



ACT Newsletter

December 2018

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

XIV World Assembly of Christian Family Movements

Morelia, Michoacán,
Mexico

July 12-14, 2019

"IN EVERY HOME,
SHINE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST"



Prepare the Way of the Lord: Beyond the Advent Wreath



Make a **Jesse Tree**, adding a daily symbol from the biblical stories of people who helped prepare the way for the Messiah. Use a real branch or draw a tree on poster board. Make the symbols out of paper, felt, or dough. [Click this link:](#)

to download directions and a list of symbols for making your own Jesse Tree.

Over 140,000 families worldwide belong to a CFM. *You are invited to meet some of them next summer!* The World Assembly is held every 3 years, gathering members of CFM organizations from around the world. The last assembly, 2016, was in San Antonio, Texas, hosted by the North American CFM organizations, including CFM-USA.

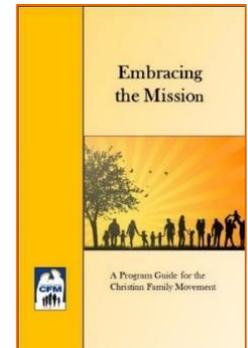
[Registration details are forthcoming.](#)

Visit <http://www.iccfm.org> to catch up on the missionary efforts of your CFM International Team in Ethiopia, Kuala Lumpur, Honduras, Vietnam, India, Ireland, and Philippines.

LEADER GUIDE NOW ONLINE!

[Click here](#)

Now group leaders have access to background resources for excellent CFM meetings and guides for planning relevant action. Download or read on your tablet the Leader Guide for EACH MEETING of the 2018 Program Book, [Embracing the Mission](#).



The program has eight topics and full directions for three "Family and Community" Meetings to introduce more families at your parish to CFM, to enliven our personal encounter with Jesus Christ, support our families' faith journey, strengthen our commitment to the Gospel, and deepen the spiritual life of our groups.

Frugal Gift Ideas for Family and Friends

Susan Vogt, author of Marriage and Moments and Parenting Pointers [shares some ideas for giving](#). She says, "It was a result of our own family's effort to simplify Christmas plus many ideas from families who had been trying to do the same. Enjoy!"



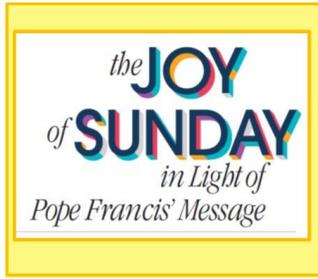
CFM Pioneer, Mary Lou Gorman, who for years belonged to St. James CFM and recently was in an Our Lady of the Wayside group in Palatine, IL, passed away this week. **Mary Lou and Phil Gorman** served for many years on the National Board of CFM. Mary Lou wrote a regular column in ACT Newsletter, *Parent to*

Parent, that many will remember. Her dedication to families and to Christ showed us how to live well. We are full of gratitude for her life.

LIKE [CFM's Facebook page](#) to receive weekly Gospel reflections and inspiration for spreading the Good News.

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

Rev. Dr. Don Conroy, past National CFM Chaplain, is a member of the board of the [Lord's Day Alliance](#), an ecumenical project



that encourages Sunday worship in churches. He reveals rich messages of Joy and Faith in Pope Francis' writings of the most recent *eSunday Magazine* of the **Lord's Day Alliance** (<https://t.co/Ehyat7pJP1>). (See pp. 12-13.) "The gift of Sunday allows us time and space to reflect on the riches of God's grace to us, to offer prayers of gratitude for them, and to celebrate with all those who are part of our family of faith."



How do I love thee?

Author Jule Ward, CFMer from Portland, Oregon. Jule and John served on the National Board of Directors, shares

love lessons learned in six decades of marriage and family life. Check out her blog at <https://howdoilovethee.blog/>

CFM FAMILIES SHARE THEIR STORIES

PALATINE, ILLINOIS: "My wife and I have been in CFM for over 25 years. We have met dozens and dozens of couples, some young, some old. The group meetings have provided us to hear their opinions and insights on the various topics we have discussed. It has opened our eyes to sides of stories that we never would have considered. It also has given us the opportunity socialize and become good friends with many people we otherwise would get a chance to meet."

"We love CFM! It is great to share Christian thoughts and experiences with other families who have the same values."

ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN: "Our group has been together since January 2000. Because of the almost 19-year commitment to each other and the sharing of

our faith, our group has appreciated a deep and lasting relationship which enriches the lives of each family.

CZECH REPUBLIC: "Besides the work with neighbor families -- friendly meetings and prayers, help in need, free time activities, prevention of crisis, encouragement to have more children, etc. -- it is necessary to raise of public awareness concerning families generally, that means "politically" on the local, region or state level in order to remember to the whole society the importance and irreplaceability of the family based on marriage, the appreciation of the motherhood and fatherhood, the significance (for children as well as for the society) of family stability. It is necessary to convince the journalists to write positively about families and the economists to calculate the true value of the unpaid family work during upbringing of children."

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS: "I personally love the parenting and marriage pointers that you send out. They are wonderful. You do a great job."

AMES, IOWA - Federation Treasurer **Ed Kannel** reports that they started the 2018-2019 season with 26 families meeting in several groups. They are hoping to recruit a few more members soon, too.

Books and More to Share with Kids:

Parents and Grandparents, here is a creative website with ideas for you and the kids you love. Here are some books about kindness.



"You'll be priming your child's brain to grow into a kind, compassionate soul. We all know the world could use more of those!" Read Here:

https://happyyouhappyfamily.com/books-about-kindness/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=SocialWarfare

POLO SHIRTS FOR YOUR GROUP:

[Click here to Order online.](#) Wear and share the news of CFM. All colors and sizes. Kids', too.

