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*Kay and Gary Aitchison
featured on page 4*

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Christian Family Movement

New Challenges for the Aitchisons

Roving ambassadors...elder statesmen...communicators of a heritage: Let's not say "retired."

After twenty years with the National Office, four as CFM Presidents and sixteen as Executive Directors, **Kay and Gary Aitchison** will be leaving their position to devote more time to their diaconate ministry to marriage and family and to visit their far-flung family. They will continue to be involved in CFM at the local and international levels and will be available for special projects. "Next to our marriage and our family, CFM continues to be our greatest love," says Kay.

Part of the credit for their dedication to CFM belongs to their family, which has been tremen-

move, they plan to concentrate on a CFM Chronology, which Dolores Leckey challenged them to write several years ago.

[To my mind, Kay and Gary deserve an extravagant tribute, which they specifically vetoed. However, I would like to say that of the many managers and supervisors I have encountered over the years, not ONE can hold a candle to them for cheerfulness, patience, level-headedness, creativity, persistence, and for demonstrating in a tangible and consistent way the joy of knowing Jesus Christ our Lord.—*Editor*]

Gary and Kay announced their plans for this transition five years ago, which gave the National Board time to recruit a new Executive



dously supportive over the years, Gary adds.

Kay and Gary will share a summary of the past twenty years of CFM at the summer board meeting in August. After the office

Director couple and to plan for continuity of CFM's national ministry. This summer, the center of the CFM-US world will move from **Ames, Iowa** to **Evansville, Indiana**, home of **Jane and Paul Leingang**.



From the President

by Jan Rogers

Marriage and Family: A Cause for Concern
How can CFM help?

This summer there will be a joint meeting of **National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers** (NACFLM) and members of the **National Conference of Catholic Bishops** (NCCB) **Committee for Family, Marriage, Women and Youth**. They are gathering to review the recent findings of the Creighton University study that focused on the first five years of marriage. The study is titled "Time, Sex and Money."

The findings of this study will surprise many, because the "newly married" today no longer fit the profile of the twentysomething couple just starting out. A significant number of couples getting married today are

- older,
- with children,
- in debt, and
- established in their careers.

Their three biggest problems, according to the study, are

- balancing job and family,
- frequency of sexual relations, and
- debt brought into the marriage.

The study provides some interesting statistics. One third of the respondents were in a marriage in which one spouse was of a different religion; however, more than half attend church regularly as a couple. Communication, especially resolving major and minor conflicts, is of great concern.

The NACFLM annual member survey on families found similar issues. Family Life ministers noted

the diversity of families and their stresses.

The top issues they identified were:

- inadequate family time,
- financial concerns,
- little or no support for marriage, and
- a culture of violence at home and in society.

*CFM
is not
a club;*

*CFM is
a movement
and a ministry.*

Pretty scary, but not surprising. The good news is that families are beginning to make family time a priority and that a life of faith is what it takes to put time, money, and relationships in balance.

The goals of family life ministers over the next five years are:

- to bring more family ministry experiences to the parish,
- to identify ways to support marriage and
- to look to the Church's hierarchy to encourage such efforts.

Where does CFM come in? As a member of CFM, you know the benefits of a small faith community that supports your marriage and family through the ups and downs of daily life. CFM can easily become a safe and secure haven.

But CFM is not a club; CFM is a movement and a ministry. We all

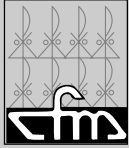
have a calling in family ministry to reach out to others in social action and in membership.

CFM has many of the tools needed in marriage ministry today. CFM improves communication within marriage and families through our program guides. Couples come together to observe and judge family, social and spiritual issues that impact the family. Then as families, we take action to live our lives according to Christ's teachings. The *Covenant Experience*, developed by **Bob and Irene Tomonto** of Miami, is a parish-based marriage enrichment process that lovingly helps couples look at the weaknesses in their marriage and take steps to improve them. *Covenant* also invites couples into community by joining CFM.

CFM is currently updating the 1979 program book, *Your Marriage the Great Adventure*. This will offer couples tools to live a Christian marriage in a secular society. It is our hope that this new book will be of interest to young married couples as well as older couples and will serve as a resource for marriage enrichment.

Families and couples today need CFM more than ever. CFM has the tools to help families take time, improve communication and balance their lives as they grow in relationship with each other and with God.

Congratulations to all of you for taking the time to strengthen your marriage and family through *observe, judge and act*. I encourage you to pray about your role in this family ministry. Reach out to other families and invite them to join CFM. Consider organizing a Covenant team to present a marriage enrichment program in your parish. Be a part of the solution in improving marriage and families in the future.



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Want to touch base with CFMers
 from around the country?
 Join CFM's e-mail exchange
 by contacting
cfm-exchange@cfm.org

Parent to Parent

by Mary Lou Gorman

To Train a Child: The Value of Chores



We all know how children hate to do chores, especially as they reach the teen years. The best way I know to lessen the balking is to start early, introducing children to simple jobs that you do with them. I just read that getting children to take some responsibility for chores should start at age two or even before. Pick up toys with them; show them where to put their dirty clothes. A two-year-old can help set the table by putting napkins around. At this age, they are really eager to help. They want to imitate all we do, and they love to be with you. They'll even pull covers up to help you make the bed. This continues through the school life of a child. Doing chores with someone is obviously more fun than doing them alone. As they get old enough to do laundry, show them how, and do it with them many times, not just once.

Even a fairly young child can empty waste baskets, help with dishes, and carry out trash. Most children need a schedule for doing such chores. If they are given a specific time or day for doing a chore, they can't use homework or a meeting as an excuse.

Paying a child for family chores is not a good idea. Children must be taught that regular family chores are part of living in a family. Moms and dads sure don't get paid for what they do. Extra jobs like babysitting a younger brother or sister, raking leaves, cutting the lawn or washing windows or cleaning out the garage could be worth a small payment or a treat to a ballgame or concert.

If you just *expect* household chores to be done right from an early age, and communicate why everyone must do their share, children will respond in a positive way. It's up to you, parents, to be sure chores are given out fairly and that awards that fit the chores are promised and given. A lunch out or a miniature golf game can be a good treat for a faithful chore-doer. A reminder that Jesus will be proud of them too when they finish a job well done is a good practice for us.

Yes, it is easier to do the jobs yourself, and faster too, but think of your child-rearing, and know that it's important to teach responsibility as your child grows to become a skillful and responsible adult.

Hard work and patience pay off!

Please add to your list of prayer intentions

CFM's search for a new national chaplain
 to succeed **Father Bill Young**,
 who has served for eight years
 and is now assuming increased responsibility in hospital ministry
 as well as parish involvement.

Experience, enthusiasm, CFM vision--we're looking for all the
 qualities that our chaplains have shown throughout CFM's history



Kay and Gary Aitchison

During the years that Kay and Gary have been involved in CFM leadership, CFM reversed a steep decline in membership and increased its visibility within the church and in the media. The list of their accomplishments is a testimony to their creative and faithful action in service to the Lord and to all of us.

CFM Leadership

- 1966: Joined CFM action group
- 1972-76 -Area 10 Representatives to National CFM Board of Directors (MO,IA,NE,KS)
- 1976-79 -CFM National Secretaries
- 1979-81 -CFM National Vice Presidents
- 1981-85 -CFM National Presidents and Acting Executive Directors
- 1985-01 -Executive Directors
- Started ten local CFM groups.*

Presentations

- Developed and coordinated ten Diocesan Family Days 1980-84.
- Taught a one week course on Family Ministry sponsored by Retreats International Summer Institute, Notre Dame IN, July 1984.
- Toured New Zealand giving CFM presentations (with Wayne and Sue Hamilton) at the invitation of Bishop Edward Gaines of Diocese of Hamilton, June 1989.
- *Presented many retreats, workshops and presentations on family, marriage, CFM and the diaconate, in the U.S. and abroad.*

Publications

- Edited CFM Program Book *Work, Money and Your Family*, 1976.
- Authored special CFM program *Your Marriage...the Great Adventure*, 1979.
- Wrote chapters in a number of other CFM books including the original *Taking the Time to Make a Difference*.
- Authored magazine articles on marriage, family, CFM, etc. published in *Marriage and Family Living*, *Deaconate Quarterly* and *Gifts*.
- Regular contributor to "Family Alive" column in diocesan newspaperx since 1982.
- Contributed chapters to the following books:*
- *Helping Teens Care*, ed. Jim McGinnis, Crossroad, 1991, ("Social Action in the Teenage Family").
- *Disturbing the Peace* by Jeffrey Burns, University of Notre Dame, 1999 ("CFM The Second Twenty-five Years" – Kay).
- *The New Dictionary of Social Thought* The Liturgical Press, 1993 ("CFM and Social Action" – Kay)
- CD-ROM, *The Collegeville Catholic Reference Library* Liturgical Press, 2001 ("CFM and Social Action" – Kay).

Television Appearances

- Interviewed on *Thirty Minutes with Fr. Michael Manning*, Trinity Broadcasting, Santa Ana CA, October 1982.
- Panel Participant, Family Issues Program, *John Calloway Show*, Chicago IL, March 1987 (Kay) (Rosalyn Carter was also a participant.)
- Coordinated the appearance of a CFM family on the NBC *Today Show*, Feb. 11, 1985.

Published Interviews

- *Sunday Visitor* article on diaconate – July 1983.
- *Sunday Visitor* article on CFM – Dec. 30, 1990
- *Overview Exclusive* Thomas More Association – January 1999.

Conferences

- Participated in a wide variety of national/international conferences.
- CFM Delegate to SYNOD '87 – Consultation of Catholic Lay Leaders, Rome, Italy Oct 1987.
- CFM Delegates to Jubilee Family Congress, Rome, Italy, Oct 11-15, 2000.
- ICCFM*
- Delegates to six ICCFM World Assemblies and one European Congress.

Everyday Christianity: A CFM Response

by Kay and Gary Aitchison

One of the greatest challenges our Christian faith offers is the question of how we connect worship on Sunday to the rest of the week. As a response to this dilemma, the U.S. Catholic Bishops published a document in December of 1998 entitled "Everyday Christianity: To Hunger and Thirst for Social Justice."

"Everyday Christianity" speaks to the call to Christian discipleship in our daily lives. This message from the bishops zeroes in on our roles as members of families, as workers in the marketplace, and as citizens in a community. A part of its focus is on the dichotomy that often exists between the faith which we profess and our day-to-day conduct.

The document has special sections highlighting families; workers; owners, managers and investors; consumers and stewardship; and the role of citizens. It ends by addressing the responsibility of the parish community to support and encourage Christian discipleship.

"Everyday Christianity" holds a particular interest for CFMers because it calls us to observe, to make judgments and to respond in

action. There are several ways in which it might be used by CFM groups.

A CFM community could sponsor CFM's afternoon/evening of reflection based on the document. This was developed by **Chuck and Jan Rogers and Jane Buchbauer of Winchester VA** with assistance from **Dennis DeVoight of Moline IL**. The program entitled "Everyday Christianity...A CFM Response," consists of a thirty-minute presentation by a small team, a forty-five minute small group discussion, a forty-five minute large group discussion, and a thirty minute wrap-up on the Jubilee Pledge. It is intended as a parish program and is available for \$7.50.

The document provides timely material for most any size group and lends itself well to the CFM observe-judge-act methodology. An individual CFM group might want to consider it as the social inquiry for one or more individual CFM meetings. The afternoon/evening of reflection discussion group material would work well for an individual group.

We used the CFM meeting format for a five-week Lenten

series that we facilitated in our parish in **Ames IA**. Although we covered each of the topics in the document, we supplemented them with related material having to do with the Church's social teachings. Because of the size of the group, we broke into smaller groups of six to eight for some of the discussion but came together as an entire group for other parts of the session and beginning and closing prayers. In the last session, we focused on the bishops' call for parishes to support and encourage Christian discipleship.

In that session the group identified some to the needs in the parish community and went through a discernment process which surfaced ways to meet these needs.

"Everyday Christianity: To Hunger and Thirst for Social Justice" is a short, easily read document which speaks directly to the laity. It is an excellent parish program or supplemental program for an individual CFM group. For more information on either of these formats, the afternoon/evening of reflection or the five individual sessions, contact the National CFM Office.

In Celebration ... In Memory ...

Throughout the year, there are times that we wish to recognize special people or to express our sympathy. CFM would like to offer you a way to celebrate a special moment or to memorialize a special person.

Lists will be included in future issues of *ACT*.

You may use this form or simply send a request to the CFM office.



I would like to make a donation to CFM

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

On the occasion of _____

Please send acknowledgement to:



Taking the Time to Make a Difference

by Paul R. Leingang

The Parable of the Saw in the Garage

A parable, or a real-life insight, or just a well-written story. What is important is not the label, but the point of the story written by Tom Aull in the Cursillo newsletter, Go 4TH!

“Let me tell you about a tool that I have in my garage,” Aull begins, and then he tells his readers about a 10-inch table saw.

“It has a two horsepower motor, a cast iron table top, a 10-inch 6-tooth carbide tipped blade and a whole bunch of accessories. My saw will rip, crosscut and miter. I can cut two-inch thick oak or poplar boards with ease. I can make furniture, doors, moldings and cabinets with my saw. I can really use my saw for some great things.

“You know some other things I can use my saw for? Right now, there is a pair of tennis shoes, an empty gas can, and a cooler on the top of my saw. Sometimes, when I need to take something apart, I use the big table top to work off of. The top is solid so if I need to hammer on something, it works pretty good.

“My nice, powerful table saw, which can rip, crosscut, miter and make furniture, doors, moldings and cabinets, is being used more for a shelf, a workbench and an anvil. It can work for all of these things, but it is designed for something else.”

Aull then asks his readers: “Are you using Cursillo like I use my saw?” Aull has struck a universal chord. His article in the newsletter is an invitation to people who have

made a Cursillo to learn more about the movement and its impact. But even if you don’t know anything about Cursillo, you get the idea from the example drawn from his own life.



The Gospels are full of examples of wondrous gifts used foolishly or not at all. Money is buried instead of invested (Mat-

What tools have been given to you as part of your formation in Christian living?

thew 25). The rich young man in Matthew 19 is offered the opportunity to give up what he has and “to be perfect,” but he refuses. Herod seeks knowledge of where “the newborn king” is to be found—not to worship him but to try to kill him (Matthew 2). Jesus heals a man with a withered hand (Luke 6). Instead of rejoicing, scribes and Pharisees try to use Jesus’ act of gentle healing as a tool to hammer Jesus for breaking the Sabbath.



What are the tools in your garage?

What tools have been given to you as part of your formation in Christian living?

How have you used what you have been given?

Tell Tom Aull’s story to family members or friends and ask for their reaction.

Find out if your parish or congregation has made an effort to discover the tools and talents available among the members. If a survey or similar information-gathering device has been used, how are the results used?

How are the tools and talents of school teachers and staff being used? A recent radio news report found fault with a system that makes school principals responsible for such tasks as bus scheduling and toilet paper replacement. How are things at your school?

Find out what tools or talents are needed by service organizations in your community. Then find out what tools and talents are rusting in the homes of people who are foolishly considered too old or too poor to help. Take the time to use your own gifts for the highest purpose.

Help your church to invite church-members to share their wisdom and knowledge and talent and time. Get together with others to match the available gifts and talents with what is needed.

Paul is director of communications for the diocese of Evansville, Indiana; and editor of The Message, the diocesan newspaper. His weekly column Taking the Time to Make a Difference is syndicated in a number of diocesan newspapers. Paul and Jane Leingang are past presidents of CFM, and are about to assume the role of Executive Director couple.

R.I.P.



Father Ed Hogan

Father Ed Hogan once described himself as “a practitioner, motivator and a formation and growth facilitator.” Colleagues described him as an effective preacher, a tireless activist, an intrepid traveler, and a catalyst for ministry. He was six-feet-five, so friends called him “Big Ed.”

To CFM, Father Ed was friend, mentor, and board member.

When he was young, Father Hogan worked and studied with Canon Joseph Cardijn in Belgium. Canon Cardijn founded the Young Christian Workers and developed the Observe-Judge-Act methodology that also became the hallmark of CFM and the Young Christian Students. He spent most of his priestly years involved with these movements, as well as Marriage Encounter. He supervised apostolic formation programs for the Diocesan Education Office, and delivered marriage encounters and promoted CFM in forty-four states and seven countries.

CFM members were delighted to see him at the Jubilee Celebration at Notre Dame in 1999. As **Rita and Julius Gambardella of Richmond Hill, New York** said, “He always kept the vision that the family is the essential unit of the Church.”

He died this winter in New York City, two days before his eighty-first birthday.

Requiescat in pace.

New CFM Book!

Love STILL Happens in Families

In the 70's, CFMers in California wrote a program book entitled

Love Happens in Families.

One reason the book became particularly popular was that it included “family meetings” designed for use at home by parents and children.

The new book, *Love STILL Happens in Families*, edited by **Margie Murchan**, includes ten brand new adult meetings and one evening of reflection designed for CFM groups, as well as three of the favorite family meetings from the earlier book.

The new chapters focus on issues of crucial importance to families today:

Prioritizing - “Lord, What would you have me do?”

Teaching Morals and Values to our Children

Fatherhood

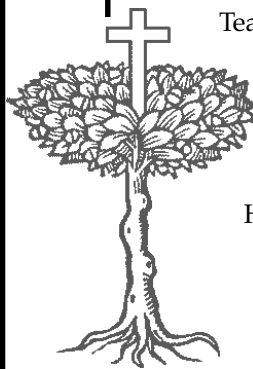
Angry Words/Healing Spirit

How Much is Enough for our Children?

Raising Healthy Children

Parenting as a Vocation, and

Loss of Innocence in Children.



The lessons are challenging ones for families today, asking us to search deeply in our hearts to find how Jesus would have us act as parents.

The book will be available from the CFM office this summer for use during the 2001-02 program year.

The Board of Directors of the Christian Family Movement held their winter meeting March 2-4 at Divine Word Conference Center in **Techny IL**.

Anne Marie Albright who was in CFM in **Des Moines IA**, before moving to **Flower Mound TX**, is working to start CFM in her new parish.

Past CFM Presidents **Paul and Jane Leingang** presented a diocesan workshop on CFM March 31 in **Evansville IN**.

North American CFM representatives **Peter and Carolyn Broeren** gave a Lenten talk at a **Pittsburgh** Parish on Family Faith Formation.

Gerry McDonald's group in **London, Ontario** is hoping to be the catalyst to spread CFM in their community.

St. Philomena Parish in **Monticello IL** started with a single group five years ago and now has three groups involved in a wide range of actions, including building a new parish playground and helping fund the parish youth group mission trip. Fund raisers include a pointsettia sale at Christmastime and a Mardi Gras in Spring.

Former CFM Chaplain **Father Roman Ladewski CSC** celebrated the 60th anniversary of his ordination at St. Stanislaus Church in **South Bend IN** in June.

The CFMers at St. Bernard Parish in **Omaha NE** delivered 182 valentines to the Madonna School for Mentally Handicapped Children and have launched their 10th Undie Sunday in which they collected undergarments and socks to be given to the homeless.

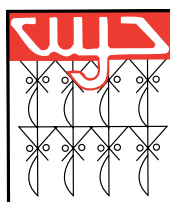
Two CFM groups from **St. Clair Shores MI**, St. Margaret and St. Lucy, spent a Saturday last fall sprucing up classrooms in an inner-city parish.

The eight CFM groups in St. Louis Parish, **Miami** supported the Archdiocesan Children's Home Society by painting rooms and collecting bedding.

The CFMers at St. James in **Arlington Hts IL** are led by **Reenie and Dave Galanis**. Each month they make 100 sandwiches for PADS (an organization that provides shelter for homeless people in area churches). They regularly help with the Franciscan Soup Kitchen.

CFM of St. Catherine Laboure Parish, **Torrance CA** attended a dinner dance in honor of **long-time members Paul and Cecilia Heisen's** 50th Anniversary.

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