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Christian Family Movement

Fresh Air and Freedom

by Eleanor Ensroth and Theresa Kaye

More than 40 people from nine countries attended the "Heaven on Earth" picnic on Harsens Island sponsored by the St. Lucy CFM, **St. Clair Shores, Mich.**, this past July. The guests from **Uganda, Georgia, Argentina, Cameroon, Togo, Kenya, Rwanda, Russia, and Central African Republic** were all residents of Freedom House, **Detroit**. Freedom House hosts individuals seeking asylum in the U.S., who reside at the facility until their cases are decided. The residents of Freedom House have stories to tell of persecution, torture, loss of loved ones, death threats and fleeing home and country. The application of one couple attending the picnic had been denied and they were deported on July 28.

The picnic is intended to give a break from their situation and help the residents relax in the out-of-doors away from the city. Though not everyone spoke English, all were able to communicate through the language of love.



CFMers and residents of Freedom House enjoyed a day away from the city.



Terri Harthen and an African visitor enjoyed a jetski ride.

Chuck and Theresa Kaye, who hosted the event at their home, provided a globe to help all discover where others had lived. The day was spent playing, eating and visiting. Tubing, attempts at skiing, riding on wave runners, swimming, soccer, volleyball, feasting, jumping on the trampoline, singing, and dancing were the order of the day.

When families granted asylum move out of Freedom House, they have nothing. In the past, CFM has been asked to provide cars, baby cribs and unused household items to help them set up housekeeping.



Presidents' Perspective

by Peter and Jane Buchbauer

What is Marriage?

Marriage in the United States shall consist only of the union of a man and a woman. Neither this constitution or the constitution of any state, nor state or federal law, shall be construed to require that marital status or the legal incidents thereof be conferred upon unmarried couples or groups.

The foregoing 51 words constitute the text of the proposed Federal Marriage Amendment. While not perfect in its scope or content, the proposed amendment does take from the judiciary the possibility of granting marital status and its benefits to same-sex unions and other unmarried couples. At this time, the greatest danger to marriage as we know it comes from judicial activism, frequently from jurists who are appointed for life and have no reason to worry about the political fallout of decisions which could not likely be achieved through the political process and legislative action.

Why do we need a Federal Marriage Amendment? Marriage continues to be under attack in this nation. The wide acceptance in national media of same-sex unions, heterosexual cohabitation and promiscuity has helped weaken the foundation of marriage. The statistics regarding cohabitation are mind-boggling. Homosexual relationships are frequent television fare. However, acceptance in popular culture does not make something morally acceptable.

Marriage is a sacred institution, given by God to man and woman in the beginning; a coupling of man and woman in a unique way, so that two become one; a coupling of a man and woman in a faithful, exclusive, lifelong union, which has as an object the fulfillment of the call to be fruitful and multiply.

But marriage is more than a sacred institution. It is a pivotal relationship upon which the family is properly grounded. It is the relationship which best fosters a solid family life for all its members. It upholds and maintains the family as the core institution in society.

We are not persuaded by the suggestion that unmarried persons can live in exclusive committed relationships, whether heterosexual or homosexual, and thus should be afforded the benefits of marriage. We are not persuaded by the suggestion that the denial of benefits to persons in "committed" relationships that are afforded married persons is discriminatory. Society has the right to confer benefits to institutions that provide value to society at large.

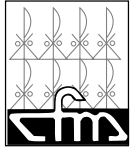
The evidence that strong healthy marriages make strong healthy families which contribute to society in untold ways is clear. Despite the decline in marriage and society in the last fifty years while divorce on demand, cohabitation, fornication and same sex unions have become accepted by many,

most people surveyed long to be in a marriage.

We are also not persuaded by those who argue that marriage is a sham; that so few people maintain a marriage in today's society that benefits should not be limited to that institution alone. No marriage perfectly reflects God's plan for mankind. But as flawed as marriage may be, since it relies on flawed humans to make it work, it is still clearly the alternative to which all aspire. Recent studies prove that most divorced people desire to be married, most children of divorce desire to be married, and many same-sex couples desire to be married. There is some obvious benefit to the marital state if so many long for it, even if many marriages fail.

As Christians, we must be vigilant to uphold the sanctity of marriage. As Christians, we must support marriage as God intended it. As Christians, we must be generous to those who have imperfect or failed marriages. As Christians, we must welcome homosexuals into the community of believers. As Christians, we must, by word and deed, hold up chastity as a model for both heterosexuals and homosexuals. As Christians, we must do what we can to support and uphold marriage as an exclusive union of a man and a woman. There is much catechesis required to properly form the faithful regarding marriage and human sexuality. Too often, we rely on what we believe is right or wrong, without taking the responsibility of

— See *Marriage* next page



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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*



Peace Be With You

In this season that we celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace, let us reflect on peace in the family, in the community, and in our hearts.

First of all, as parents we need to work hard to control our tempers and keep our own selves at peace. Good modeling for a peaceful household starts with parents getting along with each other. A good policy is not to argue in front of your children, and, if you do, to apologize in front of them.

Creating a peaceful environment in the home with soft colors, cushy corners and quiet spaces helps provide a peaceful atmosphere. Each home should have specific eating areas where spills can easily be taken care of and time-out areas for when trouble brews. Teaching your children to say a prayer whenever they get mad and want to strike out at someone will help them control their tempers. A picture or placque hanging somewhere in the home is a good idea. We have one that says "Peace to all families" hanging in our front hall.

We all have neighbors or neighborhood children that can

cause problems, and good communication with them is the first step to peace. Confrontation almost never solves problems.

Learning about other cultures can be a good family project. The U.S. especially needs to work on this because we are so culturally diverse. Our freedom of speech is good when it comes to politics, but we need to teach our children how important it is to listen to all sides of an issue before drawing conclusions. The person on the other side of an argument usually has some valid points to make. Violence is created by misunderstanding, so we all need to listen to one another more. The world would be a better place if everyone did.

A peaceful heart is much happier than one filled with anger.

Each time we say in church, "Peace be with you," let's remind ourselves to recommit to helping our children keep peace in their hearts.

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

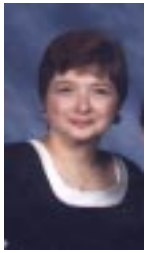
—Marriage

properly forming our consciences. At least as to marriage, we must stop this trend of ignorance now. We must properly form our consciences and learn, understand and preach what marriage is, before it is too late. Political correctness is not the same as a properly formed conscience.

Marriage in the United States shall consist only of the union of a man and a woman.

It is the truth.

We should support this Amendment, and what it stands for, as though society depends upon it. Because it does.

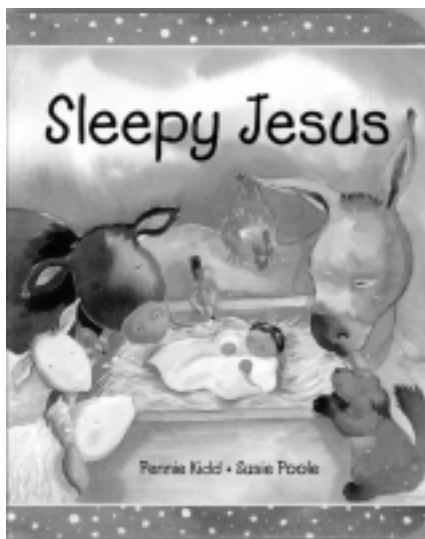


Christmas Book Reviews

by Jane Leingang

When I was growing up, one of my favorite things to receive for Christmas was a new book. When I had my own family, I adopted the practice of giving my children books too, and so I am always on the lookout for appropriate books for family members. Here are several that crossed my desk and stuck my fancy.

For an adult stocking stuffer, consider *Christmas Presence: Twelve Gifts That Were More Than They Seemed*. Edited by **Gregory Pierce** and published by ACTA (160 pages, \$17.95), the book is dedicated to **Monsignor Jack Ryan**, who was, as Pierce writes, "a great Chicago priest who believed in the Incarnation and acted as if he did every day of his life." That dedication gives an idea of the spiritual approach found in this little book. It is a very readable compendium of twelve stories by contemporary spiritual authors, most taken from real life, that reflect the way we are Christ to each other in daily life.

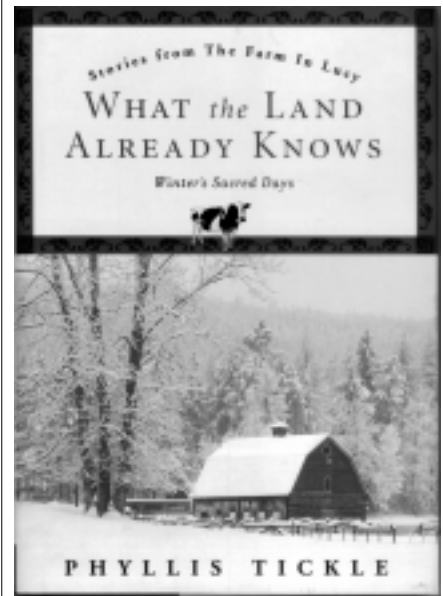


Each story recalls a special gift or event that led the author to an unforgettable experience of the meaning of Christmas. *Christmas Presence* was honored this year by the Catholic Press Association in the area of books on family life and is worth a look.

As a new grandparent, I was drawn to several children's books from Augsburg Books. The first one is *Sleepy Jesus* (16 pages, \$7.99). This is a charming board book that tells the Christmas story in a wonderfully fresh way. The engaging text is by **Pennie Kidd**; the delightful watercolor illustrations are by **Susan Poole**. It would be a perfect first Christmas book for a small child.

As a traditionalist, I also enjoyed two books by **Debbie Trafton O'Neal** based on Christmas carols: *O, Christmas Tree*, illustrated by **Ande Cook**, and *Go Tell it on the Mountain*, illustrated by **Fiona King**, from the Sing-It Series by Augsburg. Both are 32 pages and cost \$8.99. I was particularly delighted with the second book. The African-American spiritual is one of my favorites and this presentation has wonderfully rich illustrations that employ a scratchboard technique I remember from childhood. Each book features a new verse about sharing the good news, a section with craft ideas, music for accompaniment, and directions for a finger play to go with the lyrics. There are two non-Christmas-related books in the series, featuring *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star* and *Are You Sleeping?*

Another volume that came in the mail recently would be a help in celebrating the real meaning of Christmas without getting caught up in the busy-ness that comes with it. *What the Land Already Knows* by **Phyllis Tickle** contains 11 spiritual reflections on the liturgical seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany and the special holy days celebrated at this time of year. But this is not a "churchy" book. These mediations draw on the author's experiences of

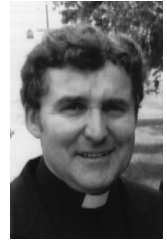


nature, of life on a farm outside of Memphis, and of raising seven children. The stories are superbly written, almost poetic, and deeply rooted in an experience of the domestic church. Tickle is profoundly aware of the graces that come to us in daily life and sensitive to the way God's creation speaks to us. This may be the book you buy now, read, and then give someone else on Christmas day!

What the Land Already Knows is one of three books in the "Stories from the Farm in Lucy" series by Phyllis Tickle (Loyola Press, 114 pages, \$14.95.) The others are titled *Wisdom in the Waiting* and *The Graces We Remember*.

From the National Chaplain

by Father Don Conroy



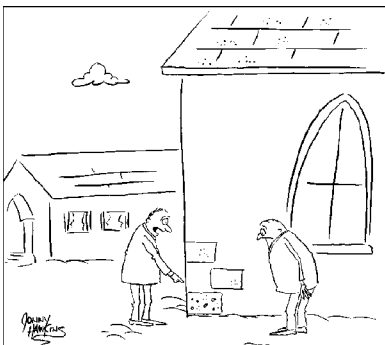
Christian Family: Key to Happiness

The feast of the Holy Family traditionally occurs on the Sunday between Christmas and New Years Day. Quite often, amid the festivities, parades and football games, this important feast does not get the attention it rightly deserves. Yet it offers a wealth of inspiration.

The feast focuses on the values of the Holy Family as they lived, worked, and prayed together in Nazareth and fulfilled God's eternal plan for the world's salvation. Their world, like ours, was caught up in the usual meaningless pursuits motivated by greed, lust, and pride.

If society is to be turned around and renewed, the key is the home and the family. The Constitution of the Church in the Modern World calls the family the "seedbed" or "nursery" for Christian mission.

CFM Moment



"Very few people realize this, but the cornerstone of this church is actually a fruitcake given to me by Ethel Mabeline during the Christmas of '72."

—printed with permission

This is clearly brought out in the life of Jesus himself. In Nazareth, in the home of Mary and Joseph, the Son of God incarnate set the foundation for his mission and ministry for the world's redemption. There, he absorbed the beliefs, values, and traditions that formed the foundation of his teaching and the outlined the nature of God's plan.

In our own time, we can be inspired by the life of Agnes Bojaxhiu. Who, you may ask, is she?! Well, you probably know her by her other name, Mother Teresa of Calcutta, recently beatified—the step before canonization—by Pope John Paul II.

Agnes was born to a devout Catholic family in a small town of Yugoslavia. Her parents taught her by example as they often provided food and shelter to the poor and homeless who knocked on their door. With her family, Agnes was involved in her parish. She taught religion classes to children and learned about the Catholic missions around the world.

Formed in this nurturing and faith-filled family, she felt called to join the Sisters of Loretto and become a missionary. She took the name Sister Teresa, and was sent to India where she made her final vows at 21. While serving as a teacher in a school for well-to-do children during World War I, while

India was affected by a terrible famine, she noticed the suffering of those around her.

As she reflected on the needs of the poor, Teresa decided she would not continue to teach the well-fed while others were dying in the streets. In responding to this second calling, she realized: "God wanted me to be poor and to love him in the distressing disguise of the poorest of the poor."

This required great courage and deep faith. She began to minister to the dying in the streets of Calcutta. Eventually, she founded a new order called the Missionaries of Charity. With her sisters dressed in a native Indian sari, she picked up the dying and destitute, brought them home, bathed and fed them, and gave them the Gospel through charity in action.

Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, who has inspired the world and moved many to serve the poor, began her adventure of holiness in her Christian family.

On December 28, we don't merely remember something that happened long ago. We celebrate our own mission to change the world by forming future saints in contemporary families.

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

Barnyard Animals at Christmas: Beyond the Manger Scene

by Jane Leingang

In 2000 the CFM service team met in Ames, Iowa and my husband Paul and I had the pleasure of staying with **Gary and Kay Aitchison**. It was November and the Aitchisons were deep into a Christmas gift project that was new to me. They have five grown sons, most with children of their own. The whole family was having a lively e-mail and phone discussion to select their family gift to Heifer International.

Until then, I had never heard of Heifer. Kay explained that she and Gary had decided the previous Christmas to use some of their Christmas budget to make a significant donation to a charity, and the one they chose was Heifer. The attraction was that the person who donates to Heifer "donates" an animal to a particular area of the world. The farmer who receives the animal learns how to care for it and promises to pass on some of the offspring to others. Thus, the gift has lasting impact on a whole region. In China, for example, a project that began with 105 rabbits in the 1980s has generated hundreds of thousands of offspring that have helped more than 2,200 families. In the Dominican Republic an initial gift of dairy cattle to 58 has helped 650 others. Heifer provides projects like this in 47 countries including the United States.

Every one of the Aitchisons, from the youngest to the oldest, had a vote in what the family gift would be. The first year, the family selected a water buffalo. It won out over other appealing gifts, such as

llamas, rabbits, pigs and chicks, because it could do so much for the recipient family. It produces milk, it can pull a plow, it can pull a cart, it produces manure, and it can produce offspring. I haven't heard what subsequent Aitchison choices were, but the idea took hold in our



family too.

We haven't tried voting, but we have given Heifer gifts to family members who really don't want us to spend money on them. A gift of bees seemed the perfect tribute to a brother-in-law who keeps bees. We have selected chicks, pigs and trees for various people, depending on their interests. It was nice to know the gift that wouldn't just sit in a drawer unused.

Heifer provides materials to engage congregations and school children in their efforts. You can find out more about them at www.heifer.org.

Heifer's materials are particularly engaging since they include great pictures of people and animals, and their gift cards are attractive. See the sidebar for similar projects your family might enjoy supporting.

These websites offer links for alternative gift giving

Fair trade coffee & tea

www.fairtradefederation.com/ offers an assortment of links and other contact information for providers of fair trade products

Artisan products

Serrv.org is a non-profit organization that markets products made in third world countries. They will work with groups to set up local craft fairs as well as sell directly to individuals through an on-line or paper catalogue.

Chocolate

Globoexchange.org links to many sites which offer a variety of products using cocoa beans: chocolate confections, hot chocolate mix, and beauty products.

Samaritan's Purse

The CFM groups of St. Lawrence Martyr, **Redondo Beach** and **Torrance, Calif.**, have promoted participation in "Christmas Child/Operation Shoebox" by **Samaritan's Purse** (www.samaritanpurse.org), **Dan Thomas** reports.

Families fill clear shoebox-sized storage containers with necessities and small gifts for children around the world. Last year they donated about 100 "shoeboxes."

The Samaritan's Purse website includes a catalog of gifts of education, food, and shelter.

In your Own Community

Consider donations to a favorite non-profit group, such as a zoo, arts organization, or human services provider.

The International Confederation of Christian Family Movements (ICCFM) will meet July 28 through August 1, 2004 in **Santa Clara, Calif.** on the campus of Santa Clara University. The World Assembly theme is **Family: Artisans of an Evolving Society**. The assembly will use the traditional Cardijn methodology of **Observe—Judge—Act** to focus on the true meaning of the marriage relationship and its responsibility for addressing the challenges of a contemporary society being transformed in a post-modern age.

Questions have been formulated by the planning committee in an effort to gather information regarding marriage practices around the world. These questions are being distributed world-wide to all the movements that have membership in ICCFM. You are invited to be a part of this process. Forward your response to the questions at right to the national CFM office by December 31. Your input will be added to that of CFMers across the country and be part of a report to the assembly in July.

International CFM Assembly to Survey Marriage Around the World

Observe

the status, trends and issues regarding marriage and family life *in your country.*

- ◆ In your country, what are the cultural-specific reasons that people marry?
- ◆ What is the role of marriage and family life within the culture of your country?
- ◆ What is the impact of Christian marriage on your culture?
- ◆ What impact do government, church and culture have on marriage and family life in your country?
- ◆ What do you think marriage and family life will be like in the future?
- ◆ What is the true meaning of Christian marriage?

CFM Membership makes a thoughtful gift

- ◆ Newlyweds
- ◆ Priests and sisters
- ◆ CFM alums
- ◆ Friends and relatives in areas still waiting for CFM
- ◆ Parish staff

The Welcoming Church

CFM Deacon Focuses on People with Special Needs

Does your parish have some creative ideas for welcoming people with special needs into the full life of the church? Has your CFM group looked into issues of accessibility, worship, communication, or service for disabled members?

Deacon Don Grossnickle, longtime member of CFM at Our Lady of the Wayside, **Arlington Heights, Ill.**, has recently been assigned to the staff of **Bishop Jerome Listecki** with the project of researching and recommending actions the church can take to

welcome disabled members of the body of Christ to all aspects of the life of the church.

Don's commitment to this issue began with his, and Wayside CFM's, involvement in ministry to a young man who was paralyzed in a football injury two years ago.

He would welcome ideas, suggestions and stories of experiences. Contact him at dgrossnick@aol.com or write the national office.



Taking the Time to Make a Difference

by Paul R. Leingang

A serious resolution for the new year

In our family and we have talked frequently about an experience we had a year ago. And although we talked many times about it, I have never really stopped to think too much about it.

What we talked about was how much fun we had playing a beanbag game with a family in Canada. It happened when we went to visit the future in-laws of one of our sons. During our stay of several days, we visited some members of the extended family, and at one of the homes, we were invited to play a beanbag game.

The game was simple. Each person would try to toss some beanbags into the cut-out holes of a target. Points were awarded for every successful toss. My wife and I do not speak French, many of the family members we visited did not speak English – but a common language of words is not the only way to communicate.

In playing a game together, we revealed something of ourselves to each other. We competed, we had some fun at success, some frustration at failure and a lot of laughter.

I recalled our experience once again as I re-read the Pledge of Nonviolence that was distributed a few years ago by the Families Against Violence Advocacy Network. When I hear or read the word, “nonviolence,” I think about Gandhi or Martin Luther King Jr., or maybe the Gospel advice to turn the other cheek. Pretty serious stuff,

right? Yes – and No, too.

One of the six components of the pledge is a commitment “to play creatively.” The components of the pledge offer a millennium’s worth of New Year’s resolutions: respect self and others, listen carefully, forgive, respect nature, play creatively and be courageous – six serious ways to reduce violence and bring greater peace to the world. And one of the ways is to play.

It has to be wrong to think of the Holy Family as always stern, never silly. That would not be fully human.



We say Jesus was fully human. I wonder, what games did he play?

What did Jesus do when he was a toddler in Egypt, with Mary and Joseph, fleeing the threat of death from Herod back home? It has to be wrong to think of the Holy Family as always stern, never silly. That would not be fully human.



Talk with your family members or friends about the games you enjoy (or enjoyed, if you “don’t have the time for such things any more”). I recently heard a radio talk show host talking about expensive toys and playground equipment, and how his own two-year-old’s favorite playthings were the plastic bowls and lids the family kept in a kitchen cabinet.

Stories like that are common. The child plays not with the toy, but with the box it came in.

Examine the way family members interact (if they do).

Have television, computer games and modern electronics helped or hindered human communication?

Examine the larger community, too. A recent publication from the U.S. Catholic Church, *Welcoming the Stranger*, reminds us that “The New Testament begins with Matthew’s story of Joseph and Mary’s escape to Egypt with their newborn son, Jesus Our Savior himself lived as a refugee because his own land was not safe.”

How do we welcome the stranger in our community or in our church? If only with words and seriousness, we are limiting our communication and depriving each other of a richer human experience.

Food and shelter are serious needs for immigrants and strangers in a strange land. So are playing fields.

Take the time to learn the games of another culture. In the coming year, take the time to play creatively.

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



For many years, our neighborhood has enjoyed organizing a simple Christmas “walk” or *posada*, a holiday custom from Mexico. The *Posada* is a reenactment of Mary and Joseph’s lonely search for shelter on the night of Jesus’ birth. During the *Posada* the community walks around the neighborhood visiting homes while singing Christmas carols led by “angels.” Young and old are invited to dress the part of shepherds, angels, and even animals.

In every *Posada*, a young boy and girl are selected to portray Mary and Joseph, who will go door to door around the town and ask if they may enter and find shelter. Residents know (or have been alerted by means of a flyer distributed earlier in the week) to tell the weary couple, “No, there is no room here.” Some householders may even be sharp in their dismissal. After Mary and Joseph have been turned away, the group moves on to the next home, singing carols as they go. As the journey gets longer and the wind blows colder, all the participants experience a little of the disappointment and isolation that Mary and Joseph must have felt as they searched for a safe and warm place for Jesus to be born.

Anticipating the *Posada* this year, I am reminded that the journey—the great adventure—of married couples can be lonely at times. Every couple experiences times when they feel like they are on their own with nobody to encourage them. They may be

physically isolated when moving to a strange city because of jobs or finances. They may find it’s just the two of them in a suddenly empty nest. Or they may feel emotionally isolated by disgruntled extended family members or unreliable friends. Society can seem to devalue their marital commitment and call it “just another lifestyle choice.”

Supplies

- ◆ Flyers explaining the *Posada* and inviting all to participate
- ◆ Christmas carol booklets
- ◆ Bible
- ◆ Makeshift costumes (optional)
- ◆ Cookies/hot chocolate

Who shelters and protects your marriage?

Our first source of strength will be the two of us, united in Christ. We can invite Jesus to be an integral part of our married life, praying together, truly calling on him for assistance in marital difficulties, viewing ourselves as partners with God on life’s journey. Next, we all need to have friendships and

“Seeking Shelter”

groups that affirm and reinforce our marriage, even if it takes actively looking for them. Our church and our CFM group will certainly make room for us at the inn. The Holy Couple, Mary and Joseph, and the heavenly host of that first Christmas night are praying for us, too.

The *Posada* ends when the travelers arrive at a manger set up. One of the leaders reads the Christmas story from the gospels, and all pray together for peace, for travelers and for prospective parents. All are invited into a warm house for hot chocolate and real Christmas cheer.

How have the hospitality and friendship of others strengthened your marriage?

Invite your neighbors to join you in a *Posada* this year. You can do it anytime in the Advent or Christmas season. Distribute flyers with a brief description of the custom and instructions to say, “No room!” Perhaps they will walk and sing with you.

Be accessible to others in need of shelter for their marriage.

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

SPOTLIGHT

Mary Robertson, St. Anthony in Menomonee Falls, Wisc., reports "We had a party in June. The men made all the arrangements and surprised the women with an outdoor garden party complete with bouquets of flowers, wine tasting, dessert and steaks on the grill! A very relaxing evening for the wives and the men had fun doing it!"

This year's plans at St. Anthony's include an evening for teens called "Hot Topics," an Advent party for a family shelter, a saints day celebration based on *Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure* planned by the teenagers, a women's day of reflection, a day of snow tubing, family stations of the cross and a family campout.

Tom and Laura Toussaint, Holy Family, Inverness, Ill., report that 12 families from their group enjoyed a relaxing

September weekend at Wilderness Resort in the Wisconsin Dells, a resort with four waterparks. The weekend included time for men and women to socialize apart from the family, in addition to activities in common. The group meets monthly in parish meeting rooms and shares babysitting.

St. Lawrence Martyr CFM, **Redondo Beach, Calif.,** conducted a Casino Night and Auction on September 20. This popular event is held once every two years to fund the activities of CFM at the parish. Items auctioned include the services of CFMers for special dinners, dog training, personal training sessions, dental whitening or sailing in a private boat. In addition, the auction featured tickets for sporting events, handcrafted items, and on and on. Over 40 items were auctioned. This event is a long-standing tradition at St. Lawrence.

The CFM group at St. Teresa and St. Joseph in **Auburn, Calif.,** had a family camp this summer. This group expects to be expanding to two groups in January.

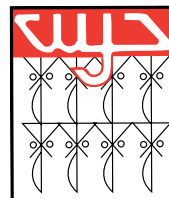
Bob and Joan Casey at St. Gilbert in **Gray's Lake, Ill.,** report that their group provides support for the Christmas concert at St. Gilbert early in December. All the choirs at St. Gilbert and the choir from their sister parish, St. Benedict, **Chicago,** perform for the parish. The event is followed by soup supper.

St. Theresa's, **Austin, Texas,** formed its third and fourth CFM groups after participation in the Family Festival of Ministries and a powerful testimonial in church by a CFM member, **Deacon George Zacek** reports.



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