



Vol 55 • No. 8
 December 2002-
 January 2003

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Christian Family Movement

Family Camp Fulfils a Dream

by Jane Leingang

What do pontoon boats, fishing, family skits, daily Mass, and deep family conversation have in common? They are all part of a family camp that is spearheaded by some industrious, faith-filled CFMers from **Ann Arbor, Mich.**

This past August, 125 individuals from **New York City, Buffalo, N.Y., Adrian, Detroit** and Ann Arbor, Mich., gathered at Camp Aldersgate, in **Carrollton, Ohio** to participate in the eighth annual Holy Family Ministries camp. The camp represents the fulfillment of a dream of **Father Tom Helfrich**, an Oblate Father of St. Francis de Sales. It is also the result of the energy and faith of CFM families from St. Thomas in Ann Arbor.

The camp has built bonds between families who live in very different worlds.

"It has helped our CFM families see these families as very much like ourselves. Many have been born into situations that are very difficult to escape. This camp has shown us how to serve, but it has also been like a retreat for us," according to **Mary Ann Thelen**, one of the camp organizers.

Holy Family Ministries started when the St. Thomas CFM group attended a family camp in 1994. The families enjoyed their time at the camp, but they were challenged by an idea one of the priests running the program shared with them.



Father Helfrich wanted to develop a deeper camp experience that brought families from the suburbs into contact with families from the inner city to grow in interpersonal relationships and faith in a recreational setting.

One of the St. Thomas CFMers had experienced that type of camp. When she lived in **New Jersey**, **Karen Stein** had participated in a

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Presidents' Perspective

by Peter and Jane Buchbauer

A Time for Traditions, A Time for Memories

As we enter the liturgical seasons of Advent and Christmas, we are always drawn to memories of our youth.

Peter grew up in a German-American household. He fondly remembers St. Nicholas Day and leaving his shoes on the windowsill waiting for chocolates which would inevitably find their way there by morning. He recalls opening the doors on the Advent calendar, one day at a time—a grueling test of patience. And he remembers family gatherings on Christmas Eve and waiting for Santa's arrival.

Jane grew up in a Puerto Rican household. She remembers festive gatherings of family and friends on Christmas Eve, attendance at Midnight Mass and "visits" from the Three Kings on the feast of the Epiphany.

This season is a wonderful time for memories and of memories born of tradition.

Once we married, we had to create our own traditions. We blended—took some of Peter's and some of Jane's and added some of our own. So now, we seek out a needy family to help during Advent, we have Christmas Eve dinner, followed by a gift exchange among our children—one gift apiece—prior to midnight Mass. On Christmas morning, after the exchange of gifts, we sit down to a traditional Christmas brunch. Later that day, we gather with family and/or friends for a Christmas Dinner. Frequently, it is a gathering

with other CFM families, and everybody brings what they would have made for their own dinner. What a feast! What tradition!

A few years ago, Peter wanted to take the family to Florida for Christmas. The goal was noble: his mother had just had hip replacement surgery and was not up to traveling to his brother's home in New York as she had done every year since she relocated in 1982. Yet, the protests were extreme. A Christmas Eve at a different church, at a different time, just did not feel like Christmas. The living room of a condo could not pass for our own living room, warmly decorated with Christmas ornaments and decorations of the past—ornaments for each year of our marriage, ornaments recognizing family milestones and family vacations, and ornaments made by our children. Regardless of the proximity to DisneyWorld and Universal Studios, none of the children would want to repeat that Christmas vacation in the future.

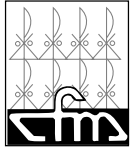
The other tradition consists of helping others. We fondly recall Christmases past when our children, together with those of other CFM families, served Christmas dinner at a local homeless shelter. The children manned the serving lines and as adults and children came through the line to be served, the children—our children—began singing Christmas carols as they served. We remember one Christmas Eve when Peter received a call for assistance from the local Abused Women's Shelter. They had received

a family with a 13-year-old boy the night before. The shelter had nothing to give the boy for Christmas morning. Several men had donated some money and Peter asked our two oldest sons—then just 11 and 13 themselves—to come and help pick up some gifts for the boy. How heartwarming it was when they came to him with their own money and asked if they could buy the boy something too!

For them, and for us, our traditions, our memories, are what make Advent and Christmas a special family time, a time for giving. We look forward to this time when Jesus Christ takes a more prominent and obvious place in our gatherings, when family and friends are appreciated more tangibly, and when we can settle down and reminisce with one another, sharing our memories of Christmases past.

Our wish for you this season is that you too make your memories with your families, settling on traditions new or old to enhance your celebration and worship of this blessed time of the year. Take the time this season to reach out to others in need. Take the time to share special moments with your families. Take the time to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Merry Christmas.

Peter and Jane Buchbauer, CFM presidents, live in Winchester, Virginia. Their children are Joseph, 20; Peter, 18; Michael, 13; and Maria, 12.



ACT is published up to eight times a year by the Christian Family Movement.

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CFM news articles and photos welcome. Subscriptions are free to members and \$8.00 for non-members.

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

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



Get All Sides of the Story

Too many times we as parents only listen to our own kids and forget there is another side to every story. Don't jump to conclusions when your child comes home with a story of how he was mistreated by another child. As a teacher, I remember parents coming in in a rage over a story their child told them. Once they heard the teacher's or neighbor's side and the other child's story, they would calm down and begin to understand what really happened. This holds true in adult life also. Someone tells us about an incident and until we hear the other wide of the story we shouldn't repeat what we heard.

Anger can be controlled when we make a point to be a good

listener and evaluate the situation. We want our child to be in the right, but this is not always the case when we hear all sides of the story.

Taking a deep breath when Johnny comes home crying, and saying a quick "Jesus, help me with this" prayer helps to calm you down. Suggesting a conversation with the teacher or neighbor to make things right may well be the best way to handle a problem. Let your child know you love him but tell him how important it is for you to hear *both sides of the story*.

Mary Lou and Phil Gorman have been married 55 years and have four daughters and thirteen grandchildren. They have been in CFM since 1953.

CFM Represented at Conference of Family Life Ministers

CFM executive directors **Paul and Jane Leingang**, secretary **Lauri Przybysz**, and North American representatives **Gary and Kay Aitchison** attended the National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers conference in **Kansas City**, Oct. 2-5. Approximately 200 family life ministers participated.

Bishop Kevin Boland, chairman of the U.S. bishops Committee on Marriage and Family Life encouraged the group in his remarks saying, "You are an instrument of the God of the possible."

Father J. Glenn Murray, director of the Office for Pastoral Liturgy in **Cleveland** urged ministers to persevere in the face of difficult times.

Dr. Eileen Raffaniello-Barbella spoke to the group about the

"monastery of marriage" which preserves "the center of each of us and the center of our marriage."



From that center she noted that families are sent to participate in the mission of the Church.

Keynoter **Arun Gandhi** challenged the group on the possibility of non-violence in parenting through examples of life with his famous grandfather, **Mohandas "Mahatma" Gandhi**.

CFM exhibited its new program materials, especially *Your Marriage the Great Adventure*.

—continued from page 1

camp that worked with inner city families from New York. She knew that camp had to turn families away because the demand was greater than the camp capacity. In addition to the New York connection, St. Thomas Parish has a relationship with St. Benedict Parish in **Detroit**. Families from that parish were also invited to participate. The camp gives families who have experienced reverses a chance to improve their lives and start again. Volunteer families interacting with them at the camp find they benefit from the experience too.

“Our kids have grown so much through this. They say this is what has formed their faith—our life in CFM and this camp,” says Mary Ann. She has been involved in the camp since its beginning and is responsible for writing the program that is used each year. “I use the CFM method for the sessions.”

This year’s theme presented some challenges. The committee had chosen the Beatitudes as the basis for the camp and each day was devoted to one of those key concepts. “When it came to the idea of discussing ‘Blessed are the poor in spirit’ we wondered if we could talk to someone who was truly poor about that.” Mary Ann relates. “We concentrated on how we decide how much is enough and also the spiritual side of that.” Another day focused on violence and terror in neighborhood and society. “These people come from areas where safety is a big issue,” says Mary Ann. Hungering for what God wants and examining what will really make us happy were other topics for the week.

Volunteer families are paired with inner city families for a discussion and activity session and the evening meal each day during

the week-long camp. There is also a daily peer group meeting. A morning focus session led by Father Helfrich, opportunities for camp service projects and daily Mass are built into the schedule as well.

The inner city families benefit not only from the talk and activity time, but also from the opportunity to interact in a recreational setting. Fishing, swimming and boating are all popular pastimes. “The recre-

can. God provides. We’ve never not been able to do it for lack of funds,” says Mary Ann.

Next year’s camp is set for August 2-9, but Father Helfrich has challenged the group to expand the camp to two weeks. “In order to do that we would need to train families to help,” Mary Ann said. Program guidelines call for volunteer families who are Catholic, open to forming a friendship with an



ation is important—families just enjoying each others’ company. Safety is big for the New York families. A lot of these children can’t play outside without adult supervision where they live,” according to Mary Ann.

Holy Family Ministries has incorporated as a non-profit organization and raises between \$10,000 to \$15,000 to run the camp each year by writing grants and doing other types of fundraising. Some support comes from surrounding parishes, individuals and organizations. “The families are not charged, but they can contribute. They try to put in whatever they

inner city family and willing to work with others to lead small groups. Families stay in rustic cabins. Volunteer families function as role models for the others at the camp and must be willing to participate fully in all activities.

CFM families who might like to volunteer can contact volunteer coordinators **Jim and Karen Stein** at steink@aaps.k12.mi.us. To find out more about the camp, visit the Holy Family Ministries page of St. Francis of Assisi parish website, www.stfrancisa2.com/socialministry/holyfamily.htm. The Ann Arbor parish is one of the project’s supporters.

Grow your group!

A simple action that every CFMer can be involved in is extending an invitation to others to give CFM a try. CFM spreads best person-to-person, but it is also important to make open invitations. A CFM community should not be a closed community, but one which is engaged in outreach. Here are some ways to attract new members.

1. Talk to Baptismal Preparation parents, the RCIA, and Mom's groups about CFM.
2. Send flyers home with school children inviting parents to an information night.
3. Phone newcomers to the parish and invite them to visit a meeting.
4. Ask members to bring potential members to the meeting.
5. Host a parish social or picnic to get to know potential members.
6. Make brochures (15 cents apiece from the national office) available to your parish in church or the parish office.
7. Keep your name out there! Have regular announcements in the parish bulletin and newsletter about your activities.
8. Talk about CFM to others. Share what it has done to strengthen your marriage and your family.
9. Seek the support of your parish staff for CFM. Ask them to recommend potential members.

From the National Chaplain

by Father Don Conroy



A Family Charter

The 21st Century American family is often characterized by lack of time together, career and school demands, and absence of knowing what we are as a familial community.

Moms and Dads often say: "We try our best, but what can we do?"

Well, CFMers know they have experienced better and happier couple relations through the dynamic of their CFM meetings and such "times out" as Covenant Weekends.

Yet, if the children are to be included, we often have to take another intentional step. Since life is so overwhelming and tends to get away from us as family, we can take time out once or twice a month for a Family Sharing, a Family Evening or a Family Get-Away.

In slower moving times, families experienced the benefits of the parents' good relationship indirectly and the trickle-down was truly effective. Today is different.

We often need to do something intentional, that is, we need to intend and designate time for being and experiencing quality family living and discovering who we are as family.

There are several activities we can do to become a better and more successful Christian families and to realize what it means to be a Domestic Church empowered by the Spirit to transform ourselves and our world.

Recently I had the opportunity to go to New York City for the taping of a PBS special program narrated by **Walter Cronkite**, the former CBS anchor. Cronkite interviewed **Dr. Steven Rockefeller** on an interesting new

activity called the Earth Charter Initiative. This "Charter" is a declaration of our shared responsibilities as a human community for transforming and bringing about a culture of peace, justice and integrity of creation. The people from all over the world who have entered into this "Earth Charter" process have identified common values, a shared vision and a sense of mission to change things around.

Families can do something similar. They can draw up a "Family Charter," which begins with their family history. By meeting several times using the CFM process of "Observe, Judge, Act" they can come up with their family story, their shared vision and hopes, and a charter or bill of family values and responsibilities leading to greater understanding, better relationships, and a real spiritual purpose.

In addition, families can use this as a launch-pad to share home celebrations through the seasons of God's grace by discovering together what they truly are as a "Domestic Church." This isn't just a nice name the pope came up with! The joy, meaning and peace as well as the sense of identity, collaboration and success which come from a truly Christian family experience is the real pay-off.

This winter and spring consider as part of the New Year of 2003 making a resolution and keeping it: Take time to become a truly Christian Family. It's the best investment you can ever make.

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

Book Reviews

by Jane Leingang

Daily Meditations (with Scripture) for Busy Parents by Tom McGrath is another volume in a series of meditation books based on the struggles of daily family life. Like the others, this one includes a short meditation for each day and the scriptural quotation. The meditations reflect the realities of family life rather than the rarefied atmosphere of the monastery. The selection for Dec. 1, for example, juxtaposes the frenetic nature of December with the quiet watching and waiting mood of the Church's liturgies at this time of year. A simple story of a young boy at a Christmas party brings the two moods into harmony for the reader. This is a helpful book for people with little time to pray.

Daily Meditations (with Scripture) for Busy Parents by Tom McGrath, ACTA, 252 pages, \$9.95.

Raising a Good Kid (Chances are you're doing just fine) by John F. Smith is full of patient understanding of the difficulties of raising kids who are well-balanced, productive adults. Smith draws from his experience as a parent, school chaplain and teacher to make his point that parents know in their hearts what is the right thing to do and they should trust their instincts. Raising kids who are unafraid to try new things, know the value of working hard, understand the dignity of each person, and relate to God and the

community is a matter of developing an honest relationship with the child and being a good role model day by day. There are no "quick fix" ways to do it. His chapter on school and the practical observations on dealing with failures are especially good.

Raising a Good Kid (Chances are you're doing just fine) by John F. Smith, Sorin Books, www.sorinbooks.com, 126 pages, \$11.95

Follow the Way of Love: A Pastoral Message of the US Catholic Bishops to Families, first issued in 1994, has been reprinted in an attractive new format. The bishops' message to families on the realities of today's society addresses the challenges of living faithfully, giving life, growing in mutuality and taking the time to balance work and family obligations. Questions are included for small group discussion or personal reflection. This material is useful for a parish retreat, day of reflection or other family life enrichment program.

Follow the Way of Love: A Pastoral Message of the US Catholic Bishops to Families. U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Publishing, www.usccb.org, 48 pages. \$4.95, discounts for multiple purchases.

Coffee and Crafts and Christmas Outreach

Have you ever wondered how to reach out to a third world country while sitting at home?

Queen of Apostles CFM, **San Jose, Calif.**, sponsored a special pre-Christmas Crafts Fair. Crafts from foreign countries were sold to profit sponsoring organizations. The group ordered gifts (toys, candles, clothes, greeting cards) from catalogs (UNICEF, Oxfam, etc) and made them available in November at the parish in a festive atmosphere with music and the aroma of some very special coffee.

Members **Margie and Larry Murchan** identify several benefits from this type of event:

1. People are participating in social justice activities in a very real way.
2. The toys, etc. that are bought can be given to family and relatives, but they can also be given to local families in need, through an "adopt-a-family" program.
3. The event contributes festivity and fun to the local community.

One resource the Murchans particularly recommend is a family-owned, family-run coffee plantation in **Guatemala**. ("The coffee tastes fantastic!" according to Margie.) The coffee is \$5-6 per pound, whole-bean or ground. Write to Ken Huebert, 1529 Oakwood Ave., New Ulm, MN 56073 to order coffee.

What events and activities energize your CFM group? Share the stories with other CFM members through cfm-exchange and ACT. See page 3 for contact addresses.

10 Tips for a Simpler More Meaningful Christmas

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|---|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Plan ahead. Instead of going on auto-pilot the day after Thanksgiving, hold a family meeting to decide what the group really wants to do and who's going to do what. 2. If you need a symbol for giving (in addition to Jesus and the Three Wise Ones), learn about St. Nicholas. Santa Claus has been completely taken over by commerce. 3. Avoid debt. Refuse to be pressured by advertising to overspend. 4. Avoid stress. Give to yourself. Don't assume that things have to be the same way they've always been. 5. Draw names rather than everyone giving something to | <p>everyone else in your giving circle. Set a ceiling for each recipient. Give children ONE thing they really want, rather than so many gifts. If need be, pool funds.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Give appropriate gifts. Get to know the recipient. Give what they want to receive, not what you want to buy. 7. Give alternative gifts. Give 25 per cent of what you spent last year to the needy... individuals or groups locally, nationally or internationally. Buy crafts and clothing from developing countries at alternative gift markets, not from commercial importers, so that the artisans receive a fair price for their work. Give of yourself, not just "stuff"—a coupon book for future services (such as baby- | <p>sitting or an "enchanted evening"); something baked, sewn, handmade, composed, etc.; or a family service project, such as working together at a soup kitchen.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Celebrate Advent for four weeks before Christmas. 9. Put the gifts under the tree shortly before opening them. Then take turns opening them around the tree, not all at once, so that each gift can be admired and each giver thanked. 10. Make changes slowly but persistently. Don't try to change everything and everybody all at once. The resistance will make you feel defeated and lonely. <p>©1997 Alternatives for Simple Living. Used by permission.</p> |
|---|---|--|

Sing to the tune of *God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen*

Slow down ye frantic shoppers for there's something we must say
 If you would spare a moment all the stores would go away
 Big business has been telling us what Christmas means today

Now it's time we decided for ourselves, for ourselves
 Yes it's time we decided for ourselves.

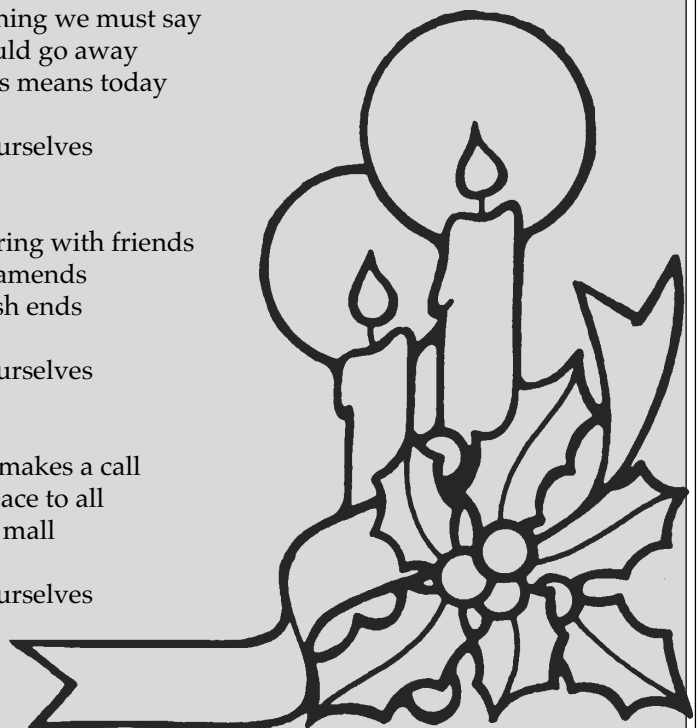
To some folks Christmas means a time for gathering with friends
 And enemies might take it as a time to make amends
 But TV says it's time for pricey gifts and selfish ends

Now it's time we decided for ourselves, for ourselves
 Yes it's time we decided for ourselves.

Some people feel that Christmas is when Jesus makes a call
 For others it's a time to stress good will and peace to all
 But advertisers tell us it means Santa's at the mall

Now it's time we decided for ourselves, for ourselves
 Yes it's time we decided for ourselves.

From Center for a New American Dream.
www.newdream.org/holiday/carols.html





Taking the Time to Make a Difference

by Paul R. Leingang

Some gifts to consider

When I was a small boy, our rural mail box was next to the state highway, at the end of a long gravel driveway. Our house was at the top of a hill; the highway was at the bottom. If you drove up to our house, you would drive between some chicken houses and a pig pen.

The roadway was steep, especially the last looping turn up to the top. My parents had built a walking path from the side of the house, down a grassy slope, which was a nice short cut to the lower part of the driveway. That path was the one we used, on the way down and back up again when a child was sent to "go get the mail."

"Getting the mail" is much easier now. It's delivered into a box just outside our door. A recent catalog in our mailbox brought back some memories of my earlier years. It was a pleasant—and provocative—surprise.

Our mail in recent days is full of Christmas catalogs. There are typically some credit card offers, some bills, some advertising circulars. Just about everything we get in the mail involves an invitation to spend money, get more credit or to buy something that will make me and my family happy or at least better off than the rest of my neighbors.

After a quick glance at some recent mail, I picked up the catalog that surprised me. It claimed to be "The Most Important Gift Catalog in the World." If you share any of

my skepticism over advertising claims, you may be surprised at my conclusion.

This one is true.

The most important gift catalog in the world comes from Heifer International. If you have never heard of this organization, please read on.

Under the heading, "Heifers for the Holidays" the catalog included a story about Nancy Isingoma, who lived in a tiny mud and grass house with a leaky roof.

Take the time today to reflect on the gifts you have received, and the gifts you have given.

"The family longed to build a more suitable place to live but couldn't afford even simple materials.

"Then, Nancy received a dairy cow from Heifer International which gave four gallons of milk a day. The cow's bull calf used one gallon, the family drank half a gallon, and Nancy sold the surplus.

"And slowly, the family began to build a new home."

Nancy used the profits from the milk to buy corrugated metal for the roof and mortar to hold together their home-made bricks for the walls.

Heifer International offers a way for people—maybe someone who has never even seen a cow up close—to give a life-changing gift to a family in a third world country.

Cows, goats, sheep, pigs, water buffalo, donkeys, rabbits, chickens, bees—these are among the gifts available this Christmas. Families who receive such a gift promise to give the first female offspring to another family, and they in turn, will help another family, and on and on will go this simple gift.

Perhaps such a gift will help the giver to find new respect for the animals that share our world. For the many of our neighbors who have not grown up near sheds and pens, perhaps the Heifer Project can be a way to reach more deeply into the richness of God's creation.

Have you done your shopping yet?

Find out more from Heifer International at (800) 422-0755, or see the web site, www.heifer.org.



Take the time today to reflect on the gifts you have received, and the gifts you have given. Pope John Paul II frequently speaks about respect for creation. Study the documents and teachings of the church in regard to the use of God's gifts. Help a family—next door or far away—to live in greater harmony and peace.

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

I married my friend



Ask happy couples who have been married for a long time for their secret to success, and you will invariably get the answer: Commitment and Friendship. Everyone talks about commitment, or lack thereof, as a key to the future of marriage. We know that young people are starting to think commitment to one partner for life is a relic of the moldy past. (See 2002 State of Our Unions report: *Why Men Won't Commit*, <http://marriage.rutgers.edu/publicat.htm>)

It is equally important to look again at **friendship** as a life-sustaining aspect of durable marriages. Many people will tell you that they were once friends with their spouses, but not anymore. Now they are *just married*. What people want most from marriage is a soul-mate, a best friend for life. Yet many couples don't realize that friendships need to be nurtured.

What erodes the friendship of husband and wife? Think about any friends who drift apart: They spend less and less time together; they stop paying attention to each other's interests; they forget to inquire about each other's hopes and dreams; they stop listening and do all the talking. Soon, they are strangers. We don't ever want that to happen between us.

A simple beginning to preserving or renewing our friendship: We can renew our efforts to *talk* like friends. Married people are always told that they must *communicate*, but we often take this to mean problem-solving. Friends don't talk just to solve problems and resolve conflicts. Friends want to know how you're doing—really. They tell you the best joke they heard

recently; the new short-cut they discovered, the movie you don't want to see. They cheer you up or share their fears. They tell you what they are going through at this time in their lives.

Think about the last conversation you had with your spouse. This morning, we talked about plans for shopping, when he was going to fix the shower, who was going to pick up the girls, and how to remove the back seat from the minivan. When was the last time you two talked about ideas, memories, hopes and dreams? I'll give you a topic; talk between yourselves:

- Read the same book. Pick a time to talk about what you have read. Some couples read to each other.
- Reminisce about your courtship. What qualities first attracted you to each other before you married? Go through this list and pick five qualities, then share them with your spouse.

| | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Thoughtful | Handy |
| Enthusiastic | Persevering |
| Gentle | Ambitious |
| Athletic | Gentle |
| Joyful | Family Centered |
| Energetic | Sense of Humor |
| Sexy | Intelligent |
| Shy | Talented |
| Patient | Religious |
| | Good Looking |

Describe how your spouse displayed that quality (For example, "you had a great sense of humor. Remember the time when...")

Even when we make time to relax together, go out to dinner, or lie down at night, we so often spoil

the moment with family concerns or work issues. "You might be surprised how powerful it can be for the two of you to simply agree that some times will be "friend times" and therefore off limits for conflicts and issues," says Scott Stanley in *A Lasting Promise: A Christian Guide for Fighting for Your Marriage*, (Jossey-Bass, 1998). "A friend is someone who's glad to see you and doesn't have any immediate plans for your improvement," says Bill Coffin, long-time marriage educator and collaborator on the book.

- Plan a quiet time without distractions: dessert at a cozy restaurant, a long walk without the dog, a soak in a hot tub. Take turns picking topics: a memory from your childhood, personal goals, current events like sports or politics—anything but problem solutions or hot-buttons in your relationship.
- Work on a joint project that gives you time to chat: a church supper, garage sale, re-decorating, leaf-raking, snow-removal. Team-work builds partnership.

When we are intentional about acting like friends, we can recapture the warm feeling of the friendship that is a cornerstone of our marriage. Don't buy into an expectation that married people can't stay friends. You can.

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.

Mark Hackert, member of St. Benedict CFM in **Evansville, Ind.**, reports that approximately 870 items of underwear were collected on the recent Undie Sunday the group organized. Mark has plans to challenge other parishes with CFM groups in the area to outdo St. Ben's performance the next time the event is planned.

Mary Kay and Chuck Kilgore are starting a new group at Holy Cross Parish in **Omaha, Neb.**

Your Marriage the Great Adventure is recommended as a resource in the most recent issue of *Foundations*, the newsletter for newly married couples edited by **Steve and Kathy Beirne**, of **Portland, Maine**. Find out more about *Foundations* by calling 800-755-4757.

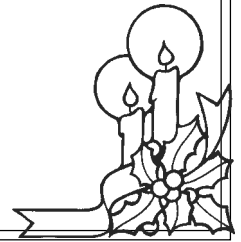
Charlene and Patrick Migliorini, leaders at Our Lady of Guadalupe parish in **Redondo Beach, Calif.**, report their group works with "Hand in Hand," a local agency feeding the homeless.

Ginny Rainville of St. Joan of Arc parish in **San Ramon, Calif.**, writes that she has started a teen group in her parish in response to reading an article in the August issue of ACT. The group is using the book, *In Search of Jesus*.

Chuck Rogers mentions that the pastor at Sacred Heart, **Winchester, Va.**, is contacting registered parishioners married two years or less to invite them to join CFM. Couples who respond will be grouped to use the program book, *Your Marriage: the Great Adventure*. The Sacred Heart

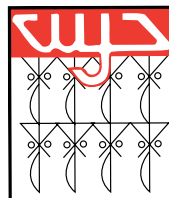
federation is planning another Covenant Experience weekend in February. They enjoyed an afternoon of family fun in October that included bobbing for apples, a scavenger hunt and a pumpkin decorating contest.

When you are making charitable contributions during the Christmas Season, please keep CFM in mind.



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Christian Family Movement
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(ISSN 0001-5083)



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