



## CFM USA is part of an International Movement – and they are thanking you!

CFM USA partners in mission with other countries in North America, as well as all the continents. We are an international movement! As always, our ACT Newsletter is shared with all the Christian Family Movement Presidents of North America, and with the International Presidents of the ICCFM and their team. For these reasons we are sharing the message that Wilma and Pip Cua Presidents of ICCFM (left) have sent to you congratulating you on your valuable work for families of CFM, seen in the [January edition of ACT](#).

“Thank you for sharing this wonderful edition of ACT. It is so delightful and refreshing to see photos and read articles about what CFMers are doing in their own parishes. Kudos to the CFM groups and families of Oshkosh, Wisconsin; San Diego and Redondo Beach; Our Lady of the Fields, Millersville, MD; and the parish of Clarklake, Michigan. You make us so happy and proud of you! “

### From the President Couple:

As we reflect on the national board meeting hosted by the CFM groups at St. Lawrence Martyr (SLM) in Redondo Beach, CA, we are humbled by the number of families who have been touched by the Christian Family Movement over the last seven decades. (CFM has been active at SLM for 63 years!) On Saturday evening, the "Super Reunion" brought together families and couples representing infants to octogenarians! Many of these long-time CFMers still meet regularly for breakfast and socialization, maintaining lifelong friendships. New families are joining, and there was lots of sharing about how CFM has changed lives. Past-presidents Mary and John Poprac (right) organized a great weekend.



We know people across the country are experiencing the same thing through their small groups. We want to thank all our members for all you do to strengthen families and carry out the new evangelization. At our board meeting there was a lot of discussion and work being done as we draw closer to rolling out our new logo and branding. Stay tuned and keep praying for the mission of CFM, the mission of the family! – **Brian and Mary Ann Thelen**

**More photos from St. Lawrence CFM Reunion on p. 6**

## CFM Groups in Action

**BUCYRUS, KANSAS.** CFM groups at Queen of the Holy Rosary discussed “The Global Dimension of Discipleship” at their meeting on the seventh chapter of *Embracing the Mission*. Tom and Kathy Rothermich (right) showed the groups a video of the mission trip to Tijuana, which Rothermichs attend every year with their former parish from the St. Louis area. Another couple in the group shared about their experience participating in a mission trip to Panama.



**PORTLAND, OREGON.** St. Ignatius’ CFM group (below) is enjoying the CFM digital mini-series, *Our Marriage: A Work in Progress*. Beth Schaller, the parish Family Life Coordinator, is organizing the group. Jule and John Ward, center, are past Board Members.

### SEWICKLEY, PA.

Javier and Diana Ochoa’s new group from St. John and Paul parish renewed their membership after exploring CFM with a Starter Kit experience.



### MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN.

Mary and Jim Robertson are leaders in two groups, one at Three Holy Women/Old St.

Mary’s in Milwaukee and another at St. Anthony in Menominee Falls. They are guiding a new group of young couples who are just getting started in CFM.



**URBANDALE, IOWA.** St. Boniface’s CFM group renewed their membership and are meeting using the new program, *Together for Good*. Laura and Brian Bowshier are the leaders.

**MILLERSVILLE, MARYLAND.** Our Lady of the Fields’ CFM members, past and present, served dessert (left) to the guests of the Winter Relief program hosted by the area churches for the homeless of their county.

## The Mission of Jesus is Our Mission, too!

REFLECT ON THE WHY, WHAT AND HOW OF CFM

Listen, as National Spiritual Director, Fr. Louis Golamari (right) shares part of his homily on the account of Jesus beginning his public ministry, from the Gospel of Luke. 8 min. [audio link](https://soundcloud.com/user-948973327/cfm-message-from-national-spiritual-director-fr-louis-golamari) <https://soundcloud.com/user-948973327/cfm-message-from-national-spiritual-director-fr-louis-golamari>

View a [photo/slide show](#) illustrating this talk. This and many other testimonies of CFM's mission are posted on the [CFMtube channel](#) on YouTube.



## WINTER BOARD MEETING IN LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Before they started their semi-annual meeting in Los Angeles, the National Board Members served breakfast to 215 guests at St. Francis Center. [St. Francis Center's](#) mission is to feed, serve and walk with the poor as a community of hope in the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi. The center offers a variety of programs for the homeless



and extremely low-income individuals and families from the neighborhoods in and around downtown Los Angeles, including served meals, sack lunches, food pantry services, health and hygiene

programs, summer youth camps, and case management.

At the meeting, North American Continental Presidents, Wilbur and Juanita Hooker, Los Angeles (right), and Bishop George Rassas, Chicago (left), joined the meeting, held at St. Lawrence Martyr Parish Center.



The Board members traveled from Virginia, Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, Iowa, Nebraska, and Pittsburgh, to pray, report on actions, work on future programming, encourage local CFMers, and strategize how to engage more people in spreading the Movement to more young families.



## OMAHA, NEBRASKA.

The annual Epiphany Party at St. Bernard Church was a fun and inspiring afternoon event. The Gospel story of Epiphany was read, followed by singing "We Three Kings." Wrapped gifts of canned goods and non-perishable food items were presented on the altar near the Nativity display. These gifts will be used for the food pantry. Deacon Ed and Sheila Osterhaus are leaders.



## Resources for Children

Cyril and Carmen D'Souza, Past-presidents of CFM-India, report that CFMers in Bangalore are planning to have parallel meetings of the children of their groups. CFM-USA shared with them some of our online resources and activities that are designed to include children.

You will find some fun activities on our webpage, based on the [Gifts of Spirit](#).

How does your group include children in the CFM mission? Share with CFM your successful strategies and activities for children and youth. Email the National Office, [director@cfm.org](mailto:director@cfm.org).

Learn more about CFM India here: <http://www.cfmindia.org/home.html>

## Responding to Racism

**Walking Together:**  
Brothers and Sisters  
Responding to Racism



February is Black History Month. For your CFM group, consider using a meeting from the CFM program, *Walking Together: Brothers and Sister Responding to Racism*. Members may request the 3-meeting mini-series and Leader Guide

[using this request form](#). For your families at home: Share a creative intergenerational Family Night, [Erasing Racism](#), by Susan Vogt, author of [Marriage Moments](#) and [Parenting Pointers](#).

 **Do You Shop on Amazon?** Please take a moment to select "Christian Family Movement" as your charity of choice. <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/36-6217705>

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

READ [CFM's Weekly Gospel Reflections Blog for Spirituality](#) from a family perspective.

## Your New Year's Resolution? Care for Your Marriage!

from Susan Vogt, author of *Marriage Moments* and *Parenting Pointers*:

When couples get married they figure they know each other pretty well – and hopefully they do. With the New Year, it might be fun to check out how things might have changed. Try this short exercise [How Do I Know Thee? Let Me Count the Ways](#) .

Contact the [National Office](#) to subscribe to receive short weekly [Marriage Moments](#) and/or [Parenting Pointers](#) by email.

### Share CFM with Your Parish for Lent

#### 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. CFM is families following Jesus, at home, at church and in the world! We believe in families. You do, too!

St. Barbara's is supporting Christian marriage and family life with a movement to help people to live their faith with friends in everyday life. CFM is "love in action!"

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."



### GREENSBURG, PA.

CFM leader Bob Sober entered eternal life January 10, 2020. He and LaVerne were Area 4 Couple (PA, OH, Western NY, WV) in the early 80s. He is survived by Laverne (who was ACT editor back then) and 7 children and 13 grandchildren. They just celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary. Bob and LaVerne were active members of the Blessed Sacrament Cathedral parish. Bob's later years were devoted to the St. Vincent de Paul Society and he lovingly volunteered his time there for almost thirty years. Bob loved his family, loved God, loved to make people laugh, and loved to sing. Thank you, Bob, for all you taught us.

### CFM Office Moves to Maryland

Thank you, Brigid Smith, for your service to the members of CFM in the National Office. Brigid was Member Services Administrator since 2018. Brigid and Jason Smith are current National Secretaries and chapter



leaders for their group at Our Lady of Angels parish in Woodbridge, Virginia.

Lauri Przybysz will continue the work in the National Office. Phone 800-581-9824. Email Lauri at [director@cfm.org](mailto:director@cfm.org)

**New Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 1477, Severna Park, MD 21146-9919

