



# ACT Newsletter

April 2019

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



## Care for Earth, Our Common Home

**Earth Day is celebrated April 22**, appropriately right after Easter. As members of Christ's Body, we believe that the Earth is “Our Common Home.” We must be good stewards of the planet entrusted to our care. It is essential to manage water wisely through both times of plenty and scarcity. Let us support measures that respect our world’s climate as a common good, belonging to all and meant for all, which must be preserved and protected. Encourage discussion on issues affecting the environment (climate change, consumption, pollution, stewardship of the land) that is civil and constructive. Seek prudent solutions that are more responsive to the needs of the poor. Advocate for environmental justice that embraces subsidiarity and global solidarity when addressing ecological issues, and to hear both the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor.

## EARTH WEEK MEETING

### - A CFM Expansion Tool

Invite some new friends to join your group for a special meeting, “**Care for Creation.**” You can [download a copy of the meeting here](#). The meeting is a newly updated chapter from the CFM Program, *We Hold These Treasures*. This meeting features Prayer, Scripture reflection, education from the Church and a

rich assortment of action ideas from which your group can choose to care for our common home.

## Share Your Earth Day Act

Is your group doing a “Earth Day” project? Please share your story and a photo with 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.

[Visit “Share Your Act” here & tell your story.](#)

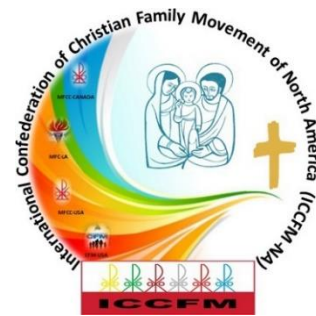
## United in Prayer



[Click to Pray](#). Download the app to pray along with the Universal Church.

## Make *Less* for Lent

Although we are already several weeks into Lent it's never too late to care for God's creation. We often think about making the *most* of our Lenten experiences, to maximize our spiritual renewal. Check out these [Waste Less Lent](#) ideas from Susan Vogt.



## CFM has members worldwide!

Many expressions of CFM are active in many countries worldwide, all of which cooperate as the International Confederation of Christian Family

Movements, ICCFM. In the United States, more than 8,000 Hispanic families belong to similar family movements with whom CFM-USA collaborates. We belong to a Continental CFM group, ICCFM-North America. **Wilbur and Juanita Hooker**, Los Angeles, CA, are continental presidents. Visit <https://www.cimfc-na.org/> to see more about our sister movements in the USA. More than 150,000 families are in CFM organizations around the world. Visit <http://www.iccfm.org> to catch up on the missionary efforts of your CFM International Team in

Ethiopia, Malawi, Kuala Lumpur, Honduras, Costa Rica, Vietnam, India, Ireland, and Philippines. A portion of CFM members' donations go to support the work of the international confederation. Thank you!

## Establishing Great Expectations for Fruitful CFM Meetings

When a new family joins your group, or when you begin a new group, it's a great opportunity to reestablish expectations and reiterate goals. Long-standing groups can fall into habits that need breaking.

- ✓ Does your group always run overtime?
- ✓ Does your discussion stray off track?
- ✓ Do you never seem to get to the Act portion of the meeting?
- ✓ Do members repeatedly fail to follow through on actions?

Take the time to briefly outline the goals and schedule for the different parts of your meeting in order to refocus your group on putting faith into action. Refer members to the "Outline of a CFM Meeting" in the front of your program book. Make sure adequate time is allotted for the Observe-Judge-Act discussion since it is the core of CFM.



**National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers**  
*Strengthening the Church's Commitment to Families*

## CFM Makes a Difference in the Church--Near and Far

We all experience CFM in our local parish and community, in our small action groups, also called chapters. CFM also has national connections. CFM is a member of the **National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers**, NACFLM. CFM is also listed in the U.S. Catholic Bishops' Directory of Lay Movements, Organizations, and Professional Associations, and we maintain a cordial and productive relationship with the staff of the U.S. Bishops' **Secretariat for Family, Laity, Women and Youth**.

These institutional church relationships help the Christian Family Movement have an impact in

many other Church organizations. Participating in national conferences allows CFM to share our strategies for creating small groups that are concrete expressions of the family as "domestic church" in which members live their faith actively. CFM continues to reach out in action, locally and nationally, to inspire families to follow Christ and live their faith joyfully and generously.

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/>

## Child Protection is Everyone's Responsibility

- *Dr. Lauri Przybysz, Executive Director, CFM-USA*

Having observed that others have not been doing all they can to protect children, parents and other responsible adults need to step up our game. It has become painfully evident that this is a crisis that can no longer be managed among bishops alone. All of us must become advocates against childhood sexual abuse. Pope Francis, in his [Letter to the People of God](#), reminds us that the whole Church, both lay and ordained, must do all they can to combat this evil:

"Looking ahead to the future, no effort must be spared to create a culture able to prevent such situations from happening, but also to prevent the possibility of their being covered up and perpetuated. The pain of the victims and their families is also our pain, and so it is urgent that we once more reaffirm our commitment to ensure the protection of minors and of vulnerable adults."

The people of God must commit ourselves to creating a culture of safe and just relationships. Justice for victims. Accountability from the Church. Healing for the people of God. We can all do something positive. We must.