

ACT Newsletter

January 2019

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

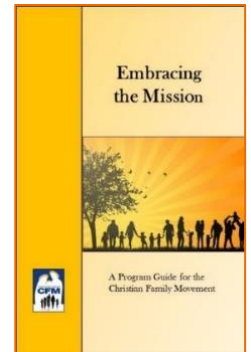
Happy New Year! Keep the Year Holy at Home

- **Cultivate a sense of gratitude.** Greet each child with a smile in the morning, thanking God aloud for the gift that a child is. Summer offers innumerable examples of the glory and abundance of God’s creative genius. Recognize the wonder of a sprouting seed and the beauty of full bloom. Model for your children an appreciation of God’s gifts.
- **Rededicate yourselves to mealtime prayer.** Whether it’s a picnic at the park or hotdogs on the run, begin with bowed heads and thanksgiving. Light a candle. Your prayer can be a simple ritual, like holding hands and saying “Thank you, God” together and blowing out the candle can be a graced moment for your family.
- **Commit to Sunday Mass even when traveling.** This speaks powerfully to your children about the centrality of your faith. Your family tramping into church as vacation visitors also gives a witness to the regular parishioners.
- **Extend your family circle.** Whether it’s the new child on the block or the elderly neighbor you don’t see all winter, summer is the perfect time to reach out and include them. Don’t fuss about making special plans; just invite others to join whatever you’re already doing.
- **Serve others.** Teens can shovel snow or mow lawns; grade-schoolers can walk dogs or pick up mail. Kids are often more than willing to do chores for someone else than to do them at home. Older teens may even be able to volunteer for a week away

from home in programs helping disadvantaged children or underprivileged communities.

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.

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/>

Lent Is A Good Time to Share CFM with Your Parish

Sample Pulpit Announcement: "When Jesus sent out His disciples to announce His coming, He sent them two by two. He wanted them to have companions on the journey. It is still true today for Christian Families, we need companions on the journey of faith.

Our Lady of the Fields is supporting Christian marriage and family life with a program to help people to live their faith in everyday life.

We will be meeting once a month (*add details here: in our homes, in the parish, whatever works for your families*). Please come to the parish hall after mass today to learn how you can join other families to build a better world through actions of love, service, education, and example. We have donuts."

New Year's Resolution?

Love Your Spouse

Although having a weekly date may seem like a no brainer, many couples' good intentions quickly slip slide into next week, when we're not so busy, or have more money. This week make a commitment to a weekly date. As we start a new year, offer this Marriage Enrichment idea to your couples. Here are some ideas from *Marriage Moments* author Susan Vogt to help you: [52 Weeks of Creative Dates](#).

CFM FAMILIES SHARE THEIR STORIES

St. Francis Parish, W. Des Moines, IA, has registered more than 81 families in 13 groups. Some are new groups and some are renewing members. **Kelly Koenig** ordered a variety of program materials for the groups, geared to the families' situations.

Angelo Fiorino is starting a Grandparents group at his parish, St. Andrew, in **Murphysboro, IL**.

Federation treasurer **Ed Kannel** reported that the families at **St. Cecilia's Parish in Ames, Iowa**, are renewing their memberships.

POLO SHIRTS FOR YOUR GROUP:

[Click here to Order online.](#)

Wear and share the news of CFM. All colors and sizes. Kids', too.



Spread CFM in Your Diocese

- CFM was a sponsor of the **Diocese of San Diego** Parish Leader Day in October. CFM materials and promotional items were on the resource table and registration flyer featured our name and logo.
- **Brian and Mary Ann Thelen** of St. Thomas Parish, Ann Arbor, Michigan, have been asked to review **Diocese of Lansing** webpage on Marriage and Family Life. They requested that the diocese list CFM as a resource.
- Ask **your diocesan Family Life office** to help you share the CFM message with more families.



Grateful for CFM Leaders' Legacy

Leaders of CFM groups make a lasting impression on the families they serve. Detroit-area CFM leader **Eleanor Ensroth** passed on to eternal life last month. **Ray**, her spouse, died last year. They were part of CFM for many years in the Detroit area and they served on the National Board 1989-1993. Past-presidents **John and Lauri Przybysz** said, "We remember Eleanor, a wonderful woman who was an example and mentor to us as young parents. She has a strong and beautiful legacy in all the families that they touched." **Ed and Sheila Osterhaus** remember the Ensroths fondly: "A delightful couple who worked hard for CFM. One of the things I remember about them is that they used to bring skates to convention (in-line, I think) and skate around the college campuses where we met. They did that long after most of us would have been too scared to put on a pair of skates!"

XIV World Assembly of Christian Family Movements

Morelia, Michoacán, Mexico

July 12-14, 2019

"IN EVERY HOME,
SHINE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST"

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. [Download the Registration Form](#). 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.

