



## Illinois CFMers Gain Strength from Meeting Virtually

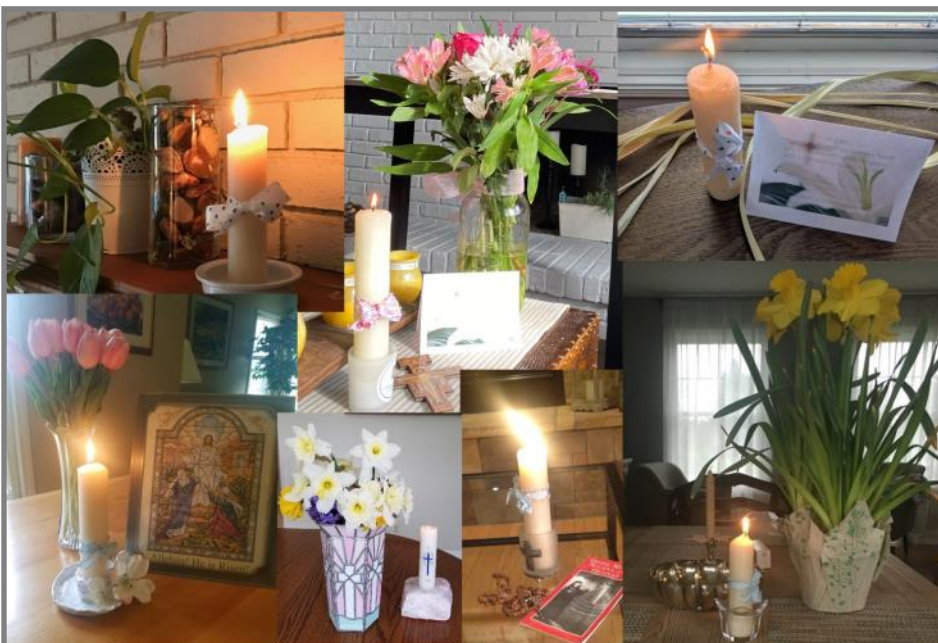
Although it may be a little while before we can meet in person, CFMers are finding ways to value and nurture their community. During the pandemic lockdown, CFM remains alive and well at Our Lady of the Wayside parish in Arlington Heights, IL. Several members came together (virtually) to share how they and their families are faring, what they are doing to keep busy and remain positive while sheltering in place, and to discuss the many ways our parish and society has stepped up to help others in need during this difficult time. Members were invited to log in as their schedules allowed for fellowship, story sharing, and a few laughs.



Join all CFMers in praying the Our Father  
at 8:30 p.m. each night,  
for all those affected by the pandemic.

## Michigan Groups Stay Connected in Prayer and Easter Joy

CFM groups in Ann Arbor, MI, were joined together in more ways than one during the Triduum, 2020. When the world was under lockdown, each family from the three CFM groups found a candle on their doorstep on Holy Saturday. One of the members had asked for, procured, and delivered candles to the other CFM families.



These were special candles. They were the remains of the candles that were burnt at the altar in the candlesticks at St. Thomas. The last time they had burned was at the sacrifice of the Mass. Everyone was grateful to receive such a reminder and felt in solidarity as they awaited the celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord in their homes instead of their beloved church. CFM members spontaneously began sending pictures of their candles burning in anticipation of the Easter vigil.

## Connecting with Friends Renews and Brightens Life for CFMers



*A message from the Vice-President Couple, Sam and Juliette Tirone*

Although many of us find ourselves isolated from Church and its sacraments due to state-wide mandated closures, we are steadfast in our belief in God's providence and the strength of our collective unity and solidarity in CFM. Despite all of the dire statistics we hear multiple times per day, we feel renewed by connecting with our CFM group members. If you are like us, we continue to hear people refer to the current situation as the 'New Normal'. Ironically, it is through a regular connection with our CFM family that a degree of normalcy is restored to our lives and hearts

proving we are not alone. Using the CFM method of Observe, Judge and Act will not only bring us together in these trying times, but also help guide us in action to be the hands, feet and heart of Christ in our communities. Our message to you is that CFM is not "closed". CFM is very much "Open" and must be relied upon to not only strengthen our domestic churches, but now to strengthen our Community Churches. CFM is the way we can keep our churches OPEN, despite any "Stay-At-Home" orders, and continue our movement to bring families together.

### Tell Your Story of Responding to Covid-19

Your family, group, parish and community actions are an essential part of the Christian Family Movement. Share what you are doing to put your faith into action and make a difference in society, especially at this challenging moment. Pictures help tell the story. Please email photos and news to [director@cfm.org](mailto:director@cfm.org) by the 24th of the month for ACT.



### Kansas CFMers Show How to Meet Safely

Group leader Kathy Rothermich, from Queen of the Holy Rosary Parish in Bucyrus, reports how they did it successfully:

"We had a great CFM meeting last night, for the first time since February. We invited everybody in both of our older folks groups. Some people were busy and some don't feel comfortable going places yet, but we had 10 people come. We met in our garage! Everybody brought their own lawn chairs and drinks. We used the lesson on the virus from the CFM website, which led to lots of great discussions. I was happy that the lady whose husband just died came. We kept saying how much we all enjoyed being together. We decided to continue our Sunday evening group prayer Zoom calls, too. In June, we are planning a field trip to a place with outdoor stations, and we're going to bring our own picnic lunches."

### Celebrating Sunday at Home?

PRAY the Scriptures.

[Weekly Gospel Reflections for Family Spirituality](#)

-includes discussion questions based on the Observe, Judge, Act method.

**Do You Shop on Amazon?** Please take a moment to select "Coordinating Committee of the Christian Family Movement" as your charity of choice.

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/36-6217705>



## Renew Your Membership Now and Support CFM! at [www.cfm.org/join-renew](http://www.cfm.org/join-renew)

Want to preview CFM programs? Follow [these instructions](#) to access digital materials from the members-only section of our website.

See all the [CFM program descriptions here](#).

**Love in Action, 2020 Program Book.** Jesus performed many charitable actions, and he also worked to change the views of the powerful in society. He leads us to do the same. **Love in Action** offers eight meetings for reflection on the **Seven Themes of Catholic Social Justice**. Together, members will observe situations in family life and society, discuss current events, and discern how to carry on the mission of Christ by acting for justice in today's world.

An e-book version and Leader's Edition are available for **Love in Action**.



### Family-Friendly Action Spreads Kindness for Healthcare Workers

The CFM group at St. Fidelis in Ann Arbor, MI, responded to their recent meeting on "Choosing Kindness" with a family action just made for these challenging times. "We did a prayer walk from the downtown Catholic Church (St. Thomas) and prayed as we walked toward the University of



Michigan Hospital, writing chalk messages (above) to encourage those who were hospitalized and working in the hospital."

Another ACTION IDEA (right): On the walk, they discovered another idea for action that all ages can do: Someone had painted "hope rocks" with encouraging messages and placed them along the hospital pathway. Can you think of someone who could use some hope?



### Down-to-earth Wisdom for Marriage Enrichment

Looking more ways to support married couples without leaving their homes? Catholic counselor Dr. Jim Healy has launched some inspiring short (under 3 min.) videos as part of his *Rooted in Love* program. They're excellent and they're free. [Click here](#) for his intro and a sample of the first two. Use them to help couples through Covid-19 and beyond. [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCy2rGvixAFsLKa3LtGBMo8Q?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCy2rGvixAFsLKa3LtGBMo8Q?view_as=subscriber)

Visit Dr. Jim's website, *Rooted in Love*, for more resources. <https://rootedinlove.org/Home/About/JamesHealy>