



ACT Newsletter

December 2017

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

Pray for Peace to Prepare for the Coming of the Prince of Peace!

Informed by the daily news, we lift up in prayer a situation around the world that needs the peace of Christ and the Love of caring people. We commit ourselves, as Christian families, to become messengers of peace in our family and our community. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us.



Prepare the Way of the Lord! Ideas for Advent

Celebrate the feast of St. Nicholas on Dec. 6. This beloved saint can teach us again about generosity and love of those who are

needy. Read about him at www.catholic.org/saints.

Make an Advent prayer chain. Cut strips of paper, one for each day of Advent, and write a name or a prayer intention on each one. Glue the strips into links and join them into a chain. When you pull off the last link, it's Christmas!

Family Night. Gather with your family or invite another family to join you for a special Advent evening. This Family Night, designed by Susan Vogt, author of our weekly *Marriage Moments* and *Parenting Pointers**, focuses on reassessing our Christmas activities and trying to return Advent to its original spirit. Click this link

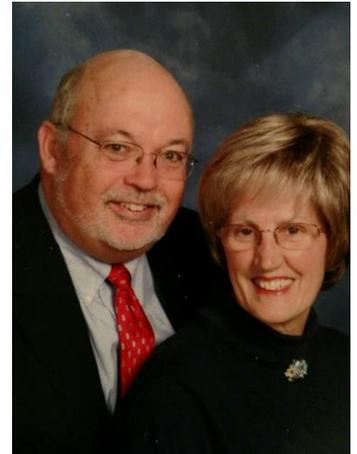
<http://susanvogt.net/EnrichmentEx.htm#AdventWaiting> for directions.

*Want to receive *Marriage Moments* and/or *Parenting Pointers* by email? Email director@cfm.org and we will make it happen.

CFM's Mission Inspires Board Couple

“We believe that CFM provides a natural nursery to form the domestic Church and, ultimately, to grow the Church.” This is the vision of newly-elected national Board members, **Deacon**

Jerry and Ronnie Brennan.



The Brennans welcomed the opportunity to serve CFM because they recognize its value for building strong families that live the Gospel, “an excellent small group format for sharing, learning, reflecting mentoring and formulating and taking action as Christians in the community.” Jerry explains, “For example, in 1986 Ronnie’s mother died and our youngest son was born two weeks later. The response of friends and “Church family” from CFM was overwhelming and made an indelible mark.

CFM has been formational for the Brennans and their family. “Working with CFM to participate at an inner-city parish shows how CFM can reach out to the broader community. For the last several years we led a diocesan marriage task force and

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several years ago participated in a provincial marriage task force. We believe CFM is one of the most appropriate ways to mentor young couples and strengthen marriage.”

The Brennans have five adult children, four of whom are married and six grandchildren. Jerry is the former Director of the Permanent Diaconate for the Diocese of Lansing and currently active as CFO of a research company and on the board of a small pharma company working on Duchenes Muscular Dystrophy. Ronnie, a retired elementary art teacher, has been a lay leader serving as spiritual director in the CRHP renewal program for a number of years. She is also a lay Franciscan and past Minister of her local fraternity. They split their time between their Michigan parish, Holy Spirit in Brighton and their Illinois parish, Our Lady of the Wayside in Arlington Heights, where they served as a leader couple in the past.

“We feel it would be a privilege to serve. We want to do all we can to strengthen marriage as an institution and see CFM as a way to promote the faith, family and community.”

Read [CFM’s Blog for Gospel insights](#), and find many more resources for successful groups at <http://www.cfm.org/>



Use OJA Method to Transform Society

Cardinal Joseph Cardijn started what became the Young Christian Workers in 1925 in Belgium, teaching them to Observe, Judge and Act. Today, three organizations follow the [OJA method](#): CFM, YCW, and Young Christian Students. The method has informed the thought of Pope Francis since [his years in Latin America](#), and we see echoes of Observe, Judge, Act in “Laudato Si”, on the Care for Our Common Home,” as well as in the methods of the Synod on the Family.

Recently, San Diego Bishop Robert McElroy, [speaking to community organizers](#), called Observe, Judge, and Act, "a powerful pathway for those who seek to renew the temporal order in the light of the Gospel and justice." The method calls us to see the situation clearly, to judge with principles that foster the integral development of people, and to act in our

own situations. He said these words, “which carry with them such a powerful history of social transformation around the world in the service of the dignity of the human person, must be renewed and re-examined in every age, and seen against the background of those social, economic, and political forces in each historical moment.”

Share Your Act

Your Actions are an essential part of the Movement. Please tell what you do to put your faith in action. Your story may be featured on our website or in a future news feature. Pictures help tell the story. The CFM Webpage has a special way to communicate with other CFMers and share great ideas for action. [Visit “Share Your Act” here to tell your story.](#)



Pilgrimage to Ireland

Travel with CFM friends and Fr. Don Conroy, past National Chaplain. Package includes flights and registration at the WMOF. Optional pre-tour of Knock and Galway. For more information, visit

<http://www.pilgrimages.com/nif/>

CFM in ACTION

PORTLAND, OREGON - **Jule and John Ward**, past National Board Members, received this response to the bulletin notice of their upcoming Advent gatherings: “My wife and I were visitors this past Sunday and St. Ignatius. My parents belonged to a CFM group in the mid- fifties in Yakima. I just want to congratulate you on your efforts, and hope your efforts bear fruit.”

LAKE GEORGE, NEW YORK -**Meg Linder** reports they have had initial interest by two groups that have seen our “ad” in the parish bulletin. Each new group is headed by a parent of young children/teens. They have the startup materials supplied by the CFM National Office. Meg plans to keep advertising and building the enthusiasm, PAKISTAN - **Robert Younas**, a parish leader, found CFM on the internet and reached out for guidance about starting CFM there. We sent the easy-to-follow [Meeting Instructions](#) and the free sample chapter, [“Make Conversation a Priority.”](#)