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Christian Family Movement



Conference promises memorable and affordable experience

With a distinguished line-up of speakers and a full program for children at a reasonable cost, the 2005 National CFM Marriage and Family Life Conference at Holy Family Parish in **Inverness, Ill.**, on July 15 and 16 is an opportunity too good to pass up.

The conference begins Friday evening with a presentation by **Doug Brummel**, faith and family comedian and story teller, who will involve young and old alike in a lively intergenerational experience. Brummel will also present twice on Saturday in plenary session.

Saturday morning brings an address by **Father Pat Brennan**, a dynamic national speaker and pastor of Holy Family, on evangelization in a family context. Father Brennan will be followed by **Andrew and Terri Lyke** speaking about couple to couple mentoring for successful marriages. Both presentations promise to be enjoyable and challenging for adults.

Is your family so busy that you find it difficult to find time for a meal together? Do you want insight into how misunderstandings with your spouse or child come about despite your best intentions? Do you wonder how you can help your children to value

their sexuality in our sex-saturated culture? Workshop presenters will address these and other topics with adult participants on Saturday afternoon. The conference will conclude with a celebration of Mass and a gala dinner.

During the Saturday adults-only sessions the conference will offer age-specific, Christ-centered programming for children and youth ages 4-18 and babysitting will be provided for the youngest attendees at a nominal cost. Conference costs are affordable: registration for a family of four costs are just \$100 before June 10. Due to the need to insure qualified leadership for their programming, registrations for children postmarked after July 1 will be accepted on a space available basis. An online registration form can be found at www.cfm.org or call the national office for a printed version.

Pre- and post-conference activities can extend the CFM conference experience. The Ministry of Service, Justice and Peace at Holy Family has arranged for attendees arriving early to visit Wings on Friday morning from 9 a.m. to noon as a pre-conference activity. Participants will perform light service at the local facility that provides emergency housing for women

—continued on page 4

New leaders elected, policy established

The board of directors of the Christian Family Movement gathered at Divine Word International, **Techny, Ill.** on Friday, February 25 for a weekend of meetings on issues concerning the direction of the movement.

The board dealt with issues such as a policy regarding safe practices for the prevention of child abuse and sexual misconduct. They also discussed the progress of the marriage and family life conference to be held this summer at Holy Family Parish in **Inverness**. They also got their first look at the DVD developed for membership recruitment and the next year's program book, *Discovering Jesus*.

On Saturday evening the board visited with local CFMers who had gathered at St. James parish in **Arlington Heights** to view the new DVD. A listening session surfaced ideas for improving it and ways it could be used by parish leaders.

At their official meeting on Sunday, Feb. 27, the board elected new officers. Incoming officer, to be installed at the summer board meeting in July, are:

John and Lauri Przybysz,
Severna Park, Md, presidents
Bob and Anne Tomonto,
Palmetto Bay, Fla.,
vice presidents
Terry and Jean Smith,
Des Moines, Iowa, treasurers
Dan and Noreen Thomas,
Redondo Beach, Calif.,
secretary
Father Don Conroy,
Latrobe, Penn., chaplain.

Officers also act as members of the board of directors. Other directors elected for a two year term were:

Paul and Jane Leingang, Evansville, Ind.
Robin and Pat Hafey, Pewaukee, Wisc.,
Tom and Mary Kay Halpin, Omaha, Neb. and
Tucker and Becky Conaboy, Winchester, Va.

These directors have terms that expire in 2006:

Tom and Laura Toussaint,

Arlington Heights, Ill.
Kerry and Tim Fahey, San Ramon, Calif.

The board also honored the 80th birthday of former Chicago area board member **Phil Gorman** by establishing the **Phil and Mary Lou Gorman** Membership Development fund. Several present and former board members attended a party honoring Phil on Sunday afternoon.

Christian Family Movement Policy on the Protection of Children/Young People and Prevention of Sexual Misconduct and/or Child Abuse

Adopted 27 February 2005

With the adoption of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Christian Family Movement wishes to confirm that:

1. Children have the right to be safe and protected from harm in any and all environments; and
2. Sexual misconduct and/or child abuse is contrary to Christian principles and has no place within society.

The National Board of Directors of the Christian Family Movement embraces the rights of children and adults to be safe from sexual misconduct and/or abuse. We are dedicated to promoting and ensuring the protection of all children and will do all in our power to create a safe environment for children and young people and to prevent their physical abuse, sexual abuse and neglect wherever possible.

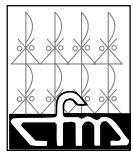
The National Board of Directors of the Christian Family Movement has no direct control over the practices of local groups or mem-

bers. However, the National Board of Directors of the Christian Family Movement strongly recommends that each group establish a policy to protect children and young adults from sexual abuse or misconduct, including the compliance by those members with

1. the policies for the protection of children promulgated by their respective dioceses, and
2. all applicable laws for the reporting of sexual abuse or misconduct.

Local groups of members of the Christian Family Movement are encouraged not to permit persons who are non-compliant with local Diocesan policies to be in leadership or have substantial contact with children at activities or events sponsored or promoted by the Christian Family Movement.

The Christian Family Movement is committed to ensuring that any events sponsored by the National Board of Directors of the Christian Family Movement will be in compliance with the policies of the Diocese within which any such activities are conducted.



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

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

CFM's Mission

- ◆ to promote Christ-centered marriage and family life;
- ◆ to help individuals and their families to live the Christian faith in everyday life; and
- ◆ to improve society through actions of love, service, education and example.

Parent to Parent

by Mary Lou Gorman

Teaching our Children of Love



If you were to ask me the most important concept to teach our children, I would say, "Love." All through his life, Jesus was teaching us to love. To him it was very important.

"God is Love" and as parents we want our children to know God better. To ensure that they have a good life, they must know how to love. Love is giving and acting kindly toward others.

We teach love

- when we model being in love
- when we remind our children to give in to their brothers and sisters
- when we encourage them to write thank-you notes
- when we encourage gift giving
- when we remind them to respect a team that defeats them

- when we encourage them to help the poor
- when we encourage them to visit a sick friend or write them a note
- when we show them how to make sacrifices for someone else
- when we plan parties for others
- when we teach them sharing.

If we as parents remember that "God is Love," then every time we encourage our children to put love into action we are teaching them to become closer to God.

Teaching about love should be a top priority for a parent. Can there be any better goal?

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

Fund donations eligible for matching grant

On the occasion of **Phil Gorman's** 80th birthday February 26, 2005, the board of directors of CFM established the *Phil and Mary Lou Gorman Membership Development Fund* to honor their commitment to this important endeavor. CFM has received notification that funds donated to the Gorman Fund will be eligible for a \$5,000 matching grant. Any donations received for the fund before April 1, 2006 will be matched, to a total of \$5,000.

Phil and Mary Lou may well be the longest active CFM members. They joined the movement August 1, 1953 and are currently active at St. James in **Arlington Heights, Ill.** They have been involved with groups at two other Arlington Heights parishes, St. Edna's and Our Lady of the Wayside, as well.

They joined the national board in 1985 as national expansion couple and worked creatively to increase CFM membership for four years. They devoted themselves especially to initiatives in South Dakota, Wisconsin and, of course, the Chicago area. After their term as national expansion couple, they served as board representatives for Wisconsin and then Illinois, ending their term on the board in 1999.

Conference Workshops and Presenters

Are Your Outside Activities on Overload?



Robin Hafey

How do you know when your family has passed the point of a healthy interest in the sports, church and community involvement to an area of overload? **Robin Hafey** is an experienced parent educator and member of CFM since 1980. She will help her audience sort out ways to prioritize activities and know where to draw the line.

Instilling Respect for the Gift of Sexuality Living in a Sex-Saturated Culture



Mary Louise Kurey

Mary-Louise Kurey, Director of the Respect Life Office at the Archdiocese of **Chicago**, is one of the foremost speakers and authors on chastity and pro-life issues in the United States.

Mary-Louise's book *Standing With Courage: Confronting Tough Decisions about Sex*, published by Our Sunday Visitor, has received acclaim from leaders nationwide and has been a top ten Catholic teen and young adult bestseller for several months.

A Short Course for a Happy Marriage



Steve and Kathy Bierne

Is your marriage just hard work or a joyous adventure filled with challenges? For Catholics, marriage is not only a great adventure and a fulfilling way of life, but it is also a path to holiness. **The Biernes** will discuss how our view of marriage determines our experience of marriage. Creators, editors and publishers of **Foundations**, a newsletter for newly married couples the Biernes have been married for 38 years and have seven children ranging in age from 35 to 15.

Spirituality @ Work: Balancing Job with Personal and Family Life



Greg Pierce

Does "spirituality" necessarily mean "getting away from the world?" Or is God everywhere—even in the midst of the hustle and bustle of daily work, in the noise, crowds and complexity of the modern workplace?

Greg Pierce will discuss the nature of the spirituality of work

and offer suggestions for connecting our faith with our daily work on our jobs, with our families and in our church and community. Mr. Pierce is the co-publisher of ACTA Publications and the author of *Spirituality@Work: 10 Ways to Balance Your Life on-the-Job*.

The Four Communication Traps in Marriage



Dr. James Healy

If we can keep out of these four patterns, our communication has a good chance of remaining healthy and affirming. In down-to-earth and humorous ways, **Dr. James Healy** will explore how we get into these traps and how to get out of them. (This works with your kids, too!) Dr. Healy has been invited to speak on marriage and family issues in over 60 dioceses across the country. He is the author of the audiocassette series, *Rooted in Love: Speaking to Couples About Marriage*. His CD, *When the Cake is Gone: How to Get Married and Stay Engaged*, was released in 2001 and is in wide use.

—continued from page 1 seeking safety from domestic violence. Children aged 7 and older can be a part of this activity. Babysitting will be provided for younger family members.

After the conference, out-of-town attendees and locals alike are invited to journey east to the shores of Lake Michigan to enjoy a day exploring **Chicago's** free premier zoological part, Lincoln Park Zoo. CFMers will gather in the zoo's food court around noon for lunch to enjoy a final day together.

Prayer in Action

Tim and Colleen Quenan's CFM group at Our Lady of the Wayside in **Arlington Heights, Ill.** led a prayer service responding to the tsunami disaster for the parish January 24. About 100 people attended the 30-minute service. The service was an action in response to the "Growing in Prayer" chapter in this year's program book *Homemade Disciples*.

Aid for the tsunami victims continued to inspire Wayside CFMers in February. CFM had planned to sponsor an appearance by best selling author **Joan Wester Anderson** on February 11 as an evening of enrichment and socializing. Her presentation on "True Stories of Heavenly Guardians," attended by about 125 people, was followed by a book signing and wine and cheese reception in the parish's Gathering Space. CFM had decided not to charge admission to encourage people to come and enjoy themselves. In the aftermath of the devastating tsunami, however, the organizers, **Brad and Sally Shewmon** and their group saw an opportunity to help those touched by the disaster. Through a free-will offering and a percentage of book sales donated by the author, \$500 was raised. The group forwarded the money to the ICCFM Tsunami Relief Fund.

ICCFM funds are going a project selected by ICCFM president couple **Nop and Elma Muangkroot** to rebuild a school and establish an orphanage in Thailand in an area where many children lost their parents in the disaster. Funds are still needed and can be sent to:

ICCFM treasurer
Peter Broeren
145 McAlister
Pittsburgh, PA 15235.

From the National Chaplain

by *Father Don Conroy*



A CFM Family Vacation

For a family to take time to travel together to a family-centered event or CFM activity can have long lasting positive effect. A family vacation or trip can have significant impact on children's lives.

I was thinking about this as CFM national board members discussed the July 2005 CFM National Conference in Illinois.

I remembered "Catholic family vacations" our family took when I was a child. These trips had lasting impact on me and influenced my vocation. All of them had a spiritual dimension.

I remember visits to Catholic campuses and shrines, particularly trips to Notre Dame in the summer. We lived in the Pittsburgh area. Early on a sunny summer morning, we would pack up and take off westward through Ohio. Often we would stop about half way in Columbus, Ohio, to visit with my dad's classmates from Notre Dame.

Then we would get back on the road and wend our way northwest through Ohio to Indiana. Along the way we would play games or recite the family rosary. Then as we neared Notre Dame, across the Indiana cornfields, when we caught sight of the Golden Dome, my dad would lead us in a loud rendition of the Notre Dame victory song.

After checking in at our motel, or the Morris Inn on campus, we

would make our way to the main points of interest on campus, such as the Grotto of Lourdes, Sacred Heart Church, and the administration building with its historic frescos of the founding of this great institution by Father Sorin and the Holy Cross Fathers and Brothers in the 1800s.

In addition, we often visited the grave of Coach Knute Rockne, whom my father knew in the 1920s when he was student manager of the football team. We would eat at the west dining hall with its beautiful murals that depicted great achievements by Notre Dame's teachers. We would always go down to the twin lakes past the old log chapel where we would watch the ducks and hear my father reminisce about the glory days.

Such wonderful memories helped to form my spiritual life and the basis for my faith life over the years. I encourage families today not merely to go theme parks or some vacation spots devoid of religious and spiritual meaning.

Why not take your family to the CFM national conference this year to experience a spiritually worthwhile vacation that will provide memories for a lifetime!

Father Don Conroy is President of the National Institute for the Family in Washington, DC., and Pastor of Holy Family Parish, Latrobe, Penn.



Taking the Time to Make a Difference

by Paul R. Leingang

Big news, good news, reason to celebrate

The phone call came early on a Sunday morning. It was good news.

Our son and daughter-in-law reported the latest step in the growing-up events of our two-year old granddaughter, Mattia. She slept the night on a mattress on the floor—the first time she was not confined in a crib or a baby bed.

Mattia is being prepared for a trip this summer, which will include a cross-country airplane flight. No bed frame or play-pen will be carried along on this trip, so her parents have begun the process of introducing their little girl to some new adventures. Sleeping on a mattress on the floor—with no bars to keep her in place—was a big accomplishment. And of course, she loved it.

Our son and daughter-in-law are celebrating a small rite of passage for their daughter, one of many they will celebrate in their family. Birth and Baptism have been celebrated at home and in the church. More steps through the growing-up years will be enjoyed, noted, celebrated, reported by telephone and e-mail, and entered into the memories of this youngest member of our family.

We did such things too, as I recall. There were the sacramental occasions of Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation and Marriage—occasions of rejoicing in our domestic church as well as in our larger church. Family events—birthdays and anniversaries—of course, continue to be celebrated to

a greater or lesser degree, depending on various circumstances.

Many families, ours included, celebrate secular events, too—graduations and driver’s licenses, academic achievements, sports victories, college acceptance letters, new jobs and new relationships.

The gospels provide us with an account of the birth of Jesus, and the presents that were given. We

*Take the time
to help a friend
or family member
to treasure
an achievement
or an accomplishment.*

have built birthday and Christmas traditions around the accounts of that event.

We know that Jesus was taken to the Temple, and that Mary and Joseph fulfilled all that was called for in their tradition. The second chapter of Luke’s gospel tells us about them:

“And when the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord.”

I know it is not something I could call Scripture study, but I am certain there were “minor” family events that were celebrated, too, by the family and friends of Jesus.

I can’t help but think that two sisters might have easily recalled a situation, something that might have been described as, “Remember the time Jesus came to our house for dinner, and I was so busy and got angry with you for just sitting there listening to him.”

Or perhaps there were parents who told their friends about the time when their young son or daughter ran up to Jesus and he would not allow the grown-ups in the group to chase the children away.



In Lent and in the Easter season, we focused much of our attention on the events of salvation history. The months of May and June include holidays and family gatherings that remind us to pay some attention to our own personal and family history.

Take the time to reflect on the events you have celebrated. Recall, too, the times you missed an opportunity to pay attention to a small step along the long journey of life.

Take the time to help a friend or family member to treasure an achievement or an accomplishment, a major or minor event in the life of someone close to you.

Consider finding a way to help others to celebrate life. Perhaps a visit to a nursing home may help celebrate an almost-forgotten birthday. Or a visit to a homeless shelter will turn a simple meal into someone’s birthday party.

Help another build a life full of memories of faith and hope and love.

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 appears in a number of diocesan newspapers and on the CFM website. Paul and Jane Leingang are executive directors of CFM.

Your Marriage: The Great Adventure

by Lauri Przybysz

What is God's Design?



We often hear that Jesus “raised marriage to the dignity of a sacrament.” Have you ever wondered what was wrong with marriage that Jesus needed to fix it? In the ancient world, marriage was sinfully abused. Jesus repudiated Mosaic divorce, by which a husband could put away a wife with a simple declaration. (Wives had no such recourse.) Jesus called for marriage in which women are protected from abandonment and in which both partners are accountable for the relationship. In holding up to his disciples the high ideal of lifelong, mutually faithful marriage, Jesus was doing something radical. He shocked his listeners by declaring that anyone who makes a marriage vow cannot break it without doing something seriously sinful.

This mutuality is still hard to realize in these post-biblical times. In many places today, women are still seen as property or as intellectually inferior to men. Some women are prohibited from pursuing any work outside the home, and some societies still do not permit women to vote. Sinful forces have distorted the institution of marriage. Even in our country, wife-beating, child abuse, incest, adultery, abortion, substance abuse, broken homes, and the feminization of poverty have transformed many homes into living hells.

These days we hear a lot about defending “traditional marriage.” **Rev. Howard Bess**, a Baptist pastor, cautions that using the Bible as the measure of God’s design for marriage and society poses problems (“Few, If Any, Marriages Could Conform to Biblical Standards [Or, Move over, Hillary...]”

Frontiersman [Alaska] January 10, 2004). “First, we should recognize how marriage worked in the Bible. Marriage was a union between a man and one or more women. Let’s face it. The biggest names of the Old Testament were polygamists—Abraham, Jacob, Moses, David, Solomon. A man owned as many women as he could afford. He owned them in three categories. He owned wives, he owned concubines and he owned slaves. He regularly had intercourse with all the women he owned. He had children by all the women he owned.

“Adultery was punishable by death. To have sexual intercourse with an unowned woman was also serious. The punishment was simple. He had to marry her.

“By this standard, Bill Clinton’s punishment would not be impeachment. He would have been forced to marry Monica. ‘Move over, Hillary.’

“Women had no say about the selection of a husband. In fact, she did not have a say about much of anything. A woman was owned by her father until title was transferred to a husband. The deal was between two men. Women were property. A woman’s place in society was set by the man who owned her. This arrangement is defined in the Old Testament property codes in the book of Leviticus.”

In fact, standards for marriage have been constantly evolving for thousands of years. Pastor Bess observes, “In more than 45 years of pastoral responsibilities, I have not known a single person, man or woman, who would commit to

Biblical standards for marriage.” He concludes that the idea of defining marriage to fulfill Biblical traditions and standards just won’t work.

How, then, can your marriage be Biblical in the Christian dimension? Spouses love one another as Christians when they

- share all their possessions freely with each other and with the poor
- practice Christian hospitality
- live simply and avoid materialism
- labor both to support their families and in order to have something to share with those less fortunate
- work to break down divisions in society
- forgive one another
- love their enemies
- discover ways to pray alone and together.

Jesus transformed marriage by treating both spouses as equal members of his body, the Church. In Jesus’ vision of God’s kingdom, there is no preference between men and women disciples. He taught of love that is not about owning or oppressing others. When they declare their wedding vows, Christians renew the covenant of grace to which their baptism consecrated them.

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.

SPOTLIGHT

St. Lawrence Martyr CFM in Redondo Beach, Calif., invited the newly established group at American Martyrs, Manhattan Beach, to join them for their annual Thanksgiving Feast on November 13. St. John Fisher in Rancho Palos Verdes is also starting a CFM chapter. Denise and Ron Geltz and Mary and John Poprac are leaders at St. Lawrence. John and Katherine O'Connell are organizing St. John Fisher. Eric and Kari Mozell are heading up activities at American Martyrs.

St. Clement CFM in Chicago sponsored "Dinner for Two" at a local restaurant for couples of the parish. Noelle and Patrick McWard spoke on "Value Based Parenting: Instilling a sense of empathy and responsibility in our children." Steve and Nicole VanderVoort are leaders.

The eight groups at Sacred Heart CFM in Winchester, Va., work with the Salvation Army to identify disadvantaged children who are having a birthday each month. Groups provide dinner for the families, cake, and birthday presents for the children.

Holy Family Parish in Inverness, Ill., spices up its program with nights for moms, nights for dads, nights for couples as well as activities for the whole family. This group sponsors several community building activities each month in addition to their meeting. Joe and Lisa Guerrero and Curt and Maureen Rosenwinkel are leaders.

Executive Directors Paul and Jane Leingang made a presentation at Guardian Angels parish in Cincinnati, Ohio, to a group of interested couples. Kathy Crowley is starting a group there.

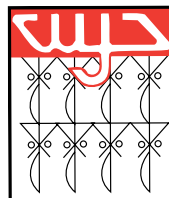
In December, Holy Trinity CFM in Des Moines, Iowa, hosted Jim and Charlotte Noble. The Nobles, parents of member Nancy Hanstad, spoke to the group about their work in Thailand with Maryknoll missionaries. The Hanstads teach English to Buddhist monks and visit prisoners.

Tim Stacy writes, "Our group was impressed by their willingness to serve when they could have instead indulged themselves in their retirement."

Tim reports that the Nobels went back to Thailand on New Year's Eve to spend another season in Thailand and Burma. Their presentation helped the group feel connected to our brothers and sisters in that troubled part of the world and provided a good example of putting faith into action to demonstrate the love of Christ.

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