

# Try CFM



**Be doers of the word, and not merely hearers. James 1:22**

*The Church speaks clearly of the duties of family members to one another that build a radiant faith... But the Church doesn't stop there; it also speaks of the relationship between families and the larger culture, the duty of service, working for the common good, welcoming strangers, and giving voice to the Christian conscience. That is the message; you are the messenger.*

Address of Bishop Anthony M. Pilla  
To the Christian Family Movement  
August 5, 1995

# *The CFM Meeting Format*

**Gathering Prayer** – The group always begins with a prayer, read or sung, prepared or spontaneous.

**Report on Actions – (5 -10 minutes)** Group members report on the progress of CFM actions taken individually, as a family, or by the group. This is the appropriate time to describe needs in your family, parish or community that have come to the attention of the members.

**Scripture Reflection – (15-20 minute discussion)** Quiet reflection and discussion about the scripture helps group members to step away from the ordinary pressure and distractions of the day and begin to focus on the issues of the meeting from a Christian perspective.

**Social Inquiry – (60 -90 minutes)** The Social Inquiry (*Observe* and *Judge* and *Act*) is the heart of the CFM meeting.

**OBSERVE – *The world around you.*** Gather information from your community or from your own personal experience. Often facts can be opinions of others, too. At this stage of the meeting, members should refrain from expressing their opinions about facts. The knowledge and experience of group members are valuable, but the group must go beyond its own members to gather facts from the larger world and report them objectively. The chance to editorialize comes later.

*The importance of this section of the meeting cannot be over-emphasized. Unless the group reports objective facts during the discussion, the meeting will not lead to action.*

**JUDGE – *In light of Christ’s teachings,*** judge. In the Judge part of the meeting, the group decides by discussion whether the observed situation or topic is in line with Gospel values and what Christ would want us to do. The group should try to refer only to the information brought out by the *Observe* questions.

**ACT - *To make a difference.*** Members choose an action to bring “the way things are” more in line with “the way things should be.” The best actions come from the group as a result of the discussion. Actions in the program book are just suggestions. An action may be done as an individual, a couple, a family, a small group, or a parish. The key is to take something away from the meeting and resolve to do something to live out the Gospel teachings in your everyday life.

**Look ahead to the next meeting** – Set the time and place.

**Invite People to Join CFM** by making a donation of \$10 as a new member. Donations are encouraged but not required for becoming a member. **Choose a Program Guide** from [CFM’s extensive library of materials](#).

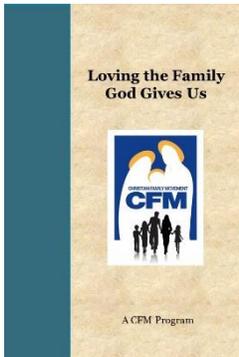
**Prayer** – The meeting concludes with a prayer. The program book usually has a suggested prayer or another may be chosen by the group or the discussion leaders. Alternatively, a member of the group might lead a spontaneous prayer.

**Social Time** – A short social with simple and inexpensive refreshments helps members to know and understand one another better and builds community.

# What's Next?

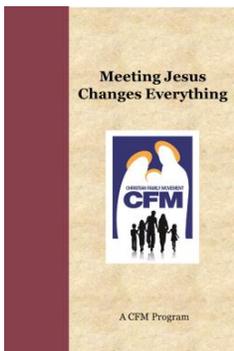
After your group your sample meeting, join the Christian Family Movement and choose your next program book from among our many offerings. A complete list of hard-copy and digital CFM meeting guides can be found at [www.cfm.org](http://www.cfm.org) under [Materials & Resources](#).

*Here are a few hard-copy suggestions:*



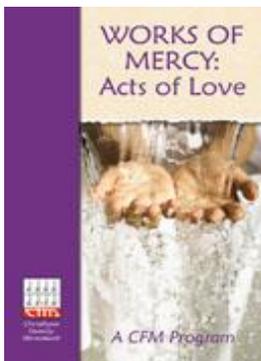
## **LOVING THE FAMILY GOD GIVES US**

The peace, happiness, and justice in society depends on strong and happy families. This new program will guide for reflection on the commonality of many kinds of family relationships: being created by God, being the child of a father, being the child of a mother, complementarity, loving our brothers, loving our sisters, having the opportunity to experience intimacy, the blessings of generations and extended family, and also the universal experience of being a child, something even Jesus himself experienced.



## **Meeting Jesus Changes Everything**

The Gospels tell many stories of people whose lives were changed because they met Jesus. To be Jesus' disciples, we must meet him for ourselves and come closer to him. Jesus wants us to encounter him in our own lives and in our families. Christian Family Movement members aim to make Jesus our role model for encountering and helping others. Each chapter offers CFM Action Group participants opportunities for prayer, reflection on the Scripture, and discussion on family topics that lead to action for participating in the mission of Jesus Christ.



## **WORKS OF MERCY, ACTS OF LOVE**

It is in the everyday acts of love within our homes, neighborhoods, and churches that we put our faith into practice. Answering a child's call for a drink in the middle of the night, comforting a grieving neighbor, or donating clothing to a family dealing with the consequences of a devastating fire are just some examples of how we do this. This program uses the CFM Observe-Judge-Act process to study the traditional Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy as they apply to family life, revealing the many ways we can answer Christ's call to love our neighbor.

Information on other CFM program guides can be found at [www.cfm.org](http://www.cfm.org) under [Materials and Resources](#)

## **The Mission of the Christian Family Movement is:**

- To promote Christ-centered marriage and family life;
- To help individuals and their families to live the Christian faith in everyday life; and
- To improve society through actions of love, service, education and example.



### *National CFM Office Contact Information*

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*We are here to help you. Please contact us with any concerns or questions.*