

## A Prayer for Our Country

God our Father, Giver of life, we entrust the United States of America to your loving care. You are the rock on which this nation was founded. You alone are the true source of our cherished rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Send Your Spirit to touch the hearts of our nation's leaders. Open their minds to the great worth of human life and the responsibilities that accompany human freedom. Remind Your people that true happiness is rooted in seeking and doing Your will. Through the intercession of Mary Immaculate, patroness of our land, grant us the courage to reject the "culture of death." Lead us into a new millennium of life. We ask this through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.



Vice Presidents Sam and Juliette Tirone represented CFM-USA at the World Assembly of CFM in Mexico last summer.

## Missing Our Groups! How to Meet Safely.

CFM groups have begun to meet in person, and they are so glad they can. It takes some extra preparation. When you send out reminders to the group members to do their observes and do their actions, also remind them that the group will be practicing social distancing. Perhaps people can each bring their own snacks, or have one person do all the serving to limit contact. Furniture arrangement can be your key. Set up chairs spaced 6 feet apart. Open windows for ventilation. Better yet, meet outdoors. Mary Ann and Brian Thelen's Ann Arbor group (left) set up in the shade of a tree.

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



Make adjustments depending on your group size. Omaha CFM leaders Donna and Steve McCullough hosted an outdoor meeting with 9 couples and 1 widow. "Nineteen people forming in a large circle in lawn chairs did work well, except we could not hear the people across the circle. After we ate our sack lunches some people formed an inner circle and faced the people in the outer circle so conversation would be audible. People rotated around and we felt like we had a good visit with people we had not been able to see for 4 to 6 months. We appreciated the opportunity because we had not been able to gather to mourn the loss of a dear member from the virus in early April. Our meeting was an hour and a half long and

I think that was appropriate." See more tips for gathering safely from the Center for Diseases Control:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/activities.html>



## Didn't finish last year's book? No problem.

Please renew your membership anyway. You may postpone delivery of new books. Just let the National Office know your needs. Renew at [www.cfm.org/join-renew](http://www.cfm.org/join-renew)

**NEW! *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* includes eight meetings for reflection on the **Seven Themes of Catholic Social Justice**. An e-book version and Leader's Edition are available for *Love in Action*. More program choices: See all the [CFM program descriptions here](#).

Want to preview CFM programs? Follow [these instructions](#) to access digital materials from the members-only section of our website. Trouble signing in? The National Office is glad to assist you. Email [office@cfm.org](mailto:office@cfm.org)

## ACTION is the Soul of CFM

In 1968, CFM's leaders stated, "The goal of the Christian Family Movement is the development of couples, families and others in their personal relationships through social consciousness and involvement." This goal remains the same today. We are called not only to Observe and Judge, but to Act.

The best actions come out of your action group experience and allow members to act individually, or as couples, families, or groups, to improve the quality of family or community life. Here are some suggestions to help you identify actions you can undertake.

- Read your local newspaper, paying special attention to articles about community needs.
- Identify and learn about local charities and service agencies that minister to the needy in your community. Contact them and find how your CFM family or group can assist them.

**Action Idea:** Brad and Sally Shewmon (right), national secretary couple and members of Our Lady of the Wayside CFM in Arlington Hgts., IL, report that their action groups have participated in Feed My Starving Children - [www.fmssc.org](http://www.fmssc.org) - for the last couple of years. It's a worthy cause, and something fun for all ages to help with!



Check here for [more action ideas](#). Share your group or family actions [here](#).



## Civil Rights motivated CFM Involvement

Edward Keith Leak Sr. part of a Chicago dynasty died recently at 91. An article in the Chicago Crusader featured his involvement in CFM. "The Civil Rights Movement of the time hearkened, and Edward and Christine knew that they wanted more for their children. By joining groups like the CFM (Christian Family Movement) and Our Gang, they felt that they could make inroads in bettering the lives of all the family members. Both organizations integrated African American and Caucasian families; adults partied together, and children played together, crossing established racial barriers." As a movement we hope that people will always feel that joining CFM can help in bettering the lives of all families.

Read more about CFMers in the Civil Rights Era, in *Disturbing the Peace: A History of the Christian Family Movement, 1949-1974*, by Jeffrey M. Burns, Univ. of Notre Dame Press.

## How Will You Share in the Mission of CFM?

If your life has been touched by the mission of the Christian Family Movement, [please consider donating and supporting us as we boldly step out in faith to do the Lord's work!](#) CFM is committed to reaching out to a wider audience, and this comes with a significant cost in updating and maintaining our digital and social media presence. A generous CFM donor has made a substantial **matching gift challenge**. We hope you will help us meet our fundraising goals. Please prayerfully consider how you might financially support our mission to families, and our efforts to reach young marrieds in particular. When God calls people, he awaits their "yes"! [Donate to CFM](#)

Is God inviting you to give your time to the mission of the movement? Consider becoming a CFM Ambassador in your area. Are you willing to accept the call to mission? [Contact the National Presidents](#), Brian and Mary Ann Thelen.

## World CFM Leaders Join Virtual Prayer Meeting for Families

On June 27, 2020, CFM leaders zoomed in for "An Hour Together in Mission" with International Presidents Pip and Wilma Cua and Chaplain Bishop Gerry Alminaza (below). That meant they met at 11 pm in Australia, 9 pm in Manila, 3 pm in Malawi and Hungary, 9am in Paraguay and Michigan, and 6 am in Los Angeles. More than 50 participants from all over the world prayed the Rosary in English and Spanish. The virtual meeting took the place of an in-person gathering of continental presidents that had to be cancelled.

Bishop Gerry said that, although Covid has brought many challenges, we have some unexpected opportunities:

- To maximize increased family time together for family faith formation and prayer
- To embrace parents' greater responsibility to form their children at home
- To guide the family on the proper use of Digital technology
- To slow down and develop contemplative stance in life
- To see the poor and those in peripheries
- To care for the common home - ecological conversion and fight consumerism.

The International Confederation of CFM has a membership of 98,872 families, 32,337 Youths, 3,199 Solo parents, (mothers alone), and work with 521 engage couples. It is present in 37 countries. The membership is organized by continents: Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, North America and Oceania. ASIA:

India, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand; EUROPE: Croatia, Spain, Hungary, Malta, Portugal, Czech Republic, Sweden, Italy; LATIN AMERICA: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Ecuador, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Rep. Dominicana, Uruguay, Venezuela; NORTH AMERICA: United States, Canada; AFRICA: Cameron, Malawi; OCEANIA: Australia."

CFM-USA supports the worldwide activities of CFM by contributing a portion of our annual membership dues, \$1/family for International CFM and \$1/family for the North America CFM organization.



## Had Too Much Togetherness?

During these days/months of physical distancing, most families are spending more time at home together. That is good; BUT it also means that we can get on each other's nerves. Susan Vogt, author of the weekly *Marriage Moments* and *Parenting Pointers* emails, offers [FORGIVE & FORGET](#), a family enrichment experience for your families to do at home. To subscribe to MM and/or PP, email the National Office, [office@cfm.org](mailto:office@cfm.org)

## 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.



## North America CFM Presidents Witness to the Energy of America's Spanish and English Movements

In the USA, CFM has several forms – two Hispanic and one English-speaking – that cooperate for the joint mission of CFM. Canada has a small Hispanic movement, too. Continental CFM Presidents-North America, Wilbur and Juanita Hooker, Los Angeles, along with their leadership team couples, hosted the annual presidents' meeting virtually on June 23rd, 2020. National Presidents attending were Cristobal and Rosa Villafranca of Movimiento Familiar Cristiano Catolico; Brian and Mary Ann Thelen, CFM-USA; Oscar and Cecilia Avina, MFC-Los Angeles, and Deacon Alfonso Castillo, chaplain for MFC-Los Angeles, and John and Lauri Przybysz, past-presidents of ICCFM-North America. Bishop Jorge Rodriguez, Auxiliary of Denver, the representative of the United States Conference of Catholics Bishops (USCCB) of MFCC-USA, also attended. Bishop Rodriguez encouraged all the movements to continue their evangelizing efforts.

## CFM National Board United to Grow and Promote the Movement

The National CFM Officers and Board held their Semi-Annual meeting by Zoom, June 13-14, 2020, in lieu of the planned Oshkosh, Wisconsin, meeting. They covered a packed agenda, and even had some on-line fun. Bishop George Rassas, Chicago, who has represented CFM nationally, joined the members to pray and reflect on the current social challenges.



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

## Celebrating Sunday at Home?

PRAY the Scriptures.

[Weekly Gospel Reflections for Family Spirituality](#)

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