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*Executive Directors  
Jane and Paul Leingang,  
featured on page 4*

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*Christian Family Movement*

## CFM At Home in Indiana

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As of June 1, CFM has moved to **Evansville, Indiana**, its fifth location in fifty-two years. The office is pleasant, having 336 square feet, plenty of windows and an exit to the outdoors. The windows look out over a fifty-three acre campus of the Evansville diocesan Catholic Center.

**Jane Leingang**, Executive Director, and **Sheila Spaulding**, Secretary, thanks to the efficiency and good organization of outgoing Executive Director **Kay Aitchison**, already have the office up and running, and ready to welcome new registrations for the 2001-02 CFM year.





## From the journal of Gary Aitchison,

Correspondent on the Scene, May 24-June 5, 2001



### Thursday-Saturday

Kay has been making decisions and organizing files for weeks. Thursday the rain stopped long enough for the garbage guys to haul away thirty boxes of duplicate books from the Aitchison garage.

Labeled boxes, and "purged and merged" eight file drawers worth of inquiry books and ACTs.

As of Sunday evening, Kay says she feels "on top" of the situation.



### Monday

Finalized phone forwarding arrangements and police permission to block traffic.

Took a break and went to hold little [granddaughter] **Emma**, whom we hadn't seen in a whole week.

All is well, some stiffness and fatigue, but we are both enthusiastic.



### Tuesday

Kay and **Marlene** answered mail that had arrived over the weekend.

Kay found a copy of ACT from 1947 announcing Father John Egan as Chaplain for CFM in Chicago and sent it along with a condolence letter to his sister.

Got closure and transfer on the worker's compensation package and the property casualty contract. Confirmed Friday truck appointment.

Patty Crowley called to compliment Kay on her work and wished her Godspeed.



### Wednesday

Boxed up all of the office inventory of inquiry books, found the extra golf shirts from the 50th, and got new postage equipment installed. We have eleven or so boxes ready to send to the archives at Notre Dame. Tons of mail today seemed to take most of the morning. Left the office at 11 a.m..



### Thursday

Rain all day. Closed the books for the year, prepared the annual report. Discarded more duplicate files. My feet go naturally to the dumpster. The perfectionist in Kay really comes out when it comes to arranging filing systems. Left the office at 11 PM.



### Friday

Shut down the computer at 1 p.m. Communications will begin to the Evansville office on Monday morning.

Picked up the truck at 3:30. Rain stopped. Volunteers started loading at 6 PM

It turns out that we had more truck than necessary. Better more than not enough.

We made the move in 45 minutes and drove to our house to load the inquiry books toward the front. Cleaned up, and went to CFM meeting at Ken and Anne Recker's house. One of the members said, "This meeting really disturbs me!" and away we went for a great discussion.



### Saturday

The moving crew arrived at 9 a.m. and included: Drew Belcher, Matt Aitchison, Rick Hoenig, Ken

Recker, \*Jerry Dunn, \*Ed Kannel, \*Marlene Weisshaar, CFM Office Secretary, \*Bill Weisshaar, \*Kay Aitchison, and \*Your Correspondent. (\*= veteran of the 1981 move!) The truck was loaded in one hour.

As Kay and Marlene removed the "Christian Family Movement" sign, they realized Ames, Iowa holds the longest tenure of the four CFM National Offices in the 52 year history of the movement.

Mass at 5:30 p.m.



### Sunday-Monday

Kay and I left at 8:30 Sunday morning. Eight hours to Urbana, Illinois.

Five hours to Evansville, where the next CFM moving crew met us to unload the truck. They included Bob Cox, Tom Kirsch, Kevin Elpers and teens Lucas and Elizabeth Kirsch and David Hackert

Thus begins the fifth location of the National Office of the Christian Family Movement.

### Tuesday

A beautiful 80ish day in Evansville, Indiana.

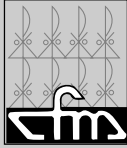
When we arrived at the CFM Office, I discovered I had left the truck lights on all night. Tried to turn over the engine and got nothing but clicks. We prayed a bit, waited an hour and it started.

Jane, Sheila, Kay and I unpacked, moved stuff, assembled, prayed over equipment and tried to find everything. The explaining by Kay and the deciding by Jane was a grand experience.

At the close of the day the National CFM Office looks orderly, neat and functional and is staffed with excellent personnel.

Evansville pizza is marvelous but Jane's Mexican cooking ranks even higher.

*Kay and Gary Aitchison retired after sixteen years as CFM Executive Directors June 1.*



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by reaching out."

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from around the country?  
Join CFM's e-mail exchange  
by contacting  
[cfm-exchange@cfm.org](mailto:cfm-exchange@cfm.org)

Parent to Parent  
by Mary Lou Gorman



## On Family Vacations

Our children are all married now and when we sit round and talk about our family life, the kids mostly remember our family vacations. As you are raising your family, you might not think that vacations are particularly important, but in today's busy world getting away from the house and being together just for enjoyment makes for wonderful family memories. Our grandkids love sitting around listening to our vacation tales. We did a lot of camping and going to CFM conferences, and these are the memories that are long-lasting. As children start to work and go off to college, you lose the opportunity for these precious moments, so my advice is to plan a vacation every year. Save for it all year so you don't have the

excuse of not having the money. Even if the vacation is only a three or four day weekend: Do it! These are the experiences your kids will remember and talk about. I still remember going to Canada with my family to see my great-grandmother when I was ten years old. We also visited Glacier National park, and I treasure the memories to this day. I can still see my brother greeting a bear in the park. What a memorable trip! It instilled in me a love for nature that has enriched my life and helps me appreciate God for the beauty He created in this earth.

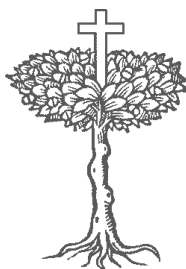
Time slips by, so don't wait until next year. Go now. The kids will forever love you for those wonderful experiences you will share together.

## 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:



## *Greetings from Paul and Jane Leingang, Executive Directors*

We are pleased to begin our service to the Christian Family Movement as executive directors. CFM has been formational for us and our children for the past 27 years. The inquiry method of Observe, Judge and Act is the way we approach our Christian calling.

CFM is unique. It celebrates the sacredness of family life as well as the mission of families to the world. This is a delicate balancing act and one that is increasingly difficult as families are more and more stressed by the pressures of modern life. In the late forties when CFM was founded, the family in the United States was enjoying a time of unprecedented strength and well being. This is in sharp contrast to today's family which exists in a much more hostile environment. The American family is assailed from all sides. With two wage earners and hyper-scheduled children the family barely has time to eat on the way to the next event in the car. A simple meal around the kitchen table, once so common, is a luxury seldom enjoyed. Apart from those pressures which the family brings upon itself by the commitments it makes, American popular culture downplays the importance of family life while it celebrates many of the things which attack it, particularly casual sex and violence.

The history of CFM is one in which families acted in many ways to bring about a more just society as they were given the

grace to see it. We believe strongly that the health of the family is crucial for the health of society. In "Centisimus Annus" John Paul II says that "The first and fundamental structure for 'human ecology' is the family, in which man receives his first formative ideas about truth and goodness and learns what it means to love and to be loved, and thus what it means to be a person. Here we mean the family founded on marriage in which the mutual gift of self by husband and wife creates an environment in which children can be born and develop their potentialities, become aware of their dignity and prepare to face their unique and individual destiny."

That is why we welcome this chance to serve the movement in this new role. We want to help support families in this important ministry they have as a domestic Church. The Christian Family Movement has always urged its members to reach out and make Christ present in the world. That is still our mission, as it is the calling of every Christian in every walk of life.



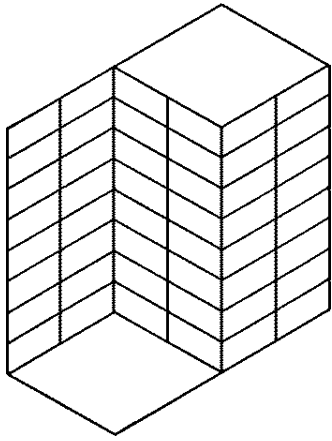
When we joined CFM during the Fall membership drive at our parish in 1974, we never realized how it would alter our lives.

We have served the movement as action group leaders, area representatives, and presidents. We have had the opportunity to meet many people in all parts of the

country through CFM and have traveled to four international gatherings of the movement. At present we are preparing to attend the International Assembly of Christian Family Movements in **Maceio, Brazil** July 25-29. And to think that when we joined CFM we were just looking for a way to meet others in a new parish.

CFM has forced us to grow. It has heightened our awareness of our fellowship with Catholic Christians throughout the U.S. and the world. Our lives have been enriched by the people we have met both in and out of CFM. People like **Patty Crowley** who co-founded the movement in the late forties have given us great examples of what it means to live a life founded on Gospel values of service to the poor. The 50th anniversary celebration of CFM brought many of these people into our lives and they have taught us much.

We have been married 30 years and have two grown sons. Paul is communications director for the Diocese of **Evansville**, whose administration building is now the site of the CFM office. We look forward to meeting many of you as we serve as directors of the movement. We are honored to accept this challenge to serve this movement which has meant so much to us and so many others. We will try to be as helpful to you as **Gary and Kay** have been over the years.



# Idea Exchange

*What are the qualities of effective group leaders?  
What has been your experience with leadership formation?  
How do leaders prepare for meetings?*

## Qualities of Effective Group Leaders

- willing to serve
- in love with Jesus Christ
- caring
- energetic
- able to encourage (delegate!)
- good communicators
- excellent listeners
- no telephone phobia
- have kids who appreciate that Mom and Dad helping others is good for the family

## Leadership Formation

Three sorts of leadership formation are used in CFM:

The most important is mentoring. Couples are asked to serve as leaders after they have been members of a group and have observed several leadership styles. As the new leaders develop their own style, experienced leaders, either members of the group or area leaders are available to encourage, to challenge, to answer questions, and to brainstorm approaches to difficult situations.

A second sort of formation is formal training. Several federations sponsor annual leadership institutes either on a unit or a regional level. Typically, such training includes a spiritual component, a program component (insights to the

methods and mission of CFM) and a practical skills component.

Many CFM leaders have been able to take advantage of enrichment opportunities at the parish or diocesan level; and many bring with them leadership resources gained through Marriage Encounter, Cursillo, the charismatic renewal, Thesians, Teams of Our Lady...etc., etc.

Experienced leaders testify to the value of on the job experience. CFM is an organization that appreciates the diversity of its members' gifts and also the diversity of leaders' gifts. New leaders are often overwhelmed at the responsibility to pray for and support their members, to lead scintillating discussions, to plan successful events, and to coordinate dynamic actions. Over time, they discover some pleasant surprises: that husband and wife can have great pleasure in working together in different aspects of a common purpose; that the typical group has all the resources it needs within it; that doing something with enthusiasm and by the grace of God can be more powerful than doing something "perfectly," and

that the enrichment CFM brings to the family unit more than outweighs the amount of time that CFM leadership entails.

## Leader Preparation

Throughout the country, leaders pray for their members, pray for the Holy Spirit to bless the group meeting, and read the chapter carefully ahead of time.

At Our Lady of the Wayside, Arlington Heights, all ten CFM groups meet in homes at 8 p.m. Friday evenings. At 7 p.m., all the leaders gather at the parish school where the unit leaders make announcements, the chaplain offers spiritual insights to the chapter, and the leaders share the results of their research on the topic and on possible actions. Often, the leaders' discussion of the topic suggests interesting perspectives that are then shared with the groups. Always, the experience of praying together for the groups that are about to meet and for the families touched by CFM gets the evening off to a good start.

### *Next month's question:*

What does your CFM group do to keep members active in CFM for a long time?

(Thanks to Reenee Galanis, St. James CFM, Arlington Heights, IL for the question.)



## Taking the Time to Make a Difference

by Paul R. Leingang

### Action, one family at a time

It was one of those mornings when the list of evils in the world started to get the best of me. Maybe you've felt that way at times. A friend and co-worker had left me with some disheartening words, as we were discussing the many attacks on human life being waged around the world. Newly legalized euthanasia in the Netherlands. Abortion rulings. Advocacy of infanticide. Executions. School killings. "We really do live in a culture of death," my friend said. I couldn't help but agree. Even as I acknowledged the horror of our society which chooses death as a solution, I see signs of hope among the prophets of life who speak — at times in a whisper, at times in a shout. They proclaim hope, like early spring flowers in a late winter's snow, that life will triumph. I found hope, too, in the timely words of Pope John Paul II. Although he was talking at the time about the forces of "globalization," his words offered encouragement. "The true must prevail over the useful, good over well-being, liberty over fashions, the person over structures," the pope said in early April. "Moreover, it is not enough to criticize: It is necessary to go beyond; it is necessary to be builders." He went on. "The Christian cannot limit himself to analyzing historical processes as they happen, maintaining a passive attitude, as if they were beyond his capacity to intervene, as if we were

led by blind and impersonal forces. "The believer is convinced that every human event is under God's provident hand, who asks each one to collaborate with him in the orientation of history toward an end worthy of man." What the pope was saying — or perhaps, what I was reading into what he said — was that one person can make a difference, or that the world can be changed, one family at a time. "How do I live the Christian

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*"It is part of Christian realism to understand that great social changes are the result of small and courageous daily options."*

— Pope John Paul II

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faith?" the pope asked. "Is it just a collection of beliefs and devotions enclosed in the private sphere, or is it also a force which calls for translation into options that affect my relations with others?" He added: "It is part of Christian realism to understand that great social changes are the result of small and courageous daily options. You often ask yourselves: When will our world be configured to the Gospel message? The answer is

simple: When you, in the first place, act and think permanently like Christ, at least part of that world will be given to him in you."



The Christian Family Movement brings together small groups of families who want to live out their Gospel values, who want their children and their neighbors' children to live secure in the knowledge that they are loved. Families meet in small groups, to observe the world around them, judge what they see in the light of Gospel values, and then to take action to make their part of the world better. They judge — not to criticize, but to build. They talk — not for the sake of discussion, but in the hope of hastening the configuration of the world to the Gospel message. What can one individual do? What can one family do? Or a group of families?

Here is one positive step. It may only be the first of many, but it will make a difference. Take the time to make a family pledge of nonviolence. Pledge to each other — and to your community and to your God — that you will strive to live the following promises: To respect self and others; to communicate better, to listen, to forgive, to respect nature, to play creatively and to be courageous. (For a copy of the pledge, contact the Institute for Peace and justice (314) 533-4445 or e-mail [ipj@ipj-ppj.org](mailto:ipj@ipj-ppj.org).) Help other families to take this positive step. Take the pledge as a group, in school and in the workplace. In the face of escalating violence, escalate love.

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*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 Executive Directors of CFM.*

# FAVAN Meeting makes connections

By PAUL R. LEINGANG

"I am working on the component, 'To Be Courageous,'" writes **Robert Fellows**. "I have become more assertive in asking friends or others around me not to talk about doing something violent to someone else," Fellows continues. "This even includes joking." In a recently prepared article for publication, Fellows seems to describe the kind of pressures you and I face every day. People talk about doing violence to others in a joking way, or they threaten referees or umpires or other officials with exaggerated mayhem. The "component" Fellows is writing about is just one of the seven parts of the "Pledge for Nonviolence" drafted and published by the **Families Against Violence Advocacy Network (FAVAN)**.

The Christian Family Movement is one of the founders of FAVAN — which is in reality an aggregate of organizations, movements, institutions and faith groups that share some common values. We have many differences, but we share concerns about such matters

as how to raise children in a world that is increasingly violent. We share a hope, too, that we can make a difference, even if it is only one family at a time. Here are more of the reflections of Robert Fellows. They are common enough, I am afraid, among us all: "The difficulties I encounter are that sometimes I simply get lazy or bored and then watch TV or movies or read books that glorify violence. I tell myself that it is hard not to, because that is all that is around."

What you may not have discovered in reading what Fellows has written is anything about his own personal situation. If you find some commonality with him, then you may be surprised to learn that he is a prisoner, a man serving time for a violent offense. Fellows has been working on changing his life through the use of the Pledge of Nonviolence, adapted for the Violent Offender Program. What started out as the "Family Pledge of Nonviolence" has been adapted for use in schools and in the workplace. A version of it has been prepared

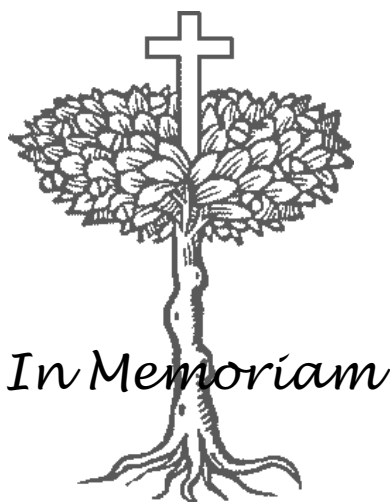
for young people, another for children. It is available for particular use among people of diverse faith traditions, and for secular use, too. What FAVAN demonstrates is that we all have a lot more in common than we sometimes are willing to admit. The recent meeting of FAVAN provided an opportunity for representatives of the various constituencies to learn what has been accomplished, to link organizations with common goals, and to find new ways to work for the common good of a more peaceful world. One such connection was made among people of **Oklahoma City** with people of **Terre Haute, Ind.** Oklahoma City was the site of the federal building bombing, and Terre Haute of the execution of **Timothy McVeigh**. For more information about the Pledge, or to get copies for use in your family or circle of influence, contact FAVAN, c/o Institute for Peace and Justice, St. Louis, Mo. Telephone (314) 533-4445, or e-mail [ipj@ipj-ppj.org](mailto:ipj@ipj-ppj.org).

## Msgr. John J. Egan

Oct. 9, 1916—May 19, 2001

Msgr. Egan was chaplain of CFM from 1947 to 1953. He was also the first director of the Cana Conference. The first formal marriage preparation programs grew out of this ministry.

Msgr. Egan will long be remembered for his energy, his prophetic vision, his courage, and his kindness.



CFM has received memorial contributions in honor of:

the Father of **Linda Burau**, Moline Ill.  
the Mother of **Bill DeCoster**, Moline Ill.  
the Mother of **Mary Kay DeCoster**, Moline Ill.  
**Herb Nelson** by **Dan and Mary Maher** Joliet Ill.

CFM welcomes memorial contributions and bequests.

CFMers in the Blackhawk Federation sponsored an "Undie Sunday" at two **Moline Ill.** parishes, Christ the King and Sacred Heart. They collected over a thousand pieces of underwear and socks. The items were distributed in **Davenport**, to shelters for homeless women and teens and in Rock Island, IL to the Rock Island Mission. **Ken and Carol Grenier** and **Bob and Diane Weber** coordinated the event.

The annual Area 5 camp-out was held at the Grotto of the Redemption in **West Bend, Ia.**, the largest Grotto in the world.

**Nadia and Chuck Clayton** are the new 2001-02 contacts for CFM at St. Stephen's Parish in **Valley Center Calif.** They replace **Stephanie and John Boyd.**

St. James CFM in **Arlington Heights Ill.** had an end of year picnic June 3. Parish leaders for the year were **Dave and Reenie Galanis.** Leaders for next year are **Patti and Mark Ivers.**

**Phyllis and Bob Jones** have started two groups at Immaculate Conception Church in **Fulton Ill.**

CFMers of St. Anthony sponsored a family retreat at Camp Vista, near **Fond du Lac Wis.** Eight families enjoyed mixers, talks on family communication, community (family, parish and beyond) and reconciliation and forgiveness, **Mary Robertson** reports.

St. Pius X Parish, **Urbandale Ia.** had a celebration for **Father Sam Palmer**, former National Chaplain. He is retiring as Federation chaplain this year.

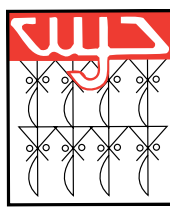
The men from the St. Catherine Laboure CFM group in **Torrance Calif.** attended their annual Men's High Desert Retreat in **Las Vegas, Nev.**, during the weekend of May 19 - 20.

**Ken and Kathy Allen**, former board members from St. Lawrence CFM in **Torrance Calif.** report that in February 100 former St. Lawrence CFMers gathered for a reunion.

**Bishop Gerald A. Gettelfinger** of the Diocese of Evansville congratulated **Jane and Paul Leingang** on the location of the CFM office. "I am thrilled to be part of the hosting of this life-giving movement in our Church," Bishop Gettelfinger said.

July 4-7, 2002 is the date for the **National Convention in Miami.**

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