitation on liability provision is that a stockholder is unable to prosecute an action for monetary damages against a director of MetLife, Inc. unless the stockholder can demonstrate one of the specified bases for liability. This provision, however, does not eliminate or limit director liability arising in connection with causes of action brought under the federal securities laws. MetLife, Inc.'s certificate of incorporation also does not eliminate the directors' duty of care. The inclusion of the limitation on liability provision in the certificate may, however, discourage or deter stockholders or management from bringing a lawsuit against directors for a breach of their fiduciary duties, even though such an action, if successful, might otherwise have benefitted MetLife, Inc. and its stockholders. This provision should not affect the availability of equitable remedies such as injunction or rescission based upon a director's breach of the duty of care.

MetLife, Inc.'s by-laws also provide that MetLife, Inc. indemnify its directors and officers to the fullest extent permitted by Delaware law. MetLife, Inc. is required to indemnify its directors and officers for all judgments, fines, settlements, legal fees and other expenses reasonably incurred in connection with pending or threatened legal proceedings because of the director's or officer's position with MetLife, Inc. or another entity, including Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, that the director or officer serves at MetLife, Inc.'s request, subject to certain conditions, and to advance funds to MetLife, Inc.'s directors and officers to enable them to defend against such proceedings. To receive indemnification, the director or officer must succeed in the legal proceeding or act in good faith and in a manner reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of MetLife, Inc. and with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be lawful.

SUPERMAJORITY VOTING REQUIREMENT FOR AMENDMENT OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION AND BY-LAWS

Some of the provisions of MetLife, Inc.'s certificate of incorporation, including those that authorize the board of directors to create stockholder rights plans, that set forth the duties, election and exculpation from

liability of directors and that prohibit stockholders from actions by written consent, may not be amended, altered, changed or repealed unless the amendment is approved by the vote of holders of 75% of the then outstanding shares entitled to vote at an election of directors. This requirement exceeds the

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majority vote of the outstanding stock that would otherwise be required by the Delaware General Corporation Law for the repeal or amendment of such provisions of the certificate of incorporation. MetLife, Inc.'s by-laws may be amended, altered or repealed by the board of directors or by the vote of holders of 75% of the then outstanding shares entitled to vote in the election of directors. These provisions make it more difficult for any person to remove or amend any provisions that have an antitakeover effect.

BUSINESS COMBINATION STATUTE

In addition, as a Delaware corporation, MetLife, Inc. is subject to Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law, unless it elects in its certificate of incorporation not to be governed by the provisions of Section 203. MetLife, Inc. has not made that election. Section 203 can affect the ability of an "interested stockholder" of MetLife, Inc. to engage in certain business combinations, including mergers, consolidations or acquisitions of additional shares of MetLife, Inc. for a period of three years following the time that the stockholder becomes an "interested stockholder." An "interested stockholder" is defined to mean any person owning, directly or indirectly, 15% or more of the outstanding voting stock of a corporation. The provisions of Section 203 are not applicable in some circumstances, including those in which (1) the business combination or transaction which results in the stockholder becoming an "interested stockholder" is approved by the corporation's board of directors prior to the time the stockholder becomes an "interested stockholder" or (2) the "interested stockholder," upon consummation of such transaction, owns at least 85% of the voting stock of the corporation outstanding prior to such transaction.

RESTRICTIONS ON ACQUISITIONS OF SECURITIES

Section 7312 of the New York Insurance Law provides that, for a period of five years after completion of the distribution of consideration pursuant to the plan of reorganization, no person may directly or indirectly offer to acquire or acquire in any manner the beneficial ownership (defined as the power to vote or dispose of, or to direct the voting or disposition of, a security) of 5% or more of any class of voting security (which term includes MetLife, Inc.'s common stock) of MetLife, Inc. without the prior approval of the New York Superintendent of Insurance. Pursuant to Section 7312, voting securities acquired in excess of the 5% threshold without such prior approval will be deemed non-voting.

The insurance laws and regulations of New York, the jurisdiction in which MetLife, Inc.'s principal insurance subsidiary, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, is organized, may delay or impede a business combination involving MetLife, Inc. In addition to the limitations described in the immediately preceding paragraph, the New York Insurance Law prohibits any person from acquiring control of MetLife, Inc., and thus indirect control of Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, without the prior approval of the New York Superintendent of Insurance. That law presumes that control exists where any person, directly or indirectly, owns, controls, holds the power to vote or holds proxies representing 10% or more of MetLife, Inc.'s outstanding voting stock, unless the New York Superintendent, upon application, determines otherwise. Even persons who do not acquire beneficial ownership of more than 10% of the outstanding shares of MetLife, Inc.'s common stock may be deemed to have acquired such control, if the New York Superintendent determines that such persons, directly or indirectly, exercise a controlling influence over MetLife, Inc.'s management and policies. Therefore, any person seeking to acquire a controlling interest in MetLife, Inc. would face regulatory obstacles which may delay, deter or prevent an acquisition.

The insurance holding company law and other insurance laws of many states also regulate changes of control (generally presumed upon acquisitions of 10% or

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more of voting securities) of insurance holding companies such as MetLife, Inc.

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STOCKHOLDER RIGHTS PLAN

MetLife, Inc.'s board of directors has adopted a stockholder rights plan under which each outstanding share of MetLife, Inc.'s common stock issued between April 4, 2000 and the distribution date (as described below) will be coupled with a stockholder right. Initially, the stockholder rights will be attached to the certificates representing outstanding shares of common stock, and no separate rights certificates will be distributed. Each right will entitle the holder to purchase one one-hundredth of a share of MetLife, Inc.'s Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock. Each one one-hundredth of a share of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock will have economic and voting terms equivalent to one share of MetLife, Inc.'s common stock. Until it is exercised, the right itself will not entitle the holder thereof to any rights as a stockholder, including the right to receive dividends or to vote at stockholder meetings. The description and terms of the rights are set forth in a rights agreement entered into between MetLife, Inc. and Mellon Investor Services, successor to ChaseMellon Shareholder Services, L.L.C., as rights agent. Although the material provisions of the rights agreement have been accurately summarized, the statements below concerning the rights agreement are not necessarily complete and in each instance reference is made to the form of rights agreement itself, which is incorporated by reference into this prospectus in its entirety. Each statement is qualified in its entirety by such reference.

Stockholder rights are not exercisable until the distribution date and will expire at the close of business on April 4, 2010, unless earlier redeemed or exchanged by MetLife, Inc. A distribution date would occur upon the earlier of:

- the tenth day after the first public announcement or communication to MetLife, Inc. that a person or group of affiliated or associated persons (referred to as an "acquiring person") has acquired beneficial ownership of 10% or more of MetLife, Inc.'s outstanding common stock (the date of such announcement or communication is referred to as the stock acquisition time); or
- the tenth business day after the commencement or announcement of the intention to commence a tender offer or exchange offer that would result in a person or group becoming an acquiring person.

If any person becomes an acquiring person, each holder of a stockholder right will be entitled to exercise the right and receive, instead of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock, common stock (or, in certain circumstances, cash, a reduction in purchase price, property or other securities of MetLife, Inc.) having a value equal to two times the purchase price of the stockholder right. All stockholder rights that are beneficially owned by an acquiring person or its transferee will become null and void.

If at any time after a public announcement has been made or MetLife, Inc. has received notice that a person has become an acquiring person, (1) MetLife, Inc. is acquired in a merger or other business combination or (2) 50% or more of MetLife, Inc.'s assets, cash flow or earning power is sold or transferred, each holder of a stockholder right (except rights which previously have been voided as set forth above) will have the right to receive, upon exercise, common stock of the acquiring company having a value equal to two times the purchase price of the right.

The purchase price payable, the number of one one-hundredths of a share of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock or other securities or property

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issuable upon exercise of rights and the number of rights outstanding, are subject to adjustment from time to time to prevent dilution. With certain exceptions, no adjustment in the purchase price or the number of shares of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock issuable upon exercise of a stockholder right will be required until the cumulative adjustment would require an increase or decrease of at least one percent in the purchase price or number of shares for which a right is exercisable.

At any time until the earlier of (1) the stock acquisition time or (2) the final expiration date of the rights agreement, MetLife, Inc. may redeem all the stockholder rights at a price of \$0.01 per right. At any time after a person has become an acquiring person and prior to the acquisition by such person of 50% or more of the outstanding shares of MetLife, Inc.'s common stock, MetLife, Inc. may exchange the stockholder rights, in whole or in part, at an exchange ratio of one share of common stock, or one one-hundredth of a share of

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Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock (or of a share of a class or series of preferred stock having equivalent rights, preferences and privileges), per right.

The stockholder rights plan is designed to protect stockholders in the event of unsolicited offers to acquire MetLife, Inc. and other coercive takeover tactics which, in the opinion of its board of directors, could impair its ability to represent stockholder interests. The provisions of the stockholder rights plan may render an unsolicited takeover more difficult or less likely to occur or may prevent such a takeover, even though such takeover may offer MetLife, Inc.'s stockholders the opportunity to sell their stock at a price above the prevailing market rate and may be favored by a majority of MetLife, Inc.'s stockholders.

METLIFE POLICYHOLDER TRUST

Under the plan of reorganization, MetLife established the MetLife Policyholder Trust to hold the shares of common stock allocated to eligible policyholders. 494,466,664 shares of common stock were distributed to the MetLife Policyholder Trust on the effective date of the plan of reorganization. As of May 16, 2001, the trust held 440,904,570 shares of MetLife, Inc.'s common stock. Because of the number of shares held by the trust and the voting provisions of the trust, the trust may affect the outcome of matters brought to a stockholder vote.

The trustee will generally vote all of the shares of common stock held in the trust in accordance with the recommendations given by MetLife, Inc.'s board of directors to its stockholders or, if the board gives no such recommendation, as directed by the board, except on votes regarding certain fundamental corporate actions. As a result of the voting provisions of the trust, MetLife, Inc.'s board of directors will effectively be able to control votes on all matters submitted to a vote of stockholders, excluding those fundamental corporate actions described below, so long as the trust holds a substantial number of shares of MetLife, Inc.'s common stock.

If the vote relates to fundamental corporate actions specified in the trust, the trustee will solicit instructions from the beneficiaries and vote all shares held in the trust in proportion to the instructions it receives, which would give disproportionate weight to the instructions actually given by trust beneficiaries. These actions include:

- an election or removal of directors in which a stockholder has properly nominated one or more candidates in opposition to a nominee or nominees

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of MetLife, Inc.'s board of directors or a vote on a stockholder's proposal to oppose a board nominee for director, remove a director for cause or fill a vacancy caused by the removal of a director by stockholders, subject to certain conditions;

- a merger or consolidation, a sale, lease or exchange of all or substantially all of the assets, or a recapitalization or dissolution of, MetLife, Inc., in each case requiring a vote of MetLife, Inc.'s stockholders under applicable Delaware law;
- any transaction that would result in an exchange or conversion of shares of common stock held by the trust for cash, securities or other property; and
- any proposal requiring MetLife, Inc.'s board of directors to amend or redeem the rights under the stockholder rights plan, other than a proposal with respect to which MetLife, Inc. has received advice of nationally-recognized legal counsel to the effect that the proposal is not a proper subject for stockholder action under Delaware law.

REGISTRATION RIGHTS GRANTED, AND RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED, IN CONNECTION WITH PRIVATE PLACEMENTS OF METLIFE, INC.'S COMMON STOCK

Banco Santander Central Hispano, S. A. and affiliates of Credit Suisse Group purchased from MetLife, Inc. an aggregate of 60,000,000 shares of common stock in private placements that closed concurrently with MetLife, Inc.'s initial public offering of common stock and its offering of equity security units. Pursuant to the registration rights granted to these purchasers, they are able to have their shares of common stock registered for resale under the Securities Act on not more than one occasion for each purchaser each year, or not more than five occasions for each purchaser in total (known as a "demand" registration right). In addition, MetLife,

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Inc. has agreed to use its reasonable efforts to register the shares for resale on a shelf registration statement on Form S-3 as soon as practicable after April 7, 2001. MetLife, Inc. expects to file this shelf registration statement with the SEC during the second quarter of 2001. We have agreed that each purchaser may make not more than two offerings under the registration statement each year, subject to a minimum offering size of \$50,000,000 per offering, although underwritten offerings will be subject to the limitations on the number of demand registrations described above. The purchasers are also able to participate, subject to specified limitations, in registrations effected by MetLife, Inc. for its own account or others.

Sales of substantial amounts of MetLife, Inc. common stock, or the perception that such sales could occur, could adversely affect prevailing market prices for MetLife, Inc.'s common stock.

In connection with the private placements, each purchaser has also agreed that it will not, without MetLife, Inc.'s consent, increase its ownership of voting securities above 4.9% of the outstanding shares (or 5.0% with the New York Superintendent's approval), except for any increase resulting from transactions in the ordinary course of the business of purchaser as underwriter, broker/dealer, investment manager or investment adviser or from ordinary trading activities (unless such transactions were made with the purpose of changing or influencing the control of MetLife, Inc.), seek to obtain board representation, solicit proxies in opposition to management or take certain other actions for five years.

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DESCRIPTION OF TRUST PREFERRED SECURITIES

This section describes the general terms and provisions of the trust preferred securities that may be offered by this prospectus. When the trusts offer to sell a particular series of the trust preferred securities, a prospectus supplement will describe the specific terms of the series. The prospectus supplement will also indicate whether the general terms described in this section apply to that particular series of trust preferred securities.

Specified terms and provisions of the trust preferred securities are described in this section. The summary is not complete. You should read this description of the trust preferred securities and the amended and restated declaration of trust and prospectus supplement relating to the applicable series of the trust preferred securities before you buy any trust preferred securities. The forms of amended and restated declarations of trust are filed as exhibits to the registration statement.

GENERAL

Each trust may issue only one series of trust preferred securities having terms described in the prospectus supplement. The declaration of trust of each trust will authorize the administrative trustees, on behalf of the trust, to issue the trust preferred securities of the trust. The trusts will use all of the proceeds they receive from the sale of trust preferred securities and common securities to purchase debt securities issued by MetLife, Inc. The debt securities will be held in trust by the trust's property trustee for the benefit of the holders of the trust preferred securities and common securities.

The trust preferred securities of each trust will have such terms as is set forth in the trust's declaration of trust, including as relates to distributions, redemption, voting, liquidation rights and the other preferred, deferral and special rights and restrictions. A prospectus supplement relating to the trust preferred securities being offered will include specific terms relating to the offering. These terms will include some or all of the following:

- the distinctive designation of the trust preferred securities;
- the number of trust preferred securities issued by the trust;
- the annual distribution rate, or method of determining such rate, for trust preferred securities of the trust;
- the date or dates on which distributions will be payable;
- whether distributions on the trust preferred securities will be cumulative;

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- if the trust preferred securities have cumulative distribution rights, the date or dates, or method of determining the date or dates, from which distributions on the trust preferred securities will be cumulative;
- the amount or amounts that will be paid out of the assets of the trust to the holders of the trust preferred securities of the trust upon voluntary or involuntary dissolution, winding-up or termination of the trust;
- the obligation, if any, of the trust to purchase or redeem the trust preferred securities;
- if the trust is to purchase or redeem the trust preferred securities:

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- the price or prices at which the trust preferred securities will be purchased or redeemed in whole or in part;
- the period or periods within which the trust preferred securities will be purchased or redeemed, in whole or in part; and
- the terms and conditions upon which the trust preferred securities will be purchased or redeemed, in whole or in part;
- the voting rights, if any, of the trust preferred securities in addition to those required by law, including:
 - the number of votes per trust preferred security; and
 - any requirement for the approval by the holders of trust preferred securities as a condition to specified action or amendments to the trust's declaration of trust;
- the rights, if any, to defer distributions on the trust preferred securities by extending the interest payment period on the related debt securities;
- the terms upon which the debt securities may be distributed to holders of trust preferred securities;
- if applicable, any securities exchange upon which the trust preferred securities shall be listed; and
- any other relative rights, preferences, privileges, limitations or restrictions of the trust preferred securities not inconsistent with the trust's declaration of trust or applicable law.

The prospectus supplement relating to the trust preferred securities being offered may specify that the trust preferred securities may be converted into MetLife, Inc.'s common stock upon the terms set forth in the prospectus supplement.

All trust preferred securities offered will be guaranteed by MetLife, Inc. to the extent set forth under "Description of Guarantees." Any material United States federal income tax considerations applicable to an offering of trust preferred securities will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

In connection with the issuance of preferred securities, each trust will issue one series of common securities. The declaration of each trust authorizes the regular trustees to issue on behalf of such trust one series of common securities having such terms including distributions, redemption, voting, liquidation rights or such restrictions as shall be set forth therein. The terms of the common securities issued by the trust will be substantially identical to the terms of the preferred securities issued by such trust and the common securities will rank equally, and payments will be made thereon pro rata, with the preferred securities. However, upon an event of default under the declaration of trust, the rights of the holders of the common securities to payment in respect of distributions and payments upon liquidation, redemption and otherwise will be subordinated to the rights of the holders of the preferred securities. Except in certain limited circumstances, the common securities will also carry the right to vote, and appoint, remove or replace any of the trustees of a trust. MetLife, Inc. will own, directly or indirectly, all of the common securities of each trust.

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ENFORCEMENT OF CERTAIN RIGHTS BY HOLDERS OF PREFERRED SECURITIES

If an event of default occurs, and is continuing, under the declaration of trust of MetLife Capital Trust II or MetLife Capital Trust III, the holders of the preferred securities of that trust would typically rely on the property trustee to enforce its rights as a holder of the related debt securities against MetLife, Inc. Additionally, those who together hold a majority of the liquidation amount of the trust's preferred securities will have the right to:

- direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the property trustee; or
- direct the exercise of any trust or power that the property trustee holds under the declaration of trust, including the right to direct the property trustee to exercise the remedies available to it as a holder of MetLife, Inc.'s debt securities.

If the property trustee fails to enforce its rights under the applicable series of debt securities, a holder of trust preferred securities of such trust may institute a legal proceeding directly against MetLife, Inc. to enforce the property trustee's rights under the applicable series of debt securities without first instituting any legal proceeding against the property trustee or any other person or entity.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, if an event of default occurs and the event is attributable to MetLife, Inc.'s failure to pay interest or principal on the debt securities when due, including any payment on redemption, and this debt payment failure is continuing, a preferred securities holder of the trust may directly institute a proceeding for the enforcement of this payment. Such a proceeding will be limited, however, to enforcing the payment of this principal or interest only up to the value of the aggregate liquidation amount of the holder's preferred securities as determined after the due date specified in the applicable series of debt securities.

DESCRIPTION OF GUARANTEES

This section describes the general terms and provisions of the guarantees. MetLife, Inc. will execute and deliver the guarantees for the benefit of the holders of the trust preferred securities. The prospectus supplement will describe the specific terms of the guarantees offered through that prospectus supplement and any general terms outlined in this section that will not apply to those guarantees.

Each guarantee will be qualified as an indenture under the Trust Indenture Act. Bank One Trust Company, N.A. will act as indenture trustee under each guarantee for purposes of the Trust Indenture Act.

This section summarizes specified terms and provisions of the guarantees. The summary is not complete and is subject in all respects to the provisions of, and is qualified in its entirety by reference to, the form of guarantee, which is filed as an exhibit to the registration statement which includes this prospectus, and the Trust Indenture Act. Each guarantee will be held by the guarantee trustee for the benefit of holders of the trust preferred securities to which it relates.

GENERAL

Pursuant to each guarantee, MetLife, Inc. will irrevocably and unconditionally agree, to the extent set forth in the guarantee, to pay in full, to the holders of the related trust preferred securities, the following guarantee payments, to the extent these guarantee payments are not paid by, or on behalf of, the related trust, regardless of any defense, right of set-off or

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counterclaim that MetLife, Inc. may have or assert against any person:

- any accrued and unpaid distributions required to be paid on the trust preferred securities of the trust, but if and only if and to the extent that the trust has funds legally and immediately available to make those payments;

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- the redemption price, including all accrued and unpaid distributions to the date of redemption, with respect to any trust preferred securities called for redemption by the trust, but if and only to the extent the trust has funds legally and immediately available to make that payment; and
- upon a dissolution, winding-up or termination of the trust, other than in connection with the distribution of debt securities to the holders of trust preferred securities of the trust, the lesser of:
 - the total of the liquidation amount and all accrued and unpaid distributions on the trust preferred securities of the trust to the date of payment, to the extent the trust has funds legally and immediately available to make that payment; and
 - the amount of assets of the trust remaining available for distribution to holders of trust preferred securities of the trust in liquidation of the trust.

MetLife, Inc. may satisfy its obligation to make a guarantee payment by directly paying the required amounts to the holders of the related trust preferred securities or by causing the related trust to pay such amounts to such holders.

Each guarantee will constitute a guarantee of payments with respect to the related trust preferred securities from the time of issuance of the trust preferred securities. The guarantees will not apply to the payment of distributions and other payments on the trust preferred securities when the related trust does not have sufficient funds legally and immediately available to make the distributions or other payments. If MetLife, Inc. does not make interest payments on the debt securities purchased by a trust, such trust will not pay distributions on the preferred securities issued by such trust and will not have funds available therefor. The guarantee, when taken together with MetLife, Inc.'s obligations under the debt securities, the Indentures, and the declarations of trust will provide a full and unconditional guarantee by MetLife, Inc. of payments due on the trust preferred securities.

MetLife, Inc. will also agree separately, through the guarantees of the common securities, to irrevocably and unconditionally guarantee the obligations of the trusts with respect to the common securities to the same extent as the guarantees of the preferred securities. However, upon an event of default under the Indentures, holders of preferred securities shall have priority over holders of common securities with respect to distributions and payments on liquidation, redemption or otherwise.

SUBORDINATION

MetLife, Inc.'s obligation under each guarantee to make the guarantee payments will be an unsecured obligation of MetLife, Inc. and, if subordinated debt securities are issued to the applicable trust and unless otherwise noted in the prospectus supplement, will rank:

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- subordinate and junior in right of payment to all of MetLife, Inc.'s other liabilities, including the subordinated debt securities, except those obligations or liabilities ranking equal to or subordinate to the guarantees by their terms;
- equally with any other securities, liabilities or obligations that may have equal ranking by their terms; and
- senior to all of MetLife, Inc.'s common stock.

If subordinated debt securities are issued to the applicable trust, the terms of the trust preferred securities will provide that each holder of trust preferred securities by accepting the trust preferred securities agrees to the subordination provisions and other terms of the guarantee related to subordination.

Each guarantee will constitute a guarantee of payment and not of collection. This means that the holder of trust preferred securities may institute a legal proceeding directly against MetLife, Inc. to enforce its rights under the guarantee without first instituting a legal proceeding against any other person or entity.

Each guarantee will be unsecured and, because MetLife, Inc. is principally a holding company, will be effectively subordinated to all existing and future liabilities of MetLife, Inc.'s subsidiaries, including liabilities

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under contracts of insurance and annuities written by MetLife, Inc.'s insurance subsidiaries. The guarantee does not limit the incurrence or issuance of other secured or unsecured debt by MetLife, Inc.

AMENDMENTS AND ASSIGNMENT

For any changes that materially and adversely affect the rights of holders of the related trust preferred securities, each guarantee may be amended only if there is prior approval of the holders of more than 50% in liquidation amount of the outstanding trust preferred securities issued by the applicable trust. All guarantees and agreements contained in each guarantee will bind the successors, assigns, receivers, trustees and representatives of MetLife, Inc. and will inure to the benefit of the holders of the related trust preferred securities of the applicable trust then outstanding.

TERMINATION

Each guarantee will terminate and will have no further force and effect as to the related trust preferred securities upon:

- distribution of debt securities to the holders of all trust preferred securities of the applicable trust; or
- full payment of the amounts payable upon liquidation of the applicable trust.

Each guarantee will continue to be effective or will be reinstated, as the case may be, if at any time any holder of the related trust preferred securities must restore payment of any sums paid with respect to the trust preferred securities or under the guarantee.

EVENTS OF DEFAULT

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Each guarantee provides that an event of default under a guarantee occurs upon MetLife, Inc.'s failure to perform any of its obligations under the applicable guarantee.

The holders of a majority or more in liquidation amount of the trust preferred securities to which any guarantee relates may direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the guarantee trustee with respect to the guarantee or may direct the exercise of any trust or power conferred upon the guarantee trustee in respect of the guarantee.

If the guarantee trustee fails to enforce the guarantee, any holder of the related trust preferred securities may institute a legal proceeding directly against MetLife, Inc. to enforce the holder's rights under such guarantee without first instituting a legal proceeding against the trust, the guarantee trustee or any other person or entity.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, if MetLife, Inc. fails to make a guarantee payment, a holder of trust preferred securities may directly institute a proceeding against MetLife, Inc. for enforcement of the preferred securities guarantee for such payment.

The holders of a majority or more in liquidation amount of trust preferred securities of any series may, by vote, on behalf of the holders of all the trust preferred securities of the series, waive any past event of default and its consequences.

INFORMATION CONCERNING THE GUARANTEE TRUSTEE

Prior to an event of default with respect to any guarantee and after the curing or waiving of all events of default with respect to the guarantee, the guarantee trustee may perform only the duties that are specifically set forth in the guarantee.

Once a guarantee event of default has occurred and is continuing, the guarantee trustee is to exercise, with respect to the holder of the trust preferred securities of the series, the same degree of care as a prudent individual would exercise in the conduct of his or her own affairs. Unless the guarantee trustee is offered reasonable indemnity against the costs, expenses and liabilities which may be incurred by the guarantee trustee by a holder of the related trust preferred securities, the guarantee trustee is not required to exercise any

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of its powers under any guarantee at the request of the holder. Additionally, the guarantee trustee is not required to expend or risk its own funds or otherwise incur any financial liability in the performance of its duties if the guarantee trustee reasonably believes that it is not assured repayment or adequate indemnity.

The guarantee trustee is Bank One Trust Company, N.A., which is one of a number of banks and trust companies with which MetLife, Inc. and its subsidiaries maintain ordinary banking and trust relationships.

GOVERNING LAW

Each guarantee will be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the internal laws of the State of New York, without regard to its principles of conflicts of laws.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

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MetLife, Inc. may sell the common stock, preferred stock and any series of debt securities, and MetLife Capital Trust II and MetLife Capital Trust III may sell any of the preferred securities, being offered hereby in one or more of the following ways from time to time:

- to underwriters or dealers for resale to the public or to institutional investors;
- directly to institutional investors; or
- through agents to the public or to institutional investors.

The prospectus supplement with respect to each series of securities will state the terms of the offering of the securities, including:

- the name or names of any underwriters or agents;
- the purchase price of the securities and the proceeds to be received by MetLife, Inc. or the applicable trust from the sale;
- any underwriting discounts or agency fees and other items constituting underwriters' or agents' compensation;
- any initial public offering price;
- any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers; and
- any securities exchange on which the securities may be listed.

If MetLife, Inc. or the trusts use underwriters in the sale, the securities will be acquired by the underwriters for their own account and may be resold from time to time in one or more transactions, including:

- negotiated transactions;
- at a fixed public offering price or prices, which may be changed;
- at market prices prevailing at the time of sale;
- at prices related to prevailing market prices; or
- at negotiated prices.

The securities may also be offered and sold, if so indicated in the prospectus supplement, in connection with a remarketing upon their purchase, in accordance with a redemption or repayment pursuant to their terms, or otherwise, by one or more remarketing firms, acting as principals for their own accounts or as agents for MetLife, Inc. or the trusts. The prospectus supplement will identify any remarketing firm and will describe the terms of its agreement, if any with MetLife, Inc. or the trusts and its compensation.

Unless otherwise stated in a prospectus supplement, the obligations of the underwriters to purchase any securities will be conditioned on customary closing conditions and the underwriters will be obligated to purchase all of such series of securities, if any are purchased.

Underwriters, dealers, agents and remarketing firms may be entitled under agreements entered into with MetLife, Inc. and/or the applicable trust, or both, to indemnification by MetLife, Inc. against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribution with respect to

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payments which the underwriters, dealers, agents and remarketing firms may be required to make. Underwriters, dealers, agents and remarketing agents may be customers of, engage in transactions with, or perform services for MetLife, Inc., any trust and/or MetLife, Inc.'s affiliates in the ordinary course of business.

Each series of securities will be a new issue of securities and will have no established trading market other than the common stock which is listed on the New York Stock Exchange. Any common stock sold will be listed on the New York Stock Exchange, upon official notice of issuance. The securities, other than the common stock, may or may not be listed on a national securities exchange. Any underwriters to whom securities are sold by MetLife, Inc. or any trust for public offering and sale may make a market in the securities, but such underwriters will not be obligated to do so and may discontinue any market making at any time without notice.

LEGAL OPINIONS

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, the validity of any debt securities, preferred stock, common stock, trust preferred securities or guarantees offered hereby will be passed upon for MetLife, Inc. and MetLife Capital Trust II and/or MetLife Capital Trust III by Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP. Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP maintains a group life insurance policy with Metropolitan Life Insurance Company and beneficially owns an aggregate of less than 0.01% of MetLife, Inc.'s outstanding common stock. Helene L. Kaplan, a director of MetLife, Inc. and Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, is of counsel to Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements and the related financial statement schedules incorporated in this prospectus by reference from the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K have been audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP, independent auditors, as stated in their report, which is incorporated herein by reference, and have been so incorporated in reliance upon the report of such firm given upon their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

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PART II

INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS

ITEM 14. OTHER EXPENSES OF ISSUANCE AND DISTRIBUTION.

The expenses relating to the registration of the securities will be borne by the registrant. Such expenses are estimated to be as follows:

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Securities and Exchange Commission Registration Fee..... | \$1,000,000 |
| NASD Filing Fee..... | \$ 30,500 |
| Trustees' Fees and Expenses..... | \$ 20,000 |
| Printing and Engraving Fees and Expenses..... | \$ 75,000 |
| Accounting Fees and Expenses..... | \$ 25,000 |
| Legal Fees..... | \$ 375,000 |
| Miscellaneous..... | \$ 5,000 |
| Total..... | \$1,530,500 |

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ITEM 15. INDEMNIFICATION OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS.

MetLife, Inc.'s directors and officers may be indemnified against liabilities, fines, penalties and claims imposed upon or asserted against them as provided in the Delaware General Corporation Law and MetLife, Inc.'s Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation and Amended and Restated By-Laws. Such indemnification covers all costs and expenses incurred by a director or officer in his capacity as such. The board of directors, by a majority vote of a quorum of disinterested directors or, under certain circumstances, independent counsel appointed by the board of directors, must determine that the director or officer seeking indemnification was not guilty of willful misconduct or a knowing violation of the criminal law. In addition, the Delaware General Corporation Law and MetLife, Inc.'s Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation may under certain circumstances eliminate the liability of directors and officers in a stockholder or derivative proceeding.

If the person involved is not a director or officer of MetLife, Inc., the board of directors may cause MetLife, Inc. to indemnify, to the same extent allowed for MetLife, Inc.'s directors and officers, such person who was or is a party to a proceeding by reason of the fact that he is or was MetLife, Inc.'s employee or agent, or is or was serving at MetLife, Inc.'s request as director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan or other enterprise.

MetLife, Inc. has in force and effect policies insuring its directors and officers against losses which they or any of them will become legally obligated to pay by reason of any actual or alleged error or misstatement or misleading statement or act or omission or neglect or breach of duty by the directors and officers in the discharge of their duties, individually or collectively, or any matter claimed against them solely by reason of their being directors or officers. Such coverage is limited by the specific terms and provisions of the insurance policies.

Pursuant to the forms of underwriting agreements filed as exhibits to this registration statement, the underwriters will agree to indemnify directors and officers of MetLife, Inc. and persons controlling MetLife, Inc., within the meaning of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, against certain liabilities that might arise out of or are based upon certain information furnished to MetLife, Inc. by any such underwriter.

The declarations of trust of MetLife Capital Trust II and MetLife Capital Trust III provide that no trustee, affiliate of any trustee or any officers, directors, stockholders, members, partners, employees, representatives or agents of any trustee or any employee or agent of MetLife Capital Trust II or MetLife Capital Trust III or their affiliates, each referred to as an indemnified person, shall be liable, responsible or accountable in damages or otherwise to any employee or agent of MetLife Capital Trust II or MetLife Capital Trust III or their affiliates or any officers, directors, stockholders, employees, representatives or agents of MetLife, Inc. or its affiliates, or to any holders of trust securities of MetLife Capital Trust II or MetLife

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Capital Trust III for any loss, damage or claim incurred by reason of any act or omission performed or omitted by such indemnified person in good faith on behalf of MetLife Capital Trust II or MetLife Capital Trust III and in a manner such indemnified person reasonably believed to be within the scope of the authority conferred on such indemnified person by the applicable declaration of trust or by law, except that an indemnified person shall be liable for any such loss, damage or claim incurred by reason of such indemnified person's gross negligence (or, in the case of the property trustee of MetLife Capital Trust II or MetLife

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Capital Trust III, negligence) or willful misconduct with respect to such acts or omissions. The declarations of trust also provides that, to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, MetLife, Inc. shall indemnify and hold harmless each indemnified person from and against any loss, damage or claim incurred by such indemnified person by reason of any act or omission performed or omitted by such indemnified person in good faith on behalf of MetLife Capital Trust II or MetLife Capital Trust III and in a manner such indemnified person reasonably believed to be within the scope of authority conferred on such indemnified person by the declarations of trust, except that no indemnified person shall be entitled to be indemnified in respect of any loss, damage or claim incurred by such indemnified person by reason of gross negligence (or, in the case of the property trustee of MetLife Capital Trust II or MetLife Capital Trust III, negligence) or willful misconduct with respect to such acts or omissions. Each declaration of trust further provides that to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, expenses (including legal fees) incurred by an indemnified person in defending any claim, demand, action, suit, or the final disposition of such claim, demand, action, suit or proceedings shall, from time to time, be advanced by MetLife, Inc. prior to the final disposition of such claim, demand, action, suit or proceeding upon receipt by MetLife, Inc. of an undertaking by or on behalf of the indemnified person to repay such amount if it shall be determined that the indemnified person is not entitled to be indemnified pursuant to the declaration of trust.

ITEM 16. LIST OF EXHIBITS.

The Exhibits to this registration statement are listed in the Index to Exhibits on page II-8.

ITEM 17. UNDERTAKINGS.

The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement: (i) To include any prospectus required by section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933; (ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than a 20% change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the "Calculation of Registration Fee" table in the effective registration statement; (iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement; provided, however, that paragraphs 1(i) and 1(ii) do not apply if the registration statement is on Form S-3, S-8 or F-3, and the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in periodic reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by the registrant pursuant to section 13 or section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement;

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed

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to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

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(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each filing of the registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that is incorporated by reference in the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered herein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the registrant pursuant to the provisions set forth in Item 15, or otherwise, the registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes to file an application for the purpose of determining the eligibility of the trustee to act under subsection (a) of Section 310 of the Trust Indenture Act in accordance with the rules and regulations prescribed by the Commission under Section 305(b)(2) of the Act.

The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes that for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, the information omitted from the form of prospectus filed as part of this registration statement in reliance upon Rule 430A and contained in a form of prospectus filed by the registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(1) or (4) or 497(h) under the Securities Act shall be deemed to be part of this registration statement as of the time it was declared effective.

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SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-3 and has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of New York, State of New York on May 18, 2001.

METLIFE, INC.

By /s/ ROBERT H. BENMOSCHE

Name: Robert H. Benmosche

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Title: Chairman

KNOWN ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS that each person whose signature to this Registration Statement appears below hereby constitutes and appoints Gary A. Beller, Leland C. Launer, Jr. and Stewart G. Nagler, or any of them, as such person's true and lawful attorney-in-fact and agent, with full power of substitution and resubstitution, for such person and in such person's name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to sign any and all amendments to the Registration Statement, including post-effective amendments, and registration statements filed pursuant to Rule 462 under the Securities Act of 1933, and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto, and other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, and does hereby grant unto each said attorney-in-fact and agent full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done in and about the premises, as fully to all intents and purposes as such person might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that each said attorney-in-fact and agent, or any substitute therefor, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

| SIGNATURE ----- | TITLE ----- | DATE --- |
|--|--|----------------|
| <p style="text-align: center;">/s/ ROBERT H. BENMOSCHE ----- Robert H. Benmosche</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Chairman, President, Chief Executive Officer and Director (Principal Executive Officer)</p> | <p>May 18,</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">/s/ GERALD CLARK ----- Gerald Clark</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Vice-Chairman, Chief Investment Officer and Director</p> | <p>May 18,</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">/s/ STEWART G. NAGLER ----- Stewart G. Nagler</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Vice-Chairman, Chief Financial Officer and Director</p> | <p>May 18,</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">/s/ CURTIS H. BARNETTE ----- Curtis H. Barnette</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Director</p> | <p>May 18,</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">/s/ JOAN GANZ COONEY ----- Joan Ganz Cooney</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Director</p> | <p>May 18,</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">/s/ JOHN C. DANFORTH ----- John C. Danforth</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Director</p> | <p>May 18,</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">----- Burton A. Dole, Jr.</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Director</p> | <p>,</p> |

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| SIGNATURE ----- | TITLE ----- | DATE ----- |
|---|----------------|---------------|
| /s/ JAMES R. HOUGHTON ----- James R. Houghton | Director | May 18, |
| /s/ HARRY P. KAMEN ----- Harry P. Kamen | Director | May 18, |
| /s/ HELENE L. KAPLAN ----- Helene L. Kaplan | Director | May 18, |
| /s/ CHARLES M. LEIGHTON ----- Charles M. Leighton | Director | May 18, |
| /s/ JOHN J. PHELAN, JR. ----- John J. Phelan, Jr. | Director | May 18, |
| /s/ HUGH B. PRICE ----- Hugh B. Price | Director | May 18, |
| /s/ RUTH J. SIMMONS ----- Ruth J. Simmons | Director | May 18, |
| /s/ WILLIAM C. STEERE, JR. ----- William C. Steere, Jr. | Director | May 18, |

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SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, each registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-3 and has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of New York, State of New York on May 18, 2001.

METLIFE CAPITAL TRUST II

By: MetLife, Inc.,
as sponsor

By: /s/ LELAND C. LAUNER, JR.

Name: Leland C. Launer, Jr.
Title: Senior Vice President and
Treasurer

METLIFE CAPITAL TRUST III

By: MetLife, Inc.,

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as sponsor

By: /s/ LELAND C. LAUNER, JR.

Name: Leland C. Launer, Jr.

Title: Senior Vice President and
Treasurer

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EXHIBIT INDEX

EXHIBIT
NO.

DESCRIPTION OF EXHIBITS

- 1.1 Form of Underwriting Agreement for Debt Securities, Preferred Stock and Common Stock.
- 1.2 Form of Underwriting Agreement for Trust Preferred Securities.
- 2.1 Plan of Reorganization (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 2.1 to MetLife, Inc.'s Registration Statement on Form S-1 (No. 333-91517) (the "S-1 Registration Statement").
- 2.2 Amendment to Plan of Reorganization dated as of March 9, 2000 (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 2.2 to the S-1 Registration Statement).
- 3.1 Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of MetLife, Inc. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to MetLife, Inc.'s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2000, filed with the Commission on March 14, 2001) (the "2000 Annual Report").
- 3.2 Amended and Restated By-Laws of MetLife, Inc. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to the 2000 Annual Report).
- 4.1 Form of Senior Indenture.
- 4.2 Form of Subordinated Indenture.
- 4.3 The form of any Senior Note with respect to each particular series of Senior Notes issued hereunder will be filed as an exhibit to a Current Report of MetLife, Inc. on Form 8-K and incorporated by reference herein.
- 4.4 The form of any Subordinated Note with respect to each particular series of Subordinated Notes issued hereunder will be filed as an exhibit to a Current Report of MetLife, Inc. on Form 8-K and incorporated by reference herein.
- 4.5 The form of any certificate of designation with respect to any preferred stock issued hereunder will be filed as an exhibit to a Current Report of MetLife, Inc. on Form 8-K and incorporated by reference herein.
- 4.6 Certificate of Trust of MetLife Trust Capital II.
- 4.7 Certificate of Trust of MetLife Trust Capital III.
- 4.8 Declaration of Trust of MetLife Trust Capital II.
- 4.9 Declaration of Trust of MetLife Trust Capital III.
- 4.10 Form of Amended and Restated Declaration of Trust of MetLife Capital Trust II.
- 4.11 Form of Amended and Restated Declaration of Trust of MetLife Capital Trust III.
- 4.12 Form of Trust Preferred Security Certificate of MetLife Capital Trust II (Included in Exhibit 4.10).
- 4.13 Form of Trust Preferred Security Certificate of MetLife Capital Trust III (Included in Exhibit 4.11).

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- 4.14 Form of Trust Preferred Securities Guarantee Agreement for MetLife Capital Trust II.
- 4.15 Form of Trust Preferred Securities Guarantee Agreement for MetLife Capital Trust III.
- 4.16 Form of Common Securities Guarantee Agreement for MetLife Capital Trust II.
- 4.17 Form of Common Securities Guarantee Agreement for MetLife Capital Trust III.
- 4.18 Form of Certificate for Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to the S-1 Registration Statement).
- 4.19 Indenture between MetLife, Inc. and The Bank of New York, as trustee, relating to the Debentures (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to the 2000 Annual Report).
- 4.20 First Supplemental Indenture between MetLife, Inc. and The Bank of New York, as trustee, relating to the Debentures (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.3 to the 2000 Annual Report).

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| EXHIBIT NO. | DESCRIPTION OF EXHIBITS |
|-------------|---|
| 4.21 | Certificate of Trust of MetLife Capital Trust I (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.3 to MetLife, Inc.'s and MetLife Capital Trust I's Registration Statement on Form S-1 (Nos. 333-32074 and 333-32074-01) (the "Trust Registration Statement"). |
| 4.22 | Declaration of Trust of MetLife Capital Trust I (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.4 to the Trust Registration Statement). |
| 4.23 | Amended and Restated Declaration of Trust of MetLife Capital Trust I (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.6 to the 2000 Annual Report). |
| 4.24 | Capital Securities Guarantee Agreement for MetLife Capital Trust I (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.7 to the 2000 Annual Report). |
| 4.25 | Capital Security Certificate of MetLife Capital Trust I (Included in Exhibit 4.21 incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.6 to the 2000 Annual Report). |
| 4.26 | Purchase Contract Agreement (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.9 to the 2000 Annual Report). |
| 4.27 | Pledge Agreement (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.10 to the 2000 Annual Report). |
| 4.28 | Form of Debenture (Included in Exhibit 4.20 incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.3 to the 2000 Annual Report). |
| 4.29 | Form of Normal Unit (Included in Exhibit 4.26 incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.9 to the 2000 Annual Report). |
| 4.30 | Form of Stripped Unit (Included in Exhibit 4.26 incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.9 to the 2000 Annual Report). |
| 4.31 | Common Securities Guarantee Agreement (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.14 to the 2000 Annual Report). |
| 5.1 | Opinion of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP as to Validity of the Offered Securities. |
| 10.1 | MetLife Deferred Compensation Plan 2000 for Senior Officers (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the S-1 Registration Statement). |
| 10.2 | MetLife Deferred Compensation Plan 2000 for Officers |

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- (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the S-1 Registration Statement).
- 10.3 Form of Employment Continuation Agreement with Messrs. Benmosche, Nagler and Clark (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 to the S-1 Registration Statement).
- 10.4 Form of Employment Continuation Agreement with Mr. Henrikson and other executive officers (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to the S-1 Registration Statement).
- 10.5 Employment Continuation Agreement with Mr. Benson (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.5 to the S-1 Registration Statement).
- 10.6 Rights Agreement (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.6 to the 2000 Annual Report).
- 10.7 MetLife, Inc. 2000 Stock Incentive Plan, as amended and restated on March 28, 2000 (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.7 to the S-1 Registration Statement).
- 10.8 MetLife, Inc. 2000 Directors Stock Plan, as amended and restated on March 28, 2000 (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.8 to the S-1 Registration Statement).
- 10.9 Amended and Restated Employment Continuation Agreement with Ms. Rein (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.9 to the S-1 Registration Statement).
- 10.10 Employment Continuation Agreement between Ms. Rein and Metropolitan Property and Casualty Insurance Company, dated March 3, 2000 (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.10 to the S-1 Registration Statement).

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EXHIBIT
NO.

DESCRIPTION OF EXHIBITS

- | EXHIBIT NO. | DESCRIPTION OF EXHIBITS |
|-------------|---|
| 10.11 | Employment Agreement between New England Life Insurance Company and James M. Benson, dated June 16, 1997 (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.11 to the S-1 Registration Statement). |
| 10.12 | Policyholder Trust Agreement (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.12 to the S-1 Registration Statement). |
| 10.13 | Restatement of the Excess Asbestos Indemnity Insurance Policy, dated as of December 31, 1998, between Stockwood Reinsurance Company, Ltd. and Metropolitan Life Insurance Company (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.13 to the S-1 Registration Statement). |
| 10.14 | Restatement of the Excess Asbestos Indemnity Insurance Policy, dated as of December 31, 1998, between European Reinsurance Corporation of America and Metropolitan Life Insurance Company (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.14 to the S-1 Registration Statement). |
| 10.15 | Restatement of the Excess Asbestos Indemnity Insurance Policy, dated as of December 31, 1998, between Granite State Insurance Company and Metropolitan Life Insurance Company (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.16 to the S-1 Registration Statement). |
| 10.16 | Form of Reinsurance Agreement, dated as of October 1, 2000, between Metropolitan Life Insurance Company and certain reinsurers (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.18 to the 2000 Annual Report). |
| 10.17 | Amended and Restated Aggregate Excess of Loss Reinsurance Agreement, dated as of March 1, 2000, between American |

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- International Life Assurance Company of New York and Metropolitan Life Insurance Company (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to the MetLife, Inc. Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2000 (the "First Quarter 2000 10-Q").
- 10.18 Amended and Restated Aggregate Excess of Loss Reinsurance Agreement, dated as of March 1, 2000, between Stockwood Reinsurance Company, Ltd. and Metropolitan Life Insurance Company (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to the First Quarter 2000 10-Q).
- 10.19 Five-Year Credit Agreement, dated as of April 27, 1998, and as amended as of April 26, 1999, among Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, MetLife Funding, Inc. and the other parties signatory thereto (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.18 to the S-1 Registration Statement).
- 10.20 Amendment No. 2, dated as of June 30, 2000, to the Five Year Credit Agreement, among Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, MetLife Funding, Inc. and the other parties signatory thereto (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.20 to the 2000 Annual Report).
- 10.21 364-Day Credit Agreement, dated as of April 25, 2001, among MetLife, Inc., Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, MetLife Funding, Inc. and the other parties signatory thereto.
- 10.22 Stipulation of Settlement, as amended, relating to Metropolitan Life Insurance Company Sales Practices Litigation (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.21 to the S-1 Registration Statement).
- 10.23 Consulting Agreement with Harry P. Kamen, effective July 1, 1999 (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.22 to the S-1 Registration Statement).
- 10.24 Metropolitan Life Insurance Company Long Term Performance Compensation Plan (for performance periods starting on or after January 1, 2000) (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.24 to the S-1 Registration Statement).
- 10.25 Metropolitan Life Insurance Company Long Term Performance Compensation Plan (for performance periods starting on or after January 1, 1999) (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.25 to the S-1 Registration Statement).
- 10.26 Metropolitan Life Insurance Company Long Term Performance Compensation Plan (for performance periods starting on or after January 1, 1998) (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.26 to the S-1 Registration Statement).

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EXHIBIT
NO.

DESCRIPTION OF EXHIBITS

-
- 10.27 Metropolitan Life Insurance Company Long Term Performance Compensation Plan (for performance periods starting on or after January 1, 1997) (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.27 to the S-1 Registration Statement).
- 10.28 Metropolitan Life Insurance Company Annual Variable Incentive Plan (for performance periods starting on or after January 1, 2000) (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.28 to the S-1 Registration Statement).
- 10.29 The New Metropolitan Life Auxiliary Retirement Benefits Plan, as amended and restated, effective January 1, 1996 (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.29 to the S-1

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- Registration Statement).
- 10.30 The New Metropolitan Life Supplemental Auxiliary Retirement Benefits Plan, effective January 1, 1996, and Amendment thereto (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.30 to the S-1 Registration Statement).
- 10.31 Metropolitan Life Auxiliary Savings and Investment Plan, restated effective through August 15, 1998 (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.31 to the S-1 Registration Statement).
- 10.32 Metropolitan Life Supplemental Auxiliary Savings and Investment Plan (as amended and restated as of September 1, 1998) and Amendment thereto (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.32 to the S-1 Registration Statement).
- 10.33 Supplemental Auxiliary Savings and Investment Plan of Participating Metropolitan Affiliates, effective January 1, 1996 (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.33 to the S-1 Registration Statement).
- 10.34 Metropolitan Life Supplemental Retirement Benefits Plan and Amendment thereto, effective January 1, 1995 (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.34 to the S-1 Registration Statement).
- 10.35 New England Financial Annual Variable Incentive Plan (for performance periods starting on or after January 1, 2000) (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.35 to the S-1 Registration Statement).
- 10.36 New England Financial Long Term Performance Compensation Plan (for performance periods starting on or after January 1, 2000) (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.36 to the S-1 Registration Statement).
- 10.37 New England Life Insurance Company Select Employees Supplemental 401(k) Plan, as amended and restated effective January 1, 2000 (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.37 to the S-1 Registration Statement).
- 10.38 New England Life Insurance Company Supplemental Retirement Plan, as amended and restated effective January 1, 2000 (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.38 to the S-1 Registration Statement).
- 10.39 The New England Life Insurance Company Select Employees Supplemental Retirement Plan, as amended and restated effective January 1, 2000 (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.39 to the S-1 Registration Statement).
- 10.40 The New England Life Insurance Company Senior Executive Nonqualified Elective Deferral Plan, effective January 1, 1998 (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.40 to the S-1 Registration Statement).
- 10.41 New England Financial Long Term Performance Compensation Plan (for each of the three-year performance periods commencing on January 1, 1997, 1998 and 1999, respectively) (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.41 to the S-1 Registration Statement).
- 10.42 The New England Short-Term Incentive Plan (for performance periods starting on or after January 1, 1999) (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.42 to the S-1 Registration Statement).

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EXHIBIT
NO.

DESCRIPTION OF EXHIBITS

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- 10.43 Metropolitan Life Insurance Company Annual Variable Incentive Plan (for performance periods starting on or after January 1, 1999) (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.43 to the S-1 Registration Statement).
- 10.44 Form of Capital Note (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.44 to the S-1 Registration Statement).
- 10.45 1993 Fiscal Agency Agreement between Metropolitan Life Insurance Company and The Chase Manhattan Bank, N.A., dated as of November 1, 1993 (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.45 to the S-1 Registration Statement).
- 10.46 1995 Fiscal Agency Agreement between Metropolitan Life Insurance Company and The Chase Manhattan Bank, N.A., dated as of November 13, 1995 (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.46 to the S-1 Registration Statement).
- 10.47 Fiscal Agency Agreement between New England Mutual Life Insurance Company and The First National Bank of Boston, dated as of February 10, 1994 (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.47 to the S-1 Registration Statement).
- 10.48 Fiscal Agency Agreement between General American Life Insurance Company and The Bank of New York, dated as of January 24, 1994 (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.48 to the S-1 Registration Statement).
- 10.49 Amended and Restated Trust Agreement among GenAmerica Corporation and Wilmington Trust Company, David L. Herzog, John W. Hayden and Christopher A. Martin dated as of June 6, 1997 (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.49 to the S-1 Registration Statement).
- 10.50 Employment Continuation Agreement with Ms. Weber (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.50 to the S-1 Registration Statement).
- 10.51 Form of Stock Purchase Agreement among MetLife, Inc., Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, Credit Suisse Group or its affiliates and Banco Santander, Central Hispano S.A. or its affiliates (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.51 to the S-1 Registration Statement).
- 10.52 MetLife Deferred Compensation Plan for Officers 2001 (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.55 to the 2000 Annual Report).
- 10.53 MetLife Individual Business Special Deferred Compensation Plan 2001 (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.56 to the 2000 Annual Report).
- 10.54 Amendment to the New Metropolitan Life Auxiliary Retirement Benefits Plan (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.57 to the 2000 Annual Report).
- 10.55 Amendment to the New Metropolitan Life Supplemental Auxiliary Retirement Benefits Plan (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.58 to the 2000 Annual Report).
- 10.56 Amendment to the Metropolitan Life Supplemental Retirement Benefits Plan (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.59 to the 2000 Annual Report).
- 10.57 Amendment to the Metropolitan Life Supplemental Auxiliary Savings and Investment Plan (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.60 to the 2000 Annual Report).
- 12.1 Statement re: Computation of Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges.
- 21.1 Subsidiaries of the Registrant (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 21.1 to the 2000 Annual Report).
- 23.1 Consent of Deloitte & Touche LLP, Independent Auditors.

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| EXHIBIT NO. ----- | DESCRIPTION OF EXHIBITS ----- |
|-------------------------|---|
| 23.2 | Consent of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP (Included in Exhibit 5.1). |
| 24.1 | Powers of Attorney of Certain Officers and Directors of MetLife, Inc. (Included in the signature pages hereto). |
| 25.1 | Statement of Eligibility on Form T-1 of Bank One Trust Company, N.A., Trustee under the Senior Indenture, the Subordinated Indenture, the MetLife Capital Trust II Trust Preferred Securities Guarantee of MetLife, Inc. and the MetLife Capital Trust III Trust Preferred Securities Guarantee of MetLife, Inc. |
| 25.2 | Statement of Eligibility on Form T-1 of Bank One Trust Company, N.A., Trustee under the Declaration of Trust and the Amended and Restated Declaration of Trust of MetLife Capital Trust II. |
| 25.3 | Statement of Eligibility on Form T-1 of Bank One Trust Company, N.A., Trustee under the Declaration of Trust and the Amended and Restated Declaration of Trust of MetLife Capital Trust III. |