



Vol 56 • No. 4  
June-July 2003

*Special Feature:  
Baptism  
Preparation,  
CFM-Style  
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## Christian Family Movement

### Transforming the Covenant Experience Into a CFM Group

By Anne Tomonto

Bob and I just started a new group of CFMers in early March. The group is made up of couples who made the Covenant Experience and attended the follow-up sessions. We are thrilled to have seven interested families out of the sixteen that attended the weekend.

The Covenant Experience was written by Bob & Irene Tomonto,

The seed for CFM is planted on the Covenant Weekend. Four out of our five presenting couples are involved in CFM. As team couples give their presentations, they mention how CFM relates to their life as a family. Many couples attending the weekend reveal through conversations at meals, etc. a strong desire to get to know and associate with other couples who



with CFM in mind. The weekend covers seven of the eleven steps of the Covenant Experience process. At the end of the weekend, couples are invited to attend follow-up sessions on the next four consecutive Sunday evenings to cover the remaining steps. The four follow-up sessions are small group meetings that very much resemble CFM meetings.

care about marriage and family. They are looking for a support system such as CFM within their Christian community. Team couples use this opportunity to talk about their experiences with CFM. Through the follow-up sessions, they continue to share about their involvement in the movement.

—continued on page 7



## Presidents' Perspective

by Peter and Jane Buchbauer

### Daddies

Many years ago, when our two oldest boys were preschoolers, I bought a Fathers' Day plaque for Peter: "Anyone can be a father, but it takes someone special to be a daddy."

About three years ago, our oldest son Joseph, then a freshman in college, wrote a tribute to his dad, ending with: "My father and I have always been close and being away from him now is weird and difficult. I know that he wants me to succeed and reach my goals. I continue to follow his example of hard work and perseverance. I have values that he helped instill in me and I hope that, when I become a father, I can do as well and influence my child as much as my dad has influenced me."

My recollections of my daddy include: strict, loving discipline; "dancing" on his shoes at parties; studying from my history books as he shared love of that subject with me. I can remember, as a teenager, sitting with boys under his unhappy glare as he measured up the competition. He proudly welcomed my return home from summer internships on Capitol Hill, joyfully attended my college graduation and danced at my wedding. The crowning event of our relationship was his elation upon being told, on Father's Day of 1981, that he was being promoted to grandpa. My daddy has been there for me and I love him for it.

I look at the dads I know and I thank God for them. I'm not just talking about the "fathers", I'm talking about the "dads." John has sat for hours in a hot, steamy city pool building to watch Jenna, and later Johnny, swim about two minutes at a time in meets. Kent has probably spent more time on the soccer field with Michelle, Brandon, and, now, Scott, than in any other recreational activity. Joe leaves work, about an hour from home, to cheer his Bridget and Mike in basketball tournaments where they might play only 10 to 15 minutes.

Then there's Jim, who, with his wife, chose a preschool near his office so that he can be available for Brian while his wife cares for baby Tyler, and who rearranges his work schedule so he can coach first grader Bradley's soccer team. His children won't remember the time dad spent working as they slept but they will remember a special lunch in the middle of the week and the pleasure of learning more than soccer on the soccer field.

Gary works on home improvements with preschoolers Austin and Evan beside him: they love "Bob the Builder" because he's just like dad. These children are doubly blessed since "Pa." their maternal grandfather, spends days with them and still works second shift at a local plant.

Mike's three-year-old Jordan

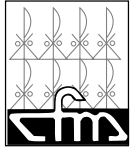
keeps watch for him at the picture window. Jordan was born with a tumor behind his eye, and Daddy is the one who carried him to countless doctor and hospital appointments and sat beside his crib as he suffered bouts of dehydrating flu. Mike's wife Vickie has her hands full with four children and daddy is always there to take on the added load of having a child with medical problems.

Today many men procreate and then disappear. Others divorce and cancel relationships of father and child. Still others give disproportionate energy to careers and never get to know their own children. Fathers who accept their fatherhood as a responsibility and a gift from God are contemporary heroes.

When I met Peter Buchbauer, there was no "daddy test" and I don't think there is one available yet. Every daddy is different; every wife, every child is unique: a good daddy meets each day as it comes, praying for grace and wisdom. His love becomes the most important investment he can make in his children, for one day dad's example may be the only thing those boys and girls have to fall back on as they become spouses and parents themselves. Little girls need daddies who will make them feel like princesses so they will value themselves enough to seek good husbands. Little boys need to know how to treat their treasures royally, providing solid love and support to their wives and children, continuing the circle of love.

It's a big job, but somebody's got to do it! Thank you to all "Daddies" who have taken on the challenge. God bless you for your sacrifice. Happy Fathers' Day.

*Peter and Jane Buchbauer, CFM Presidents, live in Winchester Virginia. Their children are Joseph, Peter, Michael and Maria.*



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  
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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*



### Parents, Be Leaders!

Too many times we hear excuses like, "We're too busy, we have too many obligations already, we have no time, we both are working and raising a family, or we have more important priorities." To most couples, these are very good reasons for not becoming leaders—but have we really thought this through? We usually have time for all we really want to do.

I was teaching school and raising five school-age children; Phil had two jobs and was president of a community council when we first agreed to lead a group for CFM. We knew we wanted to grow in our faith and do as much as we could to follow Jesus. We wanted to increase our relationships with people because in getting to know more we could love more. We felt we had gotten so much from our CFM meetings and wanted to find new couples who would benefit as we had. Most of all we wanted to be models for our kids, who were so proud of us because we were leaders. They made more lasting

friendships with CFM kids who had the same values as they did. (We even dreamed our kids might marry CFM kids, but that didn't happen.)

The experience of being group leaders was so satisfying we moved on to parish, regional, federation and finally national leadership. Our kids are proud of us to this day.

We all need to set priorities but perhaps some of us don't set our priorities when it comes to what will help us grow. We hear so many couples tell us how glad they are to be part of CFM, how our discussions have helped their faith, their marriages and their parenting. What else can be more important?

If you receive the invitation to become leaders, pray and think about it. Remember your rewards and know the good you will do. Don't put off saying yes. It could be the most rewarding year of your life!

*Mary Lou and Phil Gorman have four daughters and fourteen grandchildren. They have been members of CFM since 1953.*

### Brake the Cycle

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development is sponsoring a bike ride across America to focus public attention on poverty in the United States. A team of twenty riders will leave San Francisco June 1 and arrive August 1 in Washington, D.C.

The riders hope to visit grass roots groups across the country and invite solidarity rides along the way. For more information visit <http://www.brakethecycle.org>.

[If your group participates in this or any other photogenic activity, how about sending us a photo? [act-editor@cfm.org](mailto:act-editor@cfm.org)]

## 2003-2004 Program Book Looks at Christian Role in Society

In his encyclical issued on Holy Thursday, *On the Eucharist and Its relationship to the Church (Ecclesia de Eucharistia)*, **Pope John Paul II** reaffirms the importance of the Christian's involvement in social issues. In part he says. "Certainly the Christian vision leads to the expectation of 'new heavens' and 'a new earth' (Rev 21:1), but this increases, rather than lessens, our sense of responsibility for the world today."

While the document focuses primarily on the Eucharist, it is interesting to note that the pope considers involvement in service to the world as a part of participating in a Eucharistic community. He says, "I wish to reaffirm this forcefully at the beginning of the new millennium, so that Christians will feel more obliged than ever not to neglect their duties as citizens in this world. Theirs is the task of contributing with the light of the Gospel to the **building of a more human world**, a world fully in harmony with God's plan (#20) (emphasis ours)."

The new CFM book for 2003-2004, *Building a Better World*, is a response to this call. Program chair **Margie Murchan, San Jose, Calif.**, says that "CFMers are a generous group. We act a lot out of charity, but Jesus calls us to do more than that, and act in justice as well." This book should be a spur to look at that side of Christian behavior.

The book focuses on three key concepts of Catholic social teaching: the common good, solidarity, and

stewardship. There are 12 meetings, three of which are activities designed to include children. One meeting uses cooperative games to focus on working together toward a common goal. Another is a "hunger banquet" to examine global distribution of food. The last family meeting is a picnic with an outdoor activity to illustrate the need to care for creation.

*Building a Better World* will be the first CFM book designed to be supported by information on the CFM website, [cfm.org](http://cfm.org). By taking advantage of this new medium, CFM will be able to provide background resources and action ideas for our members in a way that was not possible before. Leaders who cannot access the Internet should contact the national office for assistance.

Margie Murchan served as book editor with help from **Laurie Pryzbysz, Severna Park, Md.**, and executive director **Jane Leingang, Irene Tomonto, Miami, Fla.** served as editorial advisor. In typical CFM fashion, the book is a distillation of meetings that were written and critiqued by CFMers from across the county.

In *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, Pope John Paul says, "Many problems darken the horizon of our time. We need but think of the urgent need to work for peace, to base relationships between peoples on solid premises of justice and solidarity, and to defend human life from conception to its natural end. And what should we say of the thousand inconsistencies of a 'globalized' world where the weakest, the most powerless and the poorest appear to have so little hope! It is in this world that Christian hope must shine forth! (#20)" In focusing on being that hope for the world, *Building a Better World* is very timely indeed!

## About Dues

The CFM board of directors voted to increase CFM membership dues to \$35.00 at their meeting on March 2. The increase was made necessary by rising expenses and is effective for the fall membership drive. CFM has not had a dues increase in five years.

The movement benefits from the commitment of countless leaders who have donated many hours of service and generously absorbed many of the expenses of running the movement. A conservative estimate of the value of yearly contributions by the national board to the movement is \$50,000. However, the logistics of serving members and coordinating the activities of the movement exceed reasonable expectations of volunteer contributions of time and money.

Without the efforts of the national CFM office to coordinate and serve the needs of members across the United States the movement would quickly falter. Expenses of the movement are around \$56,000 a year. This covers the cost of salaries, postage, other office expenses, and the production expenses for annual program books and ACT magazine.

As the source of seventy-five percent of the income of the movement, annual paid memberships from CFMers across the country are the lifeblood of CFM's continued success. Please help our efforts to promote Christ-centered marriage and family life by paying annual dues promptly and by persuading new members to join the Christian Family Movement.

Your membership contribution is tax-deductible.

CFM couples are often the key to effective parish marriage ministry. I experienced such effectiveness last year in **Winchester, Va.**

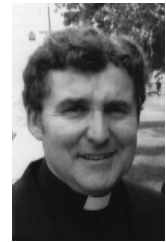
I was asked to join a team of six CFM couples who wanted to minister to other couples in the Catholic community. In the fall, these couples had begun a series of team training sessions for a Covenant Weekend in their home parish. I joined them in December and by February, we had the opportunity to present a Covenant Experience. Twelve couples from the local community gathered at the parish and greatly benefited from this.

Former CFM president couple **Jan and Chuck Rogers**, and five other CFM couples responded to a need identified by their pastor but which he was too busy to work on. They found this to be a tremendous blessing for their own marriage relationships, as well as a way to be lay ministers in their own parish setting.

The Covenant Weekend originated in **Miami** with another former CFM president couple, **Bob and Irene Tomonto**. They are parents of five children and grandparents of 16. They developed this

## From the National Chaplain

by *Father Don Conroy*



### *Covenant Experience and CFM*

exciting program to help parishes minister not only to newly married and mature couples but also to couples having some problems in their marriage relationship.

Through the years the Tomontos had seen marriage change from traditional stable family units to what they call "the mega-mix of family forms" in any contemporary community. **Auxiliary Bishop Agustin Roman** of the Archdiocese of Miami challenged Bob and Irene to "do something" to help today's couples. With the help of **Myrna Gallagher**, who was an expert on the Emmaus weekend spiritual experience, they were able to develop a unique 11-step parish-based ministry to deal with a wide and complex range of marriage issues.

This special Covenant Experi-



To find out more about this worthwhile ministry resource, enrich your own marriage, and give something special to the Church visit the website [www.thecovenantexperience.com](http://www.thecovenantexperience.com)

ence provides a unique pastoral resource to minister to the vast needs of couples. The results of this experience are seen in the lives of the participating couples and their families. The program also provides a vehicle for expanding CFM through follow-up evenings, which give an introduction to CFM.

This interesting program also presents CFMers with a great opportunity to be real leaders and ministers in the church and the world today.

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



*Dan and Noreen Thomas celebrated their tenth wedding anniversary, with a family gondola ride to remember their engagement and with a wedding blessing that featured their original scripture readings and the "Blessing for the Bride and Groom" that appeared in Lauri Przybysz' May "Your Marriage: The Great Adventure" column.*



# CFM Meeting

## Baptism Preparation

### To the leader:

The birth and baptism of a child is often a point in young married couples' lives when they are seeking a reconnection with or a greater participation in the Church. This meeting is designed to support the Baptism preparation curriculum as well as to provide a vehicle, which will expose parents to the OJA (Observe, Judge, and Act) method and the CFM experience. It is a means to reach out to parents in baptism preparation courses and invite them to join CFM.

This meeting is designed to be presented at the end of the formal Baptism preparation course. The presenting couple can provide a brief witness talk describing how CFM has helped them become more involved in the parish community and strengthened their family. The group can then proceed with the meeting below. CFM might then provide a closing reception.

### Opening Prayer

God, You are ever loving and faithful. You are the source of life.

Through Jesus, Your son, You have made the everlasting promise to share Your life forever.

Through the Spirit, the gift of Your Son, You impart new life on all who believe.

Through the Church, the people You call to faith, You embrace others with Your life.

We come in prayerful petition;

May the life we share be graced by You,

May our child be in Your care.

Help us reflect by our lives an awareness and appreciation of Your presence and promise.

Give us the faith we need to express the hope that our child will be reborn in Christ to live forever. Amen.\*

### Scripture Reading

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

—Matthew 28: 18-20

- Why is it important for your child to be baptized?
- How do you expect to experience Jesus' presence as you raise your child?

### Social Inquiry

A family is our most basic community and the most basic way in which the Lord gathers us, forms us and acts in the world. The early Church expressed this truth by calling the Christian Family the *Domestic Church* or *Church of the Home*. As families you carry out the mission of the Church of the Home when

**You believe in God** and that he cares about you in good times and in bad.

**You love and value others.** Children form a picture of God from the love they experience among the parents and godparents.

**You foster intimacy.** To share oneself and be accepted within a family is indispensable to forming a close relationship with the Lord.

**You evangelize** by expressing faith in God, acting in accord with Gospel values and setting examples of Christian living for your children and others.

**You educate** especially by example. Sometimes children listen and learn. Sometimes they teach us. Your wisdom and theirs comes from the same spirit.

**You pray together**, thanking God for blessings, reaching for strength, asking for guidance in crisis or doubt.

**You serve one another** sacrificing your own wants for the other's good. Your "deaths" and "risings" become compelling signs of Jesus' own life, death and resurrection

**You forgive and seek reconciliation.** When you do so, family members come to believe that, no matter what, they are still loved by you and God.

**You celebrate life**, whether for birthdays, weddings, births, death, first day of school or graduation, new jobs, old friends, family reunions, surprise visits, holy days and holidays. You come together when tragedy strikes or in joyful celebration.

**You welcome the stranger**, the lonely one, the grieving one into your home... the Gospel assures us that when we do this they are no longer strangers, but Christ.

**You act justly in your community** when you treat others

with respect, stand against discrimination and racism, work to overcome hunger, illiteracy, poverty and homelessness.

**You affirm life** as a precious gift of God. You oppose whatever destroys life... Within your family you make peace.

**You raise up vocations** to the priesthood and religious life. This is especially fostered through family prayer and involvement in parish life.

Adapted from *Follow the Way of Love*  
U. S. Conference  
of Catholic Bishops, 1994

A family might do well to accept some imperfection; some falling short of its expectation that all the needs of parents, children, household and jobs can be met and harmonized. Dust under the beds, weeds in the garden, dishes in the sink...are inevitable. They don't mean that you have failed. They just mean that you are human and still learning. God isn't finished with any of us yet.

**H. Richard McCord**  
"How to Balance  
Family Life and Work"  
Liguorian Magazine,  
Sept. 1997, p. 20

Based on our own personal experiences,

## Observe

1. How has having a child changed your life as husband and wife?
2. After reading about the Domestic Church in *Follow the Way of Love*, identify the items that remind you of your family of origin.
3. How did your family of origin practice the faith?

*In light of Christ's teachings,*

## Judge

1. What happens to a couple's priorities and lifestyle when a child is born?
2. What are the family traits make your own home a domestic church?
3. How can a couple continue to strengthen their bond as husband and wife after children are born?

*Energized by the Holy Spirit,*

## Act

1. Set a time to discuss with your spouse:
  - a. *What changes will need to be made in your new family to become a "Church of the Home"?*
  - b. *What role will you play in teaching your children about their faith, and about being good husbands wives and parents?*
2. Investigate organizations that exist in your parish that support marriage and family life. As a family, become involved in one of them.

## Closing prayer

Lord, we thank You for this opportunity to come together to share ideas and gain deeper understanding of what it means to be family. We pray that Your Holy Spirit will guide us in our roles as family members. Bless and watch over us all. We ask this in Jesus' name.

\*Opening prayer adapted from *We Celebrate Baptism*, Silver Burdett & Ginn, 1982.

—Covenant, continued from page 1

Many couples come to the follow-up sessions. Covering the steps in small groups leads to couples getting to know one another and sharing their values and concerns. Throughout the sessions, we find that couples usually gravitate toward the same few couples that they met with in their small group the first night of the follow-ups.

Four of the seven new families in our action group were what we called our "patio group." They met with a team leader at the picnic table on the patio each Sunday evening. They expressed a strong desire not only to become part of CFM, but also to become part of the same group.

I think there are two keys to getting a CFM group started from the Covenant Experience Follow-up sessions:

1. Give a short CFM witness and invitation on the night of the third Follow-up meeting. This allows couples some time to talk with other couples and each other before the sessions end. By the end of the last session, those who are interested will have handed you a registration form.

2. Begin meeting as a CFM group immediately following the last session. We handed out a printed sheet at the last follow-up session with the date, time, and location of our first meeting, two weeks later.

We believe that the Covenant Weekend is the best expansion tool we have for CFM in our area. Depending on the number people making the weekend and attending the follow-up sessions, we typically start one or two new CFM groups each Spring.



# Taking the Time to Make a Difference

by Paul R. Leingang

## Who Will be Believed?

I was on my way to work one day when the accident happened. That was many years ago, but the details are still vivid in my memory. The accident was minor, but it had a major impact on my understanding of human nature.

I was alone in my car, rushing toward work in the morning. On a city street, just a few blocks from my office, I waited behind a garbage truck, at a stoplight.

After some moments of impatient waiting, I inched forward. When the truck in front of me moved, I moved too, my front bumper a foot or two behind the working metal of the garbage-compressing mechanism.

For some reason, the truck stopped. A new truck driver, perhaps, was unfamiliar with the route. Or perhaps the traffic light changed. I had pulled up so close to the back of the truck that I could not see the signal light.

That's when the truck began to change directions, backing up toward me—me in my subcompact car behind a large garbage truck. A sturdy steel bar, part of the working mechanism of the garbage truck, easily crushed the sheet metal and plastic of my front fender. A headlight popped. A piece of chrome fell to the pavement. The sound of airbrakes filled my ears, but, too late, the damage was done.

The truck driver and I exchanged information and did everything we were supposed to do according to the rules of the road.

Later, as I was reporting the incident to my auto insurance company, I heard the question that continues to haunt me.

I explained to my insurance agent that I had been impatient, and that I should probably not have followed the truck so closely into the intersection. The agent told me not to worry.

I expressed concern again, and he tried to reassure me that I would not be held at fault. His conclusion was not based on the details of the incident, but rather, on a predictable judgment of society.

*He was ...  
someone we held  
"in no esteem."*

If there is some dispute over this event, he concluded, "Who's gonna believe a garbage truck driver?"

Every Sunday, we celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord. From the viewpoint of contemporary society, a common criminal was executed. He was one of several, someone we held "in no esteem."

A woman, a fisherman, some members of the common rabble some small town folks in the big

city of Jerusalem have been claiming that this Jesus has risen from the dead.

Who's gonna believe people like that?



Take the time today to reflect on your own experience of trusting others, and of being trusted. Recall, if you can, a time when others would not believe the truth you told.

Are there "classes" of people whom you trust? Whom you distrust?

Examine media reports for conflicting accounts of "the truth." The courts may be committed to a principle of "innocent until proven guilty" but late night talk show hosts follow no such rule. What rule do you follow?

Reflect on your faith. When were you first aware of the witness of others who share your belief? How did you receive your faith? Or from whom?

The tough part is realizing that a person can have a great faith, one worth emulating — but still be a bad driver. Some days, it is hard to accept a call to conversion from a clergy person who has fallen into sin.

Or to put it another way: It's easy to believe when everyone waits at the stoplight. It takes faith to move out into the intersection.

Ultimately our faith is based on the one who is truth, the one who gives us hope, the one who reveals the love of God for us, the one who welcomes us into the community of believers.

*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.*

An amazing couple we know—let’s call them Sam and Winny—just celebrated 40 years of marriage. They amaze me because they are still together after many challenges and hardships that would have ended many a marriage. They have truly had their ups and downs. They liked to joke around, though often the barbs they traded did some damage. Their four children were a handful to raise: One son struggled with drugs; another suffered serious depression. Their youngest, now in her 30s, is moderately mentally challenged and lives with them. The economy of their small town took a nosedive in the 80s. They separated for a year then, after Sam had an affair. A Retrouvaille weekend, designed to help troubled marriages, was instrumental to their healing. They are “marriage survivors.”

**Linda Waite**, a University of Chicago sociologist, headed a research team that studied what helps unhappy marrieds turn things around. As part of the study, the research team asked professional firms to recruit focus groups totaling 55 adults who were “marriage survivors.” All had moved from unhappy to happy marriages. These 55 once-discontented marrieds felt their unions got better via one of three routes, the report says:

- **Marital endurance.**

“With time, job situations improved, children got older or better, or chronic ongoing problems got put into new perspective.” In this case, partners did not work on their marriages.

- **Marital work.**

Spouses actively worked “to solve problems, change behavior or improve communication.” Those who worked on their marriages rarely turned to counselors. When they did, they went to faith-based ones committed to marriage, Waite

## Your Marriage: The Great Adventure

by Lauri Przybysz



### *Riding Out the Storm*

says. Men, particularly, were “very suspicious of anyone who wanted money to solve personal problems.”

- **Personal change.**

Partners found “alternative ways to improve their own happiness and build a good and happy life despite a mediocre marriage.” In effect, the unhappy partner changed.

The study found that those who stayed married also generally disapproved of divorce, Waite says. They cited concerns about children,

*The challenge all marriages face is to enjoy the good times and weather the hard times.*

religious beliefs and a fear that divorce would bring its own set of problems.

All couples experience some ups and downs in marriage, seasons of both mild and stormy weather. For some couples, especially in the early years, this emotional rhythm often oscillates dramatically. A couple might experience an extended period in which everything feels just right about their relationship: resolution

of differences, intimacy, and understanding come easily; temptations and distractions are few. This period may be followed by a period of difficulty and turmoil. The challenge all marriages face is to enjoy the good times and weather the hard times.

Faith plays a part in their success, but marriage survivors may have discovered a deeper well of support. In his new book on the spirituality of marriage, *A Daring Promise*, (Crossroad Publishing, 2002), **Richard R. Gaillardetz** says that successful married couples foster a life of communion: mutual-ity, intimacy, companionship. “A distinguishing mark of mature, successful marriages is a gradual diminishment of such dramatic swings in the mood of the relationship. The trust gained from negotiating their common commitment levels out to some extent the seasonal rhythms of their marriage. The result is gentler peaks and valleys.”

For more information on the Retrouvaille experience for troubled marriages, visit [retrouvaille.org](http://retrouvaille.org).

*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.*

Presidents **Peter and Jane Buchbauer** have accepted a invitation to serve as advisors to the Committee on Marriage and Family Life of the U. S. Catholic Conference of Bishops. Peter and Jane will join other representatives of family ministry in the task of consulting with staff, reading documents, and rendering advice as the bishops work on family issues. **Bishop Kevin Boland of Savannah, Ga.**, recently began a three year term as chair of the committee. There are six additional member bishops from various regions of the country.

**Jim and Roma Lee Rasmussen**, members at St. Richard, **Richfield, Minn.**, organized CFM's participation at World Marriage Day Mass celebrated by **Archbishop**

**Harry Flynn** at the Saint Paul Cathedral in **Minneapolis**. **Ron, Julie, Jamie and Randy Nichols**, and **Mary, Tom, Greg and Steve Jonas** represented CFM at the event.

**Genie Kelly** in **Zelienople, Penn.** is starting CFM at St. Gregory Parish. **Peter and Carolyn Broeren, Pittsburgh**, assisted at an information night.

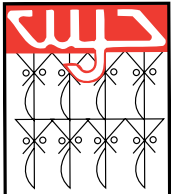
**Emily LeTourneau**, 11-year-old daughter of **Pete and Jan LeTourneau, Arlington Heights, Ill.**, used a computer to make colorful stickers for CFM families to mark their calendars for meetings and events.

On the Feast of the Holy Family, December 29, 2002, St. Lawrence Martyr CFM leaders in **Redondo Beach, Calif.** presented their parish a statue of the Holy

Family. The gift was made possible by the Holy Family Ministry after the St. Lawrence Martyr community purchased 100 of the miniature versions of the same statue. During the presentation, **Noreen Thomas** spoke of family values and shared with the parish the current three-point mission of the Christian Family Movement.

**Jim Vogt**, administrator of the **Families Against Violence Advocacy Network (FAVAN)**, noted Father Don Conroy's column about gandparenting in the last issue of ACT. He writes that Louise Evans is working on a new program "Grandparents Acting for Peace." The program is still in the idea stage, but Louise "would appreciate any questions, suggestions or indications of interest from others." Her e-mail address is [LouiseEvans624@hotmail.com](mailto:LouiseEvans624@hotmail.com).

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