



Great Expectations for Expansion — with Your Help!

It's been over a year since we shared with you our goals of working with the well-respected Catholic marketing firm, Five Stones, to update our image and messaging. We've been working hard! We've revamped our training materials, print materials and website and are on schedule to train ambassadors and mentors to help young marrieds hear about us, build a community, and give them the confidence and tools for the mission of marriage and family that they are longing to have. **The next phase is before us - and we need your help.**

Social media and digital platforms are a powerful means of communication for people today, particularly young people. We have begun some test ad campaigns, and we are thrilled with the performance and the engagement it has brought about. Our most effective audience has been the audience of young Catholic parents! This gives us confidence that our work over the past year has been successful! **We hope to activate our material on social media and podcasts in early 2022.**

CFM has always been grassroots. Most of the work is done by volunteers! As we begin to reach out to younger audiences, we are seeing the need and advantage of working with those who have expertise in the fields of technology and digital services. This will be more costly, but the benefits, which are eternal, outweigh the cost.

We really could use your assistance to help the next generation of families experience the gift of CFM. Can we count on you? Please [make a one-time or recurring donation](#) to support our efforts to share CFM!



Feliz Navidad from CFM Families!

CFM-USA will participate in a joyous virtual celebration in anticipation of Christmas with our brothers and sisters in CFM around the world. Each national movement has gathered family photos to share. You are invited to attend the Zoom party, Saturday, December 4. It starts bright and early in the US, 9:00 am EST. The meeting link and a recording of the event will be posted on [ICCFM's Facebook Page](#). **Preview our video** for our contribution to the Christmas celebration from our families at CFM-USA! Click here: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/odn8pspyawzuarw/Christmas%20CFM-USA.mov?dl=0>



Memorial for Beloved Member

A portrait of St. Cecilia was dedicated in memory of Marsha Sparks, a member of CFM St. Joseph Winterset, Iowa, with her husband Jim. The artwork hangs behind the organ which she played at the church for over 40 years. She will be greatly missed by family and friends.

Pray and Act for Recovery from the Pandemic



Many people are still suffering from Covid. Pray the "Our Father" each day at 8:30 pm for those suffering and caregivers. Share correct information. Give a ride to someone who wants to be vaccinated. See resources from the [Catholic Cares Coalition for Vaccine Acceptance and Equity](#) (CFM is a member of the coalition of more than 60 organizations that promote vaccine acceptance.

[See a short video](#) about the reasons CFM joined the coalition.

Family Gatherings Bring Challenges

With the "high holidays" of Christmas approaching most families will be getting together and talking. Even loving families can disagree on sensitive faith or political issues. Offer your families these 7 tips for [Talking About Divisive Issues](#).



Wear Your Love for CFM!

Order CFM Logo Shirts, Hats and Bags

Share the CFM message at church and in the community. Choose just the right gear for your group at CFM's exclusive online **Land's End** store. Shop and purchase directly from the full catalog at <https://business.landsend.com/store/christianfamilymovement/>

ICCFM Advent Prayer Gathering Models a Synodal Church

A synodal Church, in announcing the Gospel, 'journeys together.' The Church is asking, "How is this 'journeying together' happening today in your local Church? What steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our journeying together?"

Leaders of CFM from around the world engaged in a "synodal process" by Zoom on November 26, giving each continent a chance to share their experiences, pray, and listen to one another. ICCFM leadership welcomed 34 participants from Philippines, Mexico, Thailand, Spain, Canada, India, Hungary, Malawi, Sri Lanka, Panama, Honduras, Guatemala, USA. Presidents Brian and Mary Ann Thelen and board members John and Lauri Przybyszs represented CFM-USA.

During the meeting, Bishop Peter Martin Musikuwa, of Chikwawa diocese, Malawi, and chair of their bishops' conference, urged CFM families to deepen their prayer lives



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as they wait upon the Lord's coming in our hearts. Fr. Claude Nonis, Sri Lanka chaplain, explained how the questions that the Synod is posing are meant for dialogue inside the Church and also

with all people of good will. Our aim is to become a more discerning and participatory Church that makes a difference in society, advancing the mission of Christ. Bishop Gerry Alminaza of Manila said, "The Holy Father is inviting us to go back to our true nature as Church, making sure no one is left behind." See all the news and documents related to this process at <https://www.synod.va/en.html>.

The Synod is calling all Catholics, lay and ordained, to listen to one another, grow in communion, and participate in the mission of Christ. This experience should make us more open to the inspiration of the Spirit coming to us from every member and even those on the margins and who have become estranged from the Church. CFMers are in contact with those who are not happy or connected with the Church, in our families and neighborhoods. We can share their stories and help their voices be heard.

ACT: Be an active and constructive participant in the Synod through your own diocesan processes. Ask your diocese or parish how your CFM group can be involved. Ask the opinions of your neighbors and family members who are not connected with Church now, and share what you learn with your diocesan Synod.

