



ACT Newsletter

July 2017

“Be doers of the word and not hearers only.” James 1:22

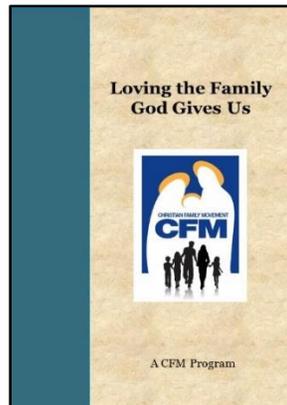
FORMING MISSIONARY DISCIPLES IN AND THROUGH THE FAMILY

New Program Now Available!

Loving the Family God Gives Us

Reflecting on our many different family relationships: children, parents, siblings, friends, and extended relations

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Everyone is part of a family. We all are begotten of a father and born of a mother. We have brothers and sisters and extended family relationships. We long for intimacy. These pertinent topics are discussed in a small group setting guided by a methodology that creates disciples. Featuring the wisdom of Pope Francis on the topic of family love, this program approaches topics that families deal with every day with the CFM methodology of observe, judge, act in their daily lives -- observing the situations around us, judging them in the light of Christ's teaching and acting to make a difference.

Family Focus on the Sunday Gospel

Follow [CFM's Blog](#), *At Home in Our Faith*, and get some down-to-earth talking points for the ride home from church!

CFM in ACTION across the USA

PALATINE, ILLINOIS – Rachel and Brodie Bertrand at St. Thomas of Villanova sent photos of their end of year family picnic.



PITTSBURGH, PA – Members from three CFM groups came together for a picnic and to ACT on a recent Saturday night. Families supplied items and assembled care bags for children in the Pittsburgh Foster Care system. Supplies consisted of essential haircare/toiletry items- packed into drawstring bags (made by one of our members) out of pillowcases! Each care bag was sent on its way with a personalized note of encouragement/ prayer promise for the recipient. This project was inspired by one



of our CFM families who is in the process of adopting 3 siblings that they have been fostering for the past 2 ½ years. They shared with us their experience as foster parents, and the reality that fostered kids often arrive at their new homes with nothing but a black garbage bag full of limited and misfit belongings. We had a beautiful evening of fellowship and service.

One member said, "I can't express how wonderful this experience was, doing this all together, and meeting the new family. Thank you so much for organizing this. What an amazing organization! And it really hit home with my boys. I love what they got out of it. We talked about it 'til bedtime!"



PORTLAND, OREGON - **Julie and John Ward** held an information night for their parish, St. Ignatius. It was attended by 20 couples. There was a big range in the length of marriage, from 18 months to 47 years (not counting John and Julie at 52 years).

were clearly very happy to have gathered there. A lot of interest was expressed not just in finding support for marriage (the announced purpose of the meeting), but in gaining solidarity with other families in the parish. "John and I are both hopeful that there is definitely potential here to get CFM started."

WOODBIDGE, VIRGINIA – **Andrea Russell** joined CFM in September, and then she and her husband received their first communion and confirmation at the Easter Vigil. **Brigid and Jason Smith**, group leaders, said, the Russell family have been very proactive for the group: "Two months ago, we all donated new books and toys for the NICU of a local hospital that Andrea's son had been in as a 2-year-old. He was well taken care of so she tries to check in with them and donate needed items from time to time. We collected over 20 items to donate! Another service project we are now doing every month is providing a dinner for a local ACTS shelter. The shelter provides a home for those struggling. They are provided a hot dinner each day they are there. Our CFM members put a hot dinner together for whoever is at the shelter at the time and drop it off the 30th of every month. We are hoping to one day get together to actually cook the meal together and then deliver it but so far cooking together hasn't worked out due to families traveling here and there."

CFM: It Takes VISION – by **Sam and Juliette Tirone**

CFM continues to provide for us a chance to engage in fellowship and deeper conversation with other (Catholic) Christians that we would not get from simply going to church. However, our vision for ourselves and for our group would involve participation and investment that was likely at the heart of the true intention of CFM. We believe that groups who actively engage together in service not only nourish overall group cohesion, but play a crucial part in the growth of CFM. An active CFM group that has a strong purpose and is visible in putting their faith into action can attract the interest of others. The peaked interest of others leads to more families wanting to be a part of CFM. Our faith needs this to happen! We work in our diocese to spread the word about CFM and help new groups get started in neighboring parishes.