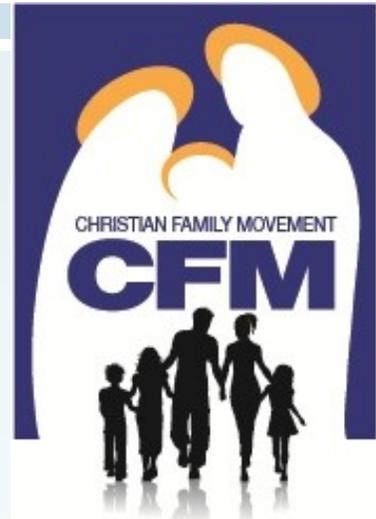


ACT Newsletter

Lay Movements Are “Bearers of Hope”



Juliette and Sam Tirone

Sam Tirone, of the National Board of Directors, and **Carolyn and Pete Broeren**, Past National Presidents, represented CFM at a meeting of lay movements of the Diocese of Pittsburgh in February. Father Joseph Mele, secretary for leadership development and evangelization, said his department wants to invite lay leaders to engage in programs that can help

their ministries. The interaction can lead to an exchange of ideas that are beneficial to all parties. He pointed to Pope Francis, who has spoken of the importance of lay apostolates and movements: “They are bearers of hope, who live in the present but look to the future.” “You are shaping history,” Father Mele said. “You are painting the picture of who we want to be.” He had noted that lay apostolates often reach the marginalized in ways the parish cannot reach as effectively. Other groups represented were the Ladies of Charity, the Catholic Alumni Club of Pittsburgh, Catholic Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, Catholic Men’s the Holy Name Society, Knights of Columbus, Pax Christi of Pittsburgh, Ark and the Dove, Lay Missionaries of Charity and parish evangelization teams.

Video Training Debuts for CFM Leaders

New to leading CFM in your parish or want to refine and re-energize your skills? View the results of the recent video sessions hosted by John and Lauri Przybysz from the CFM national board on the mission of CFM, charism of leadership, practical skills and strategies for successful CFM leadership. Participants from across the country share their experiences and asked questions. The training is available online in six 9-minute clips at

http://www.cfm.org/leader_materials

UNDIE SUNDAY in Omaha

The CFM group at St. Bernard’s parish observed and judged at a past CFM meeting that socks and underwear are very much needed by local clothing banks. **Mary Stefan** reports that an overwhelming response was received from their flyers. “You are free to copy this great and successful action idea—everyone, young and old, can get involved. The socks and undies came in droves. They were organized, counted and sorted by members of the St. Bernard CFM group. Additional assistance was given by a couple other churches in the city as well. All the socks and underwear were donated to homeless shelters.



CFM in the World



INDIA—Mumbai region. **Francis and Sharon D'Souza** are the Mumbai Regional heads, and they sent CFM-USA a report on two recent actions. They are 3 small CFM groups in the Mumbai Region totaling to just 20 families. Some members lend a hand at a nearby orphanage for girls, providing meals, medicine and other services as needed. In December 2016, as they do every year, they organized a Christmas party for the children at the home of CFMers, **Blanche and Basil D' Souza**. There

were plenty of games, prizes, dancing and a sumptuous lunch. The children enjoyed the freedom of a homely atmosphere and were given return gifts. In February, as they have been doing for over 30 years, the CFMers organized a Mass for the sick and house-bound. Transport to the church and back is provided if required. Parishioners volunteer their vehicles and assistance, and a doctor is always present at the venue. Sharon reports, "It is a very touching scene, this fellowship of suffering souls. The special worshippers are helped or carried into the church and seated. The priests move up and down the aisles anointing and hearing confessions. This time with the Lord in his House is precious to all of them. Many of them will not make it to the Mass next year."



Members' Spotlight

Deacon Thomas Pluta, of Holy Trinity Parish, Westfield, New Jersey, continues his successful group that began using *The Grand Adventure* last year. They requested the CFM digital book, *Called to Wisdom*, an excellent program for groups with older couples. Members may request digital program materials by contacting the CFM Office, director@cfm.org.

CFM Pioneer **Jeannette Van Bellingham**, CFM pioneer, died this month in Maryland. Their good friend, Fr. Don Conroy, past national chaplain said "Jeannette and her husband **Dan** were dedicated CFMers at St Charles Parish in Arlington, VA, before their retirement to West Virginia. I met with their CFM group over many years."

Maureen Conrad organized two new groups at her parish, St. John Vianney in Bettendorf, Iowa, during Lent. One is using *Meeting Jesus Changes Everything*. The other will do *Connected Christian Living*.



July 1–4, 2017
Convocation
of Catholic Leaders
The Joy of the Gospel in America

CFM Leaders were invited to join this key gathering to form leaders who will be equipped and re-energized to share the Gospel as missionary disciples, while offering fresh insights informed by new research, communications strategies, and successful models.

Loving the Family
God Gives Us
2018 Program Guide -- Coming in July!