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Christian Family Movement

Keynote Speakers Challenge Conference

by Paul Leingang

David Thomas and **Joe Holland** were keynote speakers at the recent Christian Family Movement conference in Miami on the theme: "God Is In Our House: A Weekend Celebrating Family Spirituality."

David Thomas is co-director of the Bethany Family Institute of **Highland Ranch, Colo.**, and **Carmarthen, Wales**. In his presentation "The Road Never Traveled — The Prophetic Role of Today's Christian Family," Thomas invoked an image of family that takes as its model the Trinity, a community of equal persons. Thomas suggested that "total democratization" of the human family (and the church) has never been tried, but should be explored.. "We have room to grow in equality, especially in structures based on hierarchy."

Thomas invited adults and teens to imagine a world in which all are valued and treated equally. He said that a domestic church that reflects mutuality could be a model for a vital church structure that replaces the clericalism of past history. These lessons are especially important in view of the current sex abuse scandals the church faces according to Thomas.

Joe Holland, professor of philosophy and religion at St. Thomas University in **Miami, Fla.**, examined the historical roots of the devaluation of marriage prevalent

in western culture. Holland described marriage as "the sacrament of the regeneration of life and community," and called for the recognition of marriage as the "strategically central sacrament for



David Thomas in his apron, "the liturgical garment of the domestic church"

the post-modern church." Holland urged his audience to live and/or to support marriage as an authentic partnership. "Plant seeds of the new civilization in the shell of the old," he said. Raising youth who understand this vision of mutuality in marriage is especially vital for such seeds to grow, he said.



Presidents' Perspective

by Peter and Jane Buchbauer

A CFM Family Reunion

The humidity and the heat were uncomfortably familiar as we arrived in Miami. We have been to Florida often—both sets of grandparents now reside there—but never as far south as Miami. Miami has a distinctly Caribbean feel. The palms, architecture and bilingual signage are distinctly Latin American. They don't call sections of this city "Little Havana" and "Little Haiti" for nothing!

But in the midst of all this we were very much at home among our CFM families hosting this year's national convention. St. Louis is a vibrant parish. "God is in Our House" was more than just a theme. Under the leadership of the **Tomontos—Bob and Anne, Bob and Irene**—the CFMers of St. Louis opened their parish home and their hearts to us all.

Prior to the "main event," the national board conducted its summer meeting at which we welcomed a new National Chaplain, **Father Don Conroy**, and adopted new bylaws. During the meetings, the children of board members enjoyed the hospitality of **Tere and Carlos Lopez** as well as **Juan and Isa Mendez** as their parents hammered out the demands of the agenda. Much was accomplished.

The convention itself began Thursday July 4 with a wonderful lasagna dinner. Smiling faces filled the family center at St. Louis as CFMers joined to meet and reconnect.

Dinner was followed by an opening concert in St. Louis church featuring the musicians of the parish led by **Scott Kaldahl** and **John Montenegro**. Following a warm welcome from the pastor,

Father Fetscher, and between verses of the theme song, "God is in Our House," area representatives from around the country presented "gifts" from home. The music was joyful, fun and inspirational. We stood, we clapped, we sang. As our kids would say, the place rocked! A family reunion was underway.

Friday was a day for intellectual stimulation. The day began with Mass, celebrated by **Bishop Agustin Roman**, and keynote speaker, **Dr. David Thomas** of the Bethany Family Institute. Morning workshop topics included fathering, Covenant Experience and CFM



At the opening liturgy, participants offered symbols of their local CFM communities,

leadership. Afternoon seminars were led by **Dr. Barbara Reitberg** and **Carol Farrell**. Executive directors **Jane and Paul Leingang** closed our day with an inspirational talk, "The Legacy of **Canon Cardijn**," taking us back to our roots in the Catholic tradition of social inquiry and action. As the adults were inspired, the children enjoyed programs of their own.

Friday night was celebrated with a delicious Caribbean dinner and excellent Latin dance music. The **Badillos, Dennis** behind the

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CFM's Mission

- ◆ 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.

Parent to Parent

by Mary Lou Gorman

Children and Scandal



We love our children and we want them to grow up with good morals, but what do we tell them when they hear about the priest scandals and the business scandals that dominate the news today? First of all, children need to realize that we are all human, and humans make wrong choices, some of which we are sorry for the rest of our lives. Whether priest, mother, father, or executive, we sometimes do the wrong things. Our children need to realize that we all make mistakes, but that we must pray and be alert so that we not only learn from our mistakes but also avoid making them

Talk with your children about the temptations that they have experienced. Temptations are all around us all our lives and we must be strong to resist them.

Then we need to talk about forgiveness and how to forgive those who hurt us. Jesus is willing to forgive even the greatest crimes. Every sin has consequences, which ultimately are in the hands of God. When we forgive another, we become free from bitter resentment and become able to move on with our lives. Children need to be reminded that taking revenge on someone who has offended them is not the way to live in peace.

Trying always to do the right thing should be uppermost in our minds. Children cannot be overprotected. The world is not an easy place to live in. There will always be bad examples we need to contend with and choices to be made about them. Children need to have this pointed out and then be encouraged to do what is right. Jesus wants it that way! Can we all work hard and please him!?

To be continued in the next issue.

Mary Lou and Phil Gorman have been married 54 years and have four daughters and thirteen grandchildren. They have been in CFM since 1953.

Marriage Enrichment Book Appeals to Couples and Groups

Updated for the 21st Century, this excellent 13-meeting program has been a CFM best seller for 20 years! This book covers topics such as time, sexuality, money, conflict, communication, recreation and spirituality. Couples study contemporary society and the pressures it brings to bear on marriage. They have an opportunity to take a look at themselves and their marriage in the light of Jesus' teaching and challenge themselves to improve their union.

Prayer and scripture reflection provide insight on each topic. This is an excellent book both for couples who are just beginning their marriage and also for couples who have lived many years of committed love. The book differs

from the usual format of CFM books because it offers journaling questions for the couple to spend time in reflection and dialogue. The discussion at meetings touches on the journaling topics, but couples are not asked to go beyond their comfort level in group discussion. Most meetings include some time for journaling or couple dialogue.

Your Marriage: The Great Adventure is a special program for marriage enrichment from CFM. It is an excellent resource for parish leaders to use when forming new groups. It can be chosen as an alternate program book for this year and is available free with membership. As a special service for parish marriage enrichment programs, it is also available for direct purchase at \$7.



—*Reunion, continued from page 2*

bongos and **Josephine** on the dance floor, got us up and dancing. While the band took a break, **Matthew Cowden** enthralled the room with storytelling. We were sorry to see the night end.

Saturday morning, **Dr. Joe Holland** gave us a thought-provoking study on the social dimension of family spirituality. We then boarded buses and vans to participate in an immersion experience. Under the able guidance of **Chris Sailsbury**, our group visited the **Notre Dame d’Haiti Mission** where we learned of the difficulties experienced by the



Abbie Rogers and Maria Buchbauer

Haitian immigrants and refugees who land on the shores of Florida seeking relief from unrelenting poverty in their homeland.

We continued from there to the **Ermita de la Caridad**, the shrine to the patroness of Cuba, Our Lady of



Bishop Roman spoke at the shrine

Charity. Chris, who also works for the Diocese of Miami, spoke of the issues raised within the Cuban community in Miami during the Mariel boatlift of the 1980s. He was joined by **Isa Mendez**, whose

family fled Castro’s regime in the 1960’s. In the sanctuary of this lovely shrine, we began to understand the issues that the Cuban population of Florida face. They are much different from those of their Haitian brothers.

Returning to St. Louis, we discussed how what we had learned on our pilgrimage relates to our own communities and families. We might not encounter refugees from impoverished Caribbean nations, but poverty and want are not far from home. We could all relate to what is required of us as Christians living out the Gospel message.

Our process culminated with a multicultural prayer service presided over by **Father Don Conroy**. We had the pleasure of being joined by the president couple of the International Confederation of Christian Family Movements, **Elma and Nop Muangkroot**.

Despite rain earlier in the day, we were treated to a family picnic at Tropical Park on Saturday evening. The rain had cooled the temperatures considerably, making it a pleasant evening of good food, continued fellowship and, for the teenagers, muddy soccer.

Sunday morning required us to get the creative juices flowing as we all attempted to generate posters for the ‘house’ to be built during the offertory of the closing Mass. Some of us were better at this project than others but with glue, crayons and happy banter between families, we were able to produce some very interesting works of art. In all, they reflected the many beautiful colors of the family of CFM.

Our closing liturgy, celebrated by our National Chaplain, **Father Don Conroy**, and **Father Sam Palmer**, assisted by **Deacon Bob Tomonto**, was held in the Assembly Hall. In a joyful celebration of family, we closed an awesome weekend with the Eucharistic feast.

Have you ever been to a full

scale family reunion, one where relatives converge from all parts of the country? That’s what the CFM Conventions have become for the Buchbauers. Each time you attend that kind of an event, you reunite with the relatives you only hear from through Christmas cards. You meet all the ‘new’ members of the family, young and old, who have been born or married in. You get that big bear hug from the enthusiastic great-uncle who can’t help but tell you how much you’ve grown, if you’re a kid, or go into the ‘remember-when’s, if you’re an adult. There’s always the cousin or two who you didn’t always see eye to eye with but were glad to see



the closing barbecue



Irene Tomonto helps a grandchild with her poster

anyway because, well, gee, they are part of the family, after all! Of

—*continued on page 7*

—continued from page 6
 course, there is the family historian, who remembers everything that ever happened in and out of the reunion since forever and the aunts who can't feed you enough. No one can get enough pictures and the children re-acquaint themselves as though they had just been together yesterday rather than two or three years ago. It's a tremendously good time, full of laughter, conversation and sharing. You hate to see it end, spend the goodbye time promising to keep in touch and look forward to when you'll all be together again. Our CFM convention experiences have been all of that and more in the eleven years we have been attending.

We can't thank the Miami CFM relatives enough for all they did to make this year's event wonderful. The program, the food, the dance and the fellowship made this year's Convention one to remember. As a National CFM family we can joyfully proclaim that God is, indeed, in our house.

...Light One Candle

The new CFM program book *Evidence of Faith*, suggests that a candle be lit during each meeting. "A candle helps you focus your prayer and recall the light of God," according to **Martha and Andy Maurer** who served as part of the book editing team.

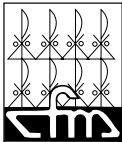
Decorating a candle might be a good activity for a group at the first meeting of the year. The candle could be burned at each meeting and passed from host family to host family as the year progresses.

Andy and Martha suggest that one of the simplest ways to decorate a plain pillar candle is to insert colorful 5/8" head pins in decorative patterns or religious symbols. "I have a really pretty one decorated with a cross," Martha said.

Martha recalled that **Dave and Debbie Weidner, Redmond, Wash.** initiated a candle craft project during a family retreat several years ago. They used a hot glue gun to decorate the outside of glass votive candles with stained glass pieces.

Votive candles can also be decorated with torn tissue paper of various colors attached in layers with white craft glue or with permanent markers, puff paints and acrylic paints.

As the candle is used throughout the year it will take on increased significance for the group. Andy said, "The candle can be burned by the next host family as they pray between meetings for the group members."



Christian Family Movement

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Membership in CFM supports a national ministry to families. Benefits include a one-year subscription to ACT, the national newsletter of the movement; your choice of program book at no charge; and the assistance of the national office in group formation. The mission of CFM is to promote Christ-centered marriage and family life, to help individuals and their families live the Christian faith in everyday life, and to improve society through actions of love, service, education and example.

When the CFM Board of Directors gathered in Miami July 2-3 before the National convention we prayed that we would continue sowing good seed in the furrows plowed for us. We would hear this hopeful message again from the convention speakers: The world is changing; old ways are passing away. Plant the seeds of the future in the shell of the old. We leaders of the Christian Family movement, and leaders of America's families, must do our part to make a difference and then trust God to provide the increase. Our God is certainly with us, "in our house."

Bishop Agustin Roman of Miami, who was scheduled to preside at the opening liturgy of the convention on July 4, surprised the Board by stopping by a day early to bless our work. "We can't have a good world without good families," Bishop Roman said as he prayed with us. "You are the hope of the church and the future. Everything starts with the family."

Father Don Conroy, who was installed as national chaplain at this meeting, encouraged the Board to continue to be a leaven in the dough at home, at work, and in the church. Meetings and conventions Chairs **Olga and Dave Simcoke**, Detroit, Mich., had worked closely for over a year with the Miami CFMers, led by Vice-Presidents **Bob and Ann Tomonto** and assisted by **Bob and Irene Tomonto**, former CFM Presidents, to prepare the 2002 National Convention.

During their business meeting, the Board voted to approve updated bylaws for the movement to keep the operating procedures in line with state law for non-profit organizations. We crafted the draft document long-distance by email since our last board meeting, with advice of counsel, **Les Miller**, Chicago; under the leadership of Presidents **Peter and Jane Buchbauer**, Winchester, Va.

Executive Directors **Paul and Jane Leingang** are working with

Summer Board Meeting Report

By *Lauri Przybysz, Secretary*

the Board to make the most effective use of our newsletter *ACT*, our website, and national and local media. They encouraged all to contribute to the *cfm-exchange* and follow up on inquiries about CFM in our areas. Treasurers **Jean and Terry Smith**, Des Moines, Iowa, brought the new budget to the Board for approval. CFM decided not to increase dues this year, with the hope that efforts to increase membership and encourage timely payment of annual registration will succeed.

*Sow for yourselves justice,
reap the fruit of piety;
break up for yourselves
a new field,
for it is time to seek the Lord,
until he come
and rain down justice
upon you.*

—Hosea 10:12

Program Chair **Margie Murchan**, San Jose, Calif., reported on plans to keep future program books focused on action that responds to the signs of the times. **Jane Buchbauer** is seeking authors for the 2004 Program, which explores Old Testament Scripture stories as springboards for Christian action and family spirituality.

Secretaries **John and Lauri Przybysz**, Baltimore, Md., are also working on future programs.

Gary and Kay Aitchison, past executive directors and now ICCFM representatives, are working on the international meeting planned for 2004 in California. The ICCFM has recommended developing training "schools" for new CFM leaders. The Board began to envision the form such a school would take in the US, and Past Presidents **Chuck and Jan Rogers**, Winchester, Va., offered to help the Board prepare a program model. Leaders **Dan and Noreen Thomas**, St. Lawrence Martyr, Torrence, Cal., told us of their parish's successful leadership training and group organization processes. The service team hopes to visit them for their meeting in Fall 2002.

Larry Murchan reported on progress in CFM's collaboration with **Notre Dame University** ministry to young adult alumni around the U.S.. **Father Sam Palmer**, former National Chaplain from Des Moines, looking healthy and enjoying retirement supplied valuable long-term perspective, pastoral presence, and wise advice at both the board meeting and convention.



At the Miami National CFM Convention a renewed sense of purpose and vision was apparent in the couples and families present. I felt very fortunate to witness this as I began my ministry as CFM's National Chaplain.

This is the first national convention of the new century. Several important and encouraging signs of renewal and vitality for the movement surfaced as CFMers spent these special days together hosted by a very competent committee of dedicated and hospitable local couples. I would like to reflect on some of these signs, in no particular order.

First, a new awareness and interest in the origins of the Movement helps us look to the future. **Cardinal Cardijn's** role as a prophetic leader was highlighted in a presentation by the **Leingangs**. It was his farseeing insight that gave us the key to our past and our future in the "See-Judge-Act" process so central to our small group dynamics. I sense a Second Spring for CFM as it rediscovers its origins.

Second, the importance of the regional efforts across the country has become apparent. Though midwestern originally and northeastern as it expanded early on, the Christian Family Movement has a future in all parts of the USA. The work of **Bob and Ann Tomonto** and their support team was a successful demonstration of a region's abilities, talents, and resources. This potential, I think, resides in every region. Although many CFMers could not make the long trip, the effort by those regionally and from around the nation will touch us all as we look forward to the movement's expansion and renewal in the 21st century.

Third, a growing sense of the connection between family mission and social ministry was seen as we toured the poorer sections of Miami. The refugee community of Little

From the National Chaplain

by *Father Don Conroy*



Hope and Vitality at the National Convention

Haiti and other neighborhoods near the Cathedral made clear to everyone on our bus tour that as we deepen our understanding of the Gospel within our families we must never forget the need to care for the needy and also for God's creation. Economic and ecological conditions are intimately interrelated.

Fourth, the location of this convention was not a seminary or a college campus, or even a retreat center. The place was a parish. St. Louis Parish was cited in the 2001 book from Paulist Press by John Wilkes, *Excellent Catholic Parishes in*

dimensions, was constantly a part of this Convention. This was apparent from the opening Mass with **Bishop Roman**, the upbeat singing within the sacred concert on opening night, the other paraliturgical activities, the pilgrimage to various holy sites within the Miami Community, and the daily visits to the Blessed Sacrament in the parish chapel that has been open night and day for over twenty years.

These are only some of the signs of CFM's renewal as the Holy

Father Conroy worked with Nop and Elma Muangkroot of Bangkok, Thailand, presidents of ICCFM, and Jane Leingang on a poster for the closing liturgy.



the United States. This is a sign of mission, because not only does each CFM group center its recruitment and ministry in a parish; but also CFM is part of the hope for revitalization of families within parish life.

Fifth, the power of prayer, in personal, group and liturgical

Spirit calls all of us to revitalize marriage, the christian family (the domestic church), and the wider society in these challenging times.

Father Conroy is President of the National Institute for the Family in Washington, DC.



Taking the Time to Make a Difference

by Paul R. Leingang

The Road Is Made By Walking

The image stuck in my mind. I'm not sure of the exact wording, but the idea is clear: "Let us walk where there is no road. The road is made by walking." Those words came from **Joe Holland**, a speaker at the recent national conference of the Christian Family Movement in Miami.

Holland, a professor of philosophy and religion at St. Thomas University in Miami, was quoting the lines of a poet, and I was immediately caught up in the truth and the depth of those few words.

The words of the poet take concrete form—literally—in many places in the world. I've seen what happened at our own parish, and a nearby high school. People pick their own path, whether going from place to place, building to building or meeting room to parking lot. Sensible designers wait for the pathway to be established by the pattern of walking feet, and then that is where they put the sidewalk.

I know too that some, maybe all, the early routes into frontier territory followed animal tracks through the wilderness. Here in southern Indiana, there are many references to the "Buffalo Trace," the path established long before European families found their way to a new homeland.

But the CFM speaker was not speaking about parish landscaping or frontier days. He was talking about the current crises in society, which he believes are symptoms of a major shift in civilization. He

traced the evolution of Western civilization through four stages, each built on a revolution in communication.

The development of human speech created human culture. Human individuals and families were able to gather together into a tribe.

The development of handwriting made possible the establishment of a much larger structure, the empire.

The development of printing made possible the modern nation

*We not only have
a generation gap,
but also
a civilization gap.*

state, Holland said.

And now the electronic revolution in communications leads us into a global or planetary society.

Holland called those four stages primal, classical, modern and post-modern. He said our current generation of parents is the last generation of the print-established society. Our young people are the first generation of the electronic communications age. So, he concluded, we not only have a generation gap, but also a civilization gap.

The modern world is breaking down. A new world is breaking through. And the paths into this new world have not yet been paved. This is the challenge, to walk where there is no road.



In reflection, I immediately thought of Jesus, and how he reassured his friends that he would show them the way. "Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me. . . . And when I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way where I am going" (John 14).

To Thomas, who wonders, "How can we know the way?" Jesus promises: "I am the way, and the truth and the life."

These are not merely words of comfort about a blissful afterlife. The following words challenge us to engage in the here and now. "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in me will also do the works that I do," Jesus says.



Take the time to examine your own family life, the tensions that pull it apart, and also the love and the faith and the hope that may hold it together. Pray for the gift of faith, for the courage to do the works of Jesus in society today, and the grace to walk where there is no road.

Paul is director of communications for the Diocese of Evansville, Ind.; 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.

Your Marriage: The Great Adventure

by Lauri Przybysz

Reaching Out to Marriages



News from the social sciences and much of our own experience seems to proclaim a requiem for marriage as an institution. PBS recently aired a documentary, *Marriage Just a Piece of Paper?*. Everyone is saying marriage is in trouble and needs some kind of help.

The professional counseling community has responded by developing and offering numerous courses and programs for couples who will take time for them. Many of these programs were visible at the recent Smart Marriages Conference in Washington DC. **The Coalition for Marriage, Family and Couples Education** is a non-denominational organization that offers valuable resources and links to courses in marriage and relationship improvement. You can subscribe to a free e-newsletter at www.smartmarriages.com.

Church leaders continue to call for "better marriage preparation" as a preventative medicine, but ongoing pastoral support and spiritual nurturing of marriage across the lifespan is harder to come by. Over-extended clergy and parish staffs are often unable or unwilling to provide resources for on-going marriage enrichment programs.

Who can better assist marriage than married people themselves, living witnesses to the value and importance of Christian marriage? Couples whose family spirituality has been shaped by CFM know better than simply to stand around observing and judging the demise of marriage. We must find a way to *act* to strengthen marriage. This begins with strengthening and

nurturing our own marriages, but also includes supporting the marriages around us.

CFM has provided us with the methodology of OJA, and is also the source of several valuable tools that married couples can use with or without the assistance of parish staff to make a difference for marriage.

First, CFM offers a fine marriage enrichment program (with a catchy title) for small groups of couples of any age: *Your Marriage: The Great Adventure*. Updated for the 21st century, this 13-meeting program offers couples the opportunity to take a look at themselves and their marriage in light of Jesus' teaching and to challenge themselves to improve their union by learning to Observe, Judge and Act.

CFM couples might make it an Action to lead *Your Marriage* groups, perhaps even taking time off from their established group to serve marriages of their friends and neighbors. The *Marriage* groups might well decide to join CFM at the end of the program, all the better for their marriages in the long term.

Another marriage enrichment plan with CFM roots is the Covenant Experience. CFMers could take action to form a team to offer this parish-based weekend, *Eleven Steps to a Better Marriage*, designed by CFMers **Bob and Irene Tomonto**. Leaders' guides and couples' workbooks make it simple to create dynamic parish marriage ministry that can also grow new CFM groups. Visit www.thecovenantexperience.com for more information and to order materials.

A couple that senses a call to reach out to marriages could work on marriage preparation at the parish or diocesan level. Offer to become a presenter at a Pre-Cana or Engaged Encounter weekend or to assist with (or initiate!) marriage preparation program in your parish.

A popular new style of marriage preparation is Sponsor Couple. In this "like-to-like" ministry, an experienced and trained married couple meets in their home with one engaged couple. They commit to several sessions (usually five) to develop the engaged couple's understanding of Christian marriage and to increase their awareness of each other's values and attitudes. For more information on establishing Sponsor Couples in your parish, contact me at the Archdiocese of Baltimore, lprzybysz@archbalt.org.

When married people minister to marriages, whether in small CFM groups, weekend programs, or marriage preparation teams, the parish experiences stronger family life and community. Married couples in like-to-like ministry gain insight to their own marriage as they share life's experiences and love's responses. A couple willing to share themselves and their relationship on a very personal level, fearing neither self-revelation nor thoughtful interaction with other couples, can make a difference.

Lauri and John Przybysz live in Severna Park, Md., and are the parents of six children. Lauri is coordinator of marriage preparation and enrichment for the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

Sue and Wayne Hamilton, Carolyn Broeren, Fr. Ken Weare, Gary and Kay Aitchison, and ICCFM president couple **Elma and Nop Muangkroot** met in July to begin planning for the World Assembly of families in July 2004. **Andy and Martha Maurer** and plus three couples from MFC and CFM will serve as the local facilitors.

The combined Holy Trinity, St. Mary of Nazareth, Windsor Heights Lutheran group in **Des Moines, Iowa** prepared and served a meal at the Urban Ministries Supper Club in June. Leaders are **Terry and Jean Smith**.

St. Lawrence the Martyr, **Redondo Beach, Calif.** enjoyed a family day at the ballpark. Each summer the group gets a block of 250 tickets to the last

Dodgers home game before July 4th to enjoy the game and fireworks. Leaders are **Dan and Noreen Thomas** and **Greg and Brenda Argano**.

Amy and Tom Nordloh are starting a new CFM group in **Kenosha, Wisc.**

Jim and Mary Robertson, Menomonee Fall, Wisc. have resigned from the board of directors after seven years of service. We are grateful for their gifts of leadership which they generously shared with the movement.

Mary Ann and Brian Thelen, St. Thomas, Ann Arbor, Mich. ordered *Your Marriage the Great Adventure* for use with couples in their parish married five years or less. The parish staff evaluated the material and felt it was excellent for this use. [Ed. note: This book is

available at \$7 for use with marriage enrichment groups.]

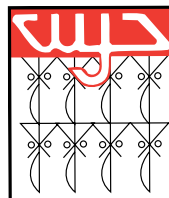
St. Benedict CFM in **Evansville, Ind.** sponsored a house warming shower when the House of Bread and Peace moved into a new facility in July. The shelter is a Catholic Worker House serving homeless women and their children.

Karen Burnard and Michael Jackson are the new contacts for St. Mary Student Parish in **Ann Arbor, Mich.** **Mike and Dan Buscher** are new contacts for St. Francis Parish in **West Des Moines, Iowa.** *If your parish has new leaders, contact the national office with details.*

St. Philip CFM in **Mount Vernon, Ind.** is sponsoring a carry-in dinner kick off on Sept. 8 after 10:30 Mass. **Paul and Jane Leingang** will be speakers.

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