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Christian Family Movement

World Assembly to be held in California this summer

The registration form for the International Confederation of Christian Family Movements 9th World Assembly of Families is available online at www.iccfm.org. The 9th World Assembly of the ICCFM will convene in **Santa Clara University's Benson Center** on July 28, with a Parade of Nations. Delegates from more than 30 countries will place their flag before the delegate assembly. The conference will run until Aug. 1.

The conference theme is *Family: Artisans of an Evolving Society*.

The assembly will use the Observe, Judge, Act method to focus on the meaning of the marriage relationship and its responsibility to address the challenges of contemporary society being transformed in a post-modern age. **Paul and Jane Leingang**, executive directors of CFM U.S.A. will give the opening address. A complete conference agenda is available online. All CFMers are invited attend this worldwide conference. The World Assembly is a unique opportunity to exchange ideas, share family experiences, and pray with couples and clergy from all parts of the world. It should not be missed!

Conference registration is \$200 per person. Daily rates are also available. Contact the national office with any questions.

The Beverly Heritage Hotel, **Milpitas, Calif.**, has been selected as the official hotel for the Assembly. From Monday, July 26-Sunday, August 1 special pre-negotiated discount rates have been established. The Beverly Heritage Hotel is within one hour's drive from **San Francisco** or **Monterey** and is an excellent base for extending your stay to see other Bay area attractions. See the ICCFM website for more information regarding hotel stay.

Gary and Kay Aitchison, Ames, Iowa, are North American representatives to ICCFM. **Peter and Carolyn Broeren, Pittsburgh, Penn.**, **Father Bill Young, Cleveland, Ohio**, **Wayne and Sue Hamilton, Ann Arbor, Mich.**, **Father Ken Weare, San Francisco, Calif.**, **Father Sam Palmer, Urbandale, Iowa**, **Andy and Martha Maurer, San Jose, Calif.**, and **Elma and Nop Muangkroot, Bangkok, Thailand**, along with representatives of MFC US, CFM's Spanish-speaking counterpart, serve on the organizing committee.



Presidents' Perspective

by Peter and Jane Buchbauer

A Simple Bag of Oranges

"Mom, what does that man's sign say?"

We had just gotten to the end of the ramp coming off of I-95 on our way to our vacation accommodations in Orlando, when our five-year-old caught sight of a raggedly dressed young man holding a sign that read "Will work for food."

"Peter, open your window and give this bag of oranges to him," I said to my husband while we waited for the light to change.

"What are you doing, mom?" my curious little boy asked.

"Well, Joe, the man is hungry and wants to work for food. We don't have a job for him, but we have these oranges so we'll let him have them," Peter explained.

"Oh." It made complete sense to Joe.

When I was a young child growing up in Jamaica, Queens, we would often walk by homeless, often drunk, men sitting or sleeping in the gutters or over the subway grates. My neighborhood in New York wasn't an especially affluent one, but it wasn't an especially poor one either. As neighborhoods in New York in the 1960's went, it was a working class, residential one that housed a wide variety of people.

One thing that I remember, sadly, is the fear that was associated

with the "bums," as our parents called them, who lived on the streets. We were often told that if you gave them money they'd just waste it on drink and so they should be left to fend for themselves. Besides, the concern was that if you tried to help a little, "they'd" always want more and might actually hurt you if "they" decided to help "themselves" to whatever you had. It was a less than charitable view of our less fortunate neighbors. And I learned it when I was quite young.

*It made
complete sense to him
that we acted
as we did.*

In recent months, I have been reminded of this lesson by a disconcerting trend I'm seeing among young parents. I was a young parent myself and I know how strong the desire to shield my children from the ugliness of the world can be. I've been told by some of my colleagues, elementary teachers, that their students are "too young" to understand the concept of social justice. It seems to be a growing trend among those who work with young children to try to keep them innocent of the less savory aspects of our world as long as possible by simply not acknowledging the injustices that exist outside of their playground. How young is too young?

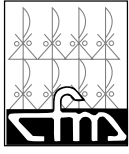
When our five-year-old asked about the man on the side of the road, we certainly didn't spend a long time lecturing him about hunger and homelessness. It made complete sense to him that we acted as we did.

With children, actions always speak louder than words, but we need to let them see the actions and even participate in them. It made complete sense to our school-aged children to give up a few hours of their Christmas Day to serve dinner at the Salvation Army Shelter. After years of joining us in our attempts to be of assistance to the needy through our CFM actions, it made complete sense to our teenage boys to take it upon themselves to purchase a gift for a young boy who had arrived at the local shelter on Christmas Eve with not much more than the clothes on his back.

To this day, it still makes complete sense to my children to give food and blankets to homeless people on the streets of Washington, D.C.

My parents were good, kind people. They didn't go about trying to make me callous to the poor on the street. Their desire was to protect me. A lesson of our faith, though, calls for more than just protecting our little ones. It calls for us to teach compassion. We are never too old, or too young, to learn it.

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



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CFM National Office
P.O. Box 925
Evansville IN 47706-0925

Telephone: 812-962-5508
Fax: 812-962-5509
E-mail: office@cfm.org
Web page: <http://www.cfm.org>

Presidents
Jane and Peter Buchbauer

Executive directors
Jane and Paul Leingang

Newsletter editor
Kathleen Miller

Webmaster
Andy Pozdol

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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



On Teaching Values

*Fathers and mothers
owe four things
to their children:
maintenance, instruction,
correction, and good example.*

—St. John Baptist de la Salle



Most parents question how they can teach values to their children. They don't realize that they are teaching values every day by what they do.

We teach children the value of prayer

- when we remind them of their morning and night prayers,
- when we say grace at meal-times,
- when we attend Mass and other services at church, and
- when we remind them to ask God for help when something is on their minds.

In everyday life, they watch us

- make a point of being on time,
- refrain from criticizing other people,
- respect other people's property and
- take care of what we have.

They notice when we

- watch our language and hold our tempers.
- eat what is on our plate and don't waste food,
- contribute to good causes and
- volunteer to help charitable agencies.

Nearly every day, we remind children

- to share,
- not to fight,
- to enter into family rituals,
- to do their share of family household tasks,
- to save rather than spend all of their allowances.

We encourage them

- to visit sick relative and the elderly,
- to send thank you notes, and
- to thank whoever has done them a favor.

"Please" and "thank you" are probably the first words we teach our children to say.

If we smoke, take drugs or drink alcohol, they probably will too. If we watch violent movies or R-rated videos, they probably will too.

Yes, we ARE teaching values every day. Don't think you are not. Children are watching us and learning from us. Our example is the best way to teach values, so parents: watch what you do because your children are watching you! And they will probably follow in your footsteps.

Values are caught, not taught!

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

The Giving-Tree: Love Made Visible

by Billie Kilman, Norwood, Penn.

Our CFM group at St. Gabriel's in **Norwood, Penn.**, is part of a parish in a lower middle class, blue-collar neighborhood. People here work hard for their money and don't have a lot to spare, but their hearts are huge and warm.

About 18 years ago, **Dave Mulvaney** (who has since moved to **Florida** and is now in the Deaconate program down there), suggested that CFM sponsor a Giving Tree for those who were needy in our parish. It was probably at the meeting of the first weekend in November. I immediately exclaimed that we could never get it together so quickly, and Dave challenged our group to see if we couldn't do it anyway. When he heard about the idea, our pastor was sure it would be a big flop, but he gave permission anyway. We quickly asked the priests and teachers about children with needs, and scrambled to put 300 requests on the tree at the front of our church. Three Masses later, all cards were gone and people were excited. Tears came to our eyes when we saw hundreds of gifts piled up. Within just a couple of years, generosity had grown so much that we contacted some of the Hospices in Center Philadelphia, added homeless people to our circle of giving, and posted over a thousand requests.

For many years, **Mary Witt** has led the Giving Tree project with great dedication and organizational talent. **Jean Puzycki** joined her a couple of years ago. In September, Mary begins contacting hospices

and families to find out what needs are most important, and sizes of clothing, etc. The cards are written up with a coding system to keep things straight. This year, 50 families were having a tough time. About 1500 cards went on the tree.

Lots of love and many skills go into the project: In addition to requests taken by parishioners from the tree, Mary and Jean take the ones left over. They scout thrift shops for "new" trousers and coats for 61 homeless men. Mary washes the clothes and makes them just like new. Jean took the train into Philadelphia to pick up a gift certificate for a homeless man asking for art supplies. Mary and Jean drove miles to a craft store to fulfill a particular child's dream. They make sure that every single family got what they needed and that the gifts are balanced. (One child in a family wouldn't get a gift way out of proportion to another child's gift. Each family individual gets four separate packages.) One particular teen request led Mary and Jean to five different stores.

Many parish helpers help with this huge project. When the bags of goodies are delivered, there are big smiles and often tears of gratitude.

In February, Mary starts thinking about the upcoming drive for diapers and baby items for Catholic Charities. That is definitely a good Valentine's project.

When my husband and I lead pre-baptism classes for new parents, we try to express the value of CFM. With a project like this one, love is surely made visible.

Profile: CFM in West Des Moines

by Julia Roegiers

Saint Francis of Assisi parish in **West Des Moines, Iowa** currently has ten active CFM groups, each with six to eight couples.

Our CFM groups have become very involved in partnering with various organizations serving people in need. Each CFM group provides a meal for over 100 homeless people at a shelter in Des Moines. This is the third year that the CFM groups of Saint Francis have worked with this shelter.

Some CFM groups directly help people in need. One group, led by **Steve and Gwen Liston**, provided Thanksgiving dinner to a needy family. When the group found out that this family didn't have a refrigerator, everyone in the group pitched in to purchase one. Another group, led by **John and Nancy Hunter**, adopted a refugee family with four children, providing family member with Christmas presents. The CFM couples and their children wrapped and delivered the gifts on a Sunday afternoon. **Jack and Lynette Groves'** group collected and delivered a full van load of items for a women's family violence shelter in Des Moines at Christmas time.

CFM has been a wonderful way for members of our parish to come together to reach out to those in need.

From the National Chaplain

by Father Don Conroy



Lent in the CFM Household

This Lent, how will you and your family take advantage of this moment of grace?

As we go into late winter and early spring we all have an opportunity to make a new start. The Lenten Season provides the context for this time of renewal and regeneration.

In the Christian family—which Pope John Paul II has so clearly focused on as the domestic church—several traditions are worth considering.

The first is prayer. Daily prayer together as a family is always important. The custom of praying at least once a day together as a family during Lent is not only a good discipline, but it also sets the pace for everyone to pray as a

gathering of the domestic church. Daily prayer could include praying a psalm antiphonally (each one or several members take different verses) followed by the Lord's Prayer and petitions reflecting family life as well as the needs of the parish and the society. This need not take more than a few minutes.

The second is action. This might be anything from saving on meals and contributing to the Rice Bowl distributed by Catholic Relief Services (see www.CatholicRelief.org) to doing a weekly ministry, such as serving in a soup kitchen or visiting the elderly in a nearby retirement or nursing home.

The third is establishing a weekly custom. For example, you might begin on Ash Wednesday and continue the Wednesdays during Lent the custom of a family meeting for sharing, learning and prayer. You and your family, if you have older children or teens, could use the CFM process of Observe-Judge-Act and focus on contemporary themes of special meaning to your own family.

One good resource is the recently published CFM program book, *Building a Better World*. This book has three special meetings geared to families. These are:

- Chapter 4, "Working Together: A Family Activity,"
- Chapter 7 "A Global Banquet: A Community Experience" and
- Chapter 12 "Caring for God's Creation: A Family Experience."

Others chapter themes can be easily adapted to family use. These include good Lenten topics such as:

- Chapter 2 "Made in God's Image" (the dignity and value of the human person),
- Chapter 6 "The Cry of the Poor" (poverty in an affluent society),
- Chapter 8 "One Human Family" (we are all truly brothers and sisters in Christ), and
- Chapter 10 "A Simpler Life" (living a Christian lifestyle). (See more on this resource at www.CFM.org).

The important thing is not to let Lent slip by as just another season. To seize the moment and turn it into a time of special renewal and deeper spiritual development is key to your family's spirituality and to your children's and the planet's future.

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

CFM Moment



"Now that we've taught you how to love yourself, Mickey, let's take it a step further..."

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Member Profile: Joe Kiefer, Evansville, Ind.

I joined CFM 13 or 14 years ago and that's when I learned about Observe, Judge and Act. CFM is a lot more than sitting around and having a nice discussion. At some point you have to act upon your beliefs. That's one of the things I feel I am doing by answering a call to public service. I was elected to my second term on the Evansville City Council this past November.



The city council here is the legislative branch of local government in a city of about 122,000 people. Since I first ran for this office a little over four years ago, many people have asked me why I would ever want to get involved in an activity with such negative connotations. I've always been idealistic and little bit naïve. Sometimes that works against me, but most of time it serves me well.

Paul says, in 1 Corinthians 3, "the Lord has assigned to each his task." I believe I've been called to the political realm. If we are diligent to our calling, then we will find contentment in serving others with the gifts God has given us.

Sometimes people see me on T.V. and say, "you look so confident and at ease." My wife says I have the gift of gab. Mostly, I just think I've been blessed. God has blessed me with a wonderful wife and family, good health, and a knack for

politics. I just pray that I can use my gifts for His purposes.

As a public figure, I have been given a great opportunity to serve others and to share my faith.

During my second year on the city council I was approached by a Catholic homeless shelter. They wanted to build temporary housing for battered and abused women in the inner city, but there was a lot of opposition in the neighborhood and on the city council to rezoning.

After the first hearing on the rezoning for the Catholic homeless shelter, I called a Catholic attorney friend and asked him to do some *pro bono* work on their behalf. Then I lobbied each of the council members and talked up the benefits of this rezoning. I also asked to delay the vote to give both sides time to find a compromise. The people in the neighborhood didn't want a multifamily dwelling in a single

family residential neighborhood, fearing it would attract ne'er-do-wells to the area. I sympathized with them, but knew that demographics proved that a homeless shelter was seriously needed. I had also visited with the nuns running the existing shelter and had seen first hand the work they were doing.

I was willing to risk losing votes for this cause. When the issue was finally put to vote, it passed with only one nay vote. Afterwards, I was accused of being racist (as the shelter was being built in a predominantly black neighborhood). One person was so angry that a police officer had to pull them away from me. On this and other issues, I have a duty to stand-up for what I believe is right and to act with honesty and integrity, but mostly to use my gifts in service to God.

Joe and his wife JoAnn have four children.

Book Review

The Book of Mom: What Parents Know By Heart
By Tammy Bundy (St. Anthony Messenger, 2003)

Reviewed by Jane Leingang

In this small volume, Tammy Bundy, mother of four, tells stories to make the reader appreciate the challenge and delight of raising children. Some are funny; some heartwarming, and some offer poignant insights into how life changes when you have children.

Here's an example: The author decides she needs to get more exercise. She is taking the price tag

off her new workout shoes when her twelve-year-old daughter asks where she is going. When the daughter hears that her mom plans to go to the Y to exercise, she asks her, instead, to stay and exercise with her at home. The author reflects how quickly her daughter is growing up, and that she will soon prefer her friends to her mom's company. This is a limited-time offer that should not be missed.

Bundy is a good writer, author of several inspirational books and a former weekly columnist with *The Cincinnati Post*. This book is one which any mother will be able to relate to.

Book Reviews: Images of God and Church

*The God We Never Knew:
Beyond Dogmatic Religion to a More
Authentic Contemporary Faith*
by Marcus J. Borg (Harper, 1997)

Reviewed by Bob Smith
Alexandria, Va.

In the Bible, various images of God help us understand something about God who is beyond all understanding. Borg first examines such images as mighty king, lawgiver, and judge. He explains that he does this first, because such images of God have been dominant for centuries, and second, because he personally has found such images so unhelpful that they led him to the verge of atheism.

A mighty king, for example, seems distant, insulated by his retinue, too important to be bothered. Kings are male and might not understand females. If God is lawgiver and judge, how could we ever be worthy enough to enter his presence? Could a distant God ever forgive us, much less love us?

Many Christians, including Borg himself, grew up thinking of God as a distant creator who might have intervened occasionally as described in the Bible, but who seemed to have stopped being active in the world. With science describing the size of the universe, God seemed very distant indeed.

George MacDonald once said, "Of all teachings, that which presents a far distant God is the nearest to absurdity. Either there is none, or God is nearer to everyone of us than our nearest consciousness of self." We might all agree with MacDonald's logic but I suspect that many people have the idea of a distant God, maybe even most of the time.

Borg argues that the Bible and Judeo-Christian tradition offer

compelling alternatives: for example, God as Spirit, as Breath, as Rock, as Mother, as intimate Father, as Wisdom (Sophia), as Lover, as Journey Companion, as Potter, as Good Shepherd, as Wise Woman, as Old Man, as Woman giving birth, as Friend, as a Hen gathering chicks, as Wind, Fire, Light, Fortress, and Shield.

All of our concepts are attempts to express the inexpressible. And yet.... the Inexpressible is real and present. In the words of Carl Jung, "Bidden or not bidden, God is present." All that we know about God, God has revealed for a purpose.

Borg suggests that images of God and structures of society go hand in hand. Male images of God correlate with male-dominated politics, religions, and families. Images that emphasize the nearness of God invoke relationship, connection, closeness.

Borg concludes that how we think about God deeply affects our understanding of the human condition. We belong to God, and God is present to us, whether we know it or not. If God is only a king, sin is disloyalty and disobedience. If God is lover, sin is infidelity.

At its center, the biblical understanding of salvation is NOT a relationship with a distant king based on hope of reward in some distant eternity. Our Christian understanding of salvation is based on a relationship with Jesus Christ in the present: a God whose gifts are love, joy, peace, and freedom to choose to do good; and whose fruits are justice and compassion. Such a relationship with God, and all that flows from that relationship, is the focus of Christian life.

Do our personal images of God help us or hinder us in coming to this understanding?

*Beyond Secrecy:
The Untold Story of Canada and the
Second Vatican Council*
by Bernard M. Daly (Novalis 2003)

Reviewed by
June Barbarula Smith
Erie, Penn.

Bernard Daly is Editor Emeritus of *The Catholic Register* in Canada. Bernard and Mae Daly were members of CFM's Program Committee in the 1960s.

This new book sheds interesting light on church history. It follows the Canadian bishops from the announcement of Vatican II to its conclusion, with intriguing analysis of their psychology and the management style.

Daly describes the secrecy enforced on council proceedings, despite Pope John XXIII's opposition. He also describes the courage of Canadian bishops insisting that the Council be "without anathemas and condemnations" and use "positive language that would appeal to today's people," to advance the cause of church unity and combat anti-Semitism.

The book offers lively description of the personality and style of the bishops. Archbishop Leger was outspoken and influential despite his less-than-collegial style. Bishop Carter told the council that his commission's text "was conceived in sin—the sin of clericalism."

The book traces the tension and conflict between the majority of bishops committed to reform and the traditionalist Curia.

Daly closes by analyzing the accomplishments of the council and the effects of habits of secrecy. He ends with cautious hope that the good work begun by the council will continue.



Taking the Time to Make a Difference

by Paul R. Leingang

Two wrongs take an interesting turn

Two wrongs don't make a right. But two wrong numbers may lead to an interesting phone call. This is a true story. Nobody would make up something like this.

It started with a voice mail message, a call from the agent who handles our car insurance.

I wrote down the agent's number, or at least I thought I did. But the number I had written down was not correct, as I found out later. I also found out later that I made a second mistake when I dialed the call. My finger hit the "five" button instead of the "two" button.

Despite writing down the wrong number, and then dialing it wrong, the call went through to someone, but not to my insurance agent.

After a few rings, a voice said "Hello." I asked if I had reached the number I thought I had dialed, and the voice on the other end of the line said, "No."

Then this person asked me, "Paul, is that you?" I didn't know what to say.

He said, "This is Father Knapp." And I still didn't know what to say.

I had dialed a compound wrong number and reached the vicar general of the diocese, Msgr. Kenneth R. Knapp. Boy, was I glad I didn't say something stupid.

People who dial wrong numbers sometimes get mad at the person who answers as if it is that person's fault. I've been on the

receiving end of a few such calls. It makes no sense, but frustration is not a good environment for sweet and gentle reasoning.

How much lower would our frustrations be, I wonder, if we would imagine that everyone we met, even by chance, was somebody we know.



What if everyone we met, even by chance, was somebody we know?

In the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 24, we are admonished to be ready, because we do not know when the Lord is coming. That's when "he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."

A priest in Evansville used to keep sandwiches in his refrigerator, to give away when "Jesus" came to his door. I believe that priest was ready when the final trumpet sounded for him.



Who are the people encountered "by chance" in your daily life? Who are the people, names unknown, the ones you can ignore? A store clerk? A beggar?

Some kid with his cap on sideways? Would you treat them differently if you knew their names? If they knew yours?

Would you have cut off that other driver if you had known the person behind the wheel? If he or she had recognized you?



Here are some ideas for Lent.



Take a different route to work. Shop at a different store. Get to know more about your city or town. Visit some of the places where Jesus lives, where he waits for his brother or sister to recognize him.



Take the time to examine how people are kept isolated or anonymous, in your city or town, or in your church congregation. Find a way to make a real connection, a human connection, between people ordinarily kept apart from each other.



Help a family separated by illness, or disconnected from each other by a prison term. Find a way to connect people of different ethnic or racial backgrounds. Or simply those who always sit on the opposite sides of the main aisle at church.

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 and appears on the CFM website. Paul and Jane Leingang are executive directors of CFM.

Your Marriage: The Great Adventure

by Lauri Przybysz



Three years ago, Ted and Fiona sold their home and moved to Bermuda. To envious friends they sent e-mail photos of sun-splashed beaches with just the two of them, hand in hand.

Today, Ted and Fiona are job hunting back in the States. Their friends are mystified. Who wouldn't want to live on a tropical paradise?

Truth be told, this couple found that expectations didn't meet reality. They discovered they missed the life they grew up with, family and friends, American groceries and conveniences. They felt isolated. And they were starting to get on each other's nerves. "It was a nice place to visit, but we couldn't live there," said Fiona.

Marriage as tropical island solitude is an illusion. Newlyweds learn, to their bewilderment, that the honeymoon cannot last forever. At first, many husbands and wives imagine that a perfect mate will meet their every need. Such an expectation, fueled by magazines and TV romances, can sabotage marriage. In a healthy marriage, every couple must develop a unique balance of time spent as a couple with time spent in other relationships and activities.

Lief Keirwald, family ministry specialist, explains in *Marriage and the Spirituality of Intimacy* (St. Anthony Messenger Press),

A part of me expects Rene to satisfy all my needs as well as most of my wants. Of course, I know we have different interests, likes and dislikes. Yet I hang onto a dream of always doing every-

Farewell to the Island

thing together—working, playing, loving, parenting—and enjoying every minute of it. Funny though, in my dream we only do the things that I love and enjoy, many of which (in real life) are not the least bit interesting or desirable to Rene.

Our world must extend beyond just the two of us. Keirwald recommends developing circles of friends both as individuals and as couples:

We would likely not stay married if we existed only in each other's worlds. We constantly need fresh input from those around us to liven our souls and check our egos.

We enrich each other when we share experiences and insights with our spouse. Also, it is in the world "out there" that we have our prophetic potential. We are a living expression of the hope that marriage is possible and even attractive. People will benefit by getting to know each of us as individuals and as partners.

As life goes on, professional obligations, children's activities, and community involvement can put stress on the marriage relationship. Couples must refocus, and intentionally plan to interact with one another in a meaningful way. Throughout our marriages, we need to "visit the island."

Keirwald expresses it this way:

When we use our partnership skills in marriage, we not only nurture our friendship and love, we also symbolize and reveal God's active love for all people. As Christian believers, our covenant of love is much more than just a personal promise between us. It is a model of lasting love for all believers. And it is in our partnership that this is best expressed everyday.

Right now, stop and plan how you will engage your spouse in a few moments of focused attention. Think about listening intently to his or her response.

◆ Where will you talk together? Is the setting free of other distractions? How can you make an island of peace for your listening? Turn your body fully toward your spouse and look him or her in the eyes. Ready? Now say, "Tell me about your day."

◆ Take turns speaking; rephrase what you have heard. This simple practice lets the other know they have been heard.

◆ What else would you like to say to your partner?

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

Colin and Anne Anderlohr, St Gabriel in Poway, Calif., report on the continuing generosity of CFMers to the needy affected by the fires in the San Diego area. "At our annual CFM Thanksgiving Feast we donated our raffle proceeds, \$100, to a family from Julian who lost everything they weren't able to fit into their car. One of our CFM couples held a Christmas Open House and asked the guests to bring a gift card from a local store to benefit a family here in Poway. They raised over \$500 just in time for Christmas."

On December 13 Tom and Cathy Lower's CFM group at St. Pius X in Granger, Ind., attended a play put on by members of St. Adalbert's parish in South Bend. The play was staged at St. Pius as an appreciation for that parish's generosity to the inner city parish. St. Adalbert's serves two

distinct populations: the old-time Polish-Americans and the new-comer Hispanic-Americans. After the play, the group met at the Lowers' home for dinner with their pastor.

Mary Robertson, Menomonee Falls, Wisc., writes, "Our group and others from St. Anthony's put on a Christmas party for a family shelter in Milwaukee. Each family bought gifts for a family, we had carnival games, lunch together and a visit from Santa. The school also made the shelter their Christmas project and is collecting toys and gifts from the school children."

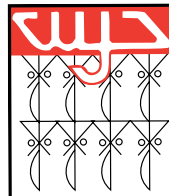
Dave and Donna Langer's group at St. Pius, Urbandale, Iowa, collected Christmas presents for a family of eight children, 1-18. The group decided to sponsor this family after holding the meeting, "The Cry of the

Poor," in Building a Better World. The Langer family delivered the gifts and declared it an "incredible experience." Donna said, "Purchasing and wrapping the gifts is wonderful, but spending time with the family was Christmas!"

Several members of the St. Benedict CFM group have become involved in a coalition of churches that are working for social change in Evansville, Ind. The group had its first public meeting with city decision-makers on Feb. 23. At the meeting the group asked the invited leaders to make a public commitment to effect recommended changes in housing code enforcement, dental care, and education. The coalition is affiliated with the Direct Action Research and Training (DART) Center in Dayton, Ohio.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Christian Family Movement
P.O. BOX 925, Evansville IN 47706



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