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*Christian Family Movement*

## Hurricane of Activity for Midwestern CFM

CFM members and groups throughout the country gathered supplies, raised funds, sent assistance, and prayed fervently as news of Hurricane Katrina hit the airwaves.

Our Lady of the Wayside CFM, Arlington Heights, Ill, was one of many groups to take quick action. Within six days, **Bob and Mary Ann Galvanoni**, with action chaircouple **Dan and Joanne Masters** and **Jim and Christine Thomas**, located a rental home, contacted the Chicago Department of Health and Human Services, developed a list of CFMers willing to pledge monthly assistance for two years, obtained furniture, appliances, bedding, clothing and household goods, and helped a family from New Orleans, who had lost everything, move into the house.

The wife and three children had driven from New Orleans to the apartment of acquaintances in a Chicago suburb, despite a smashed windshield, uncertain of how the father, a pharmacy technician (he had been a pharmacist in their native Jordan) was faring as he worked around the clock at a New Orleans hospital.

At the lasagne dinner, the official beginning of a new CFM year, the daughter, now a student at a local university, expressed the family's gratitude. One son has already found a job in the area, and the other is enrolled in high school.

**Geoff and Amy Somary** are section leaders of Wayside CFM, which includes 95 families in nine action groups.

**Nop and Elma Muangroot of Thailand**, International CFM presidents, report on the rapid progress in rebuilding Rajaprachanukroh School 35, the recipient of donations from CFM's tsunami relief project. There are currently 339 students attending the school, and an additional 300 students are expected by the end of October, when dormitories will be completed.

By December the computer center, canteen, nurse's station, and one classroom building will also be completed.



## Presidents' Perspective

by John and Lauri Przybysz

### A Movement, Not an Institution

The Christian Family Movement is a movement, not an institution. Institutions can do the same functions, day after day, year in, and year out. Movements have to keep changing with the times.

What a pitiful movement we would be, if we had kept trying, for all of these 57 years since the founding of CFM, without achieving any of our goals. But, in fact, CFM has many achievements worth noting.

The founders of this lay movement immediately recognized their particular expertise in the vocation of marriage. They began the Cana Conference, which gave birth to Pre-Cana programs. Marriage Encounter also has roots in CFM, and that makes CFM "grandparents" to Engaged Encounter and Retrouvaille.

CFM was active in scripture study and liturgical reform, even before the Vatican Council brought these movements into the mainstream of church life.

CFMers were active in the civil rights movement and worked for open housing. We continue this tradition of action for social justice by our participation in the Right to Life movement.

In the struggle for equality between the sexes, CFM is proud

to proclaim that the ideal of Christian marriage is expressed as a relationship of mutuality between husband and wife. "Each of you should think of others as more important than themselves." (Philippians 2:3)

So we have accomplished a lot, by God's grace. But a movement has to keep moving. Bob Dylan was right when he sang, "He not busy

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Our goal is  
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being born, is busy dying." (*It's Alright Ma*) Our goal is not to recreate some great experience of years gone by. Our goal is to respond to the moving of the Spirit, here and now, in our time.

One thing that has not changed is the particular expertise of our members in matters pertaining to marriage and family. We live it every day. We live in a society that is losing respect for marriage and

family values. The Hollywood culture is not friendly to marriage. But the Christian Family Movement believes in marriage. We know that this vowed Christian lifestyle is how we live out our calling to follow Jesus. CFM will continue to promote the vocation to marriage.

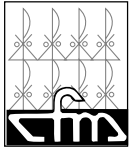
The church of the future will have a greater need for lay leadership. With fewer seminarians entering the ordained life, lay men and women will take up more responsibility. Our Action Groups are small faith communities that form adult faith in our members. CFM trains lay leaders.

One of the biggest challenges will be finding ways to include children in our meetings. In the past, the CFM meeting was a way for housebound moms to get a break from childcare and talk to some adults. No more. Many modern moms go off to work Monday through Friday. They have enough things that separate them from their children. They don't want to leave them home on Friday night. Our movement must adapt to the needs of modern families. Try new ways to include children at your Action Group meetings. Let us know what works.

We are not done yet. There is still no other movement like CFM. The world needs our witness to the joy that comes from the committed life. Our children will grow up to be better people from the experience of being part of the Christian Family Movement.

—John

*John and Lauri Przybysz live in Severna Park, Maryland, and have been active CFM members since 1980. They are the parents of six children and five grandchildren.*



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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](mailto: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

### Saying "No"



Have you said "No" to your child lately? I'm sure there have been many times that you have needed to say no about requests your child has made. Do you say "no" and follow through? When he asks to stay out late, when he cries for something or begs at a store, when he wants to watch a certain TV show or play a video game when you know he has homework or a chore to do, when he asks to go to a friend's house or out to a mall or just out to play, when he asks to stay up later or have a snack when he shouldn't, when he says his friends can and why can't he, do you as a parent have the strength to say "No"?

You do build character in you child when he accepts your "no" even though it means a sacrifice on his part. It's often hard for a child to accept "no" without an argument. Do you remember to compliment him when he does accept your "no" the first time? It is very important that you do so, because it will be important for him to remember the skill the next time he needs it. Children don't always accept the fact that parents know what is best for them. They need to learn through experience and accept the fact that parents usually say "no" for a good reason. Ethics, money, time, health and safety are often the reason for the "no," and the occasion can be an excellent "teachable moment."

We hate to hurt our children's feelings and we want them to be

happy, but giving in to their every wish does not help them to grow up to be good citizens and parents themselves. Some self-denial will help them cope better with our materialistic society. Most of us know we can't have everything we want. Children have a hard time learning this, but it's necessary for parents to teach them. In addition to saying "no" when it's appropriate, it can be helpful to verbalize when you're saying "no" to yourself, for example when you choose not to buy an item that you'd like to have.

Count how many times you say no as a parent. If it's too often, you need to examine why. Perhaps you need to talk to your child about this. Kids need to understand if you don't have the money or if a certain friend is not a good influence on them or if what they want to know is not safe or good for their health. Giving a "why" after you say no is important. Don't repeat your "why" answer. Once is enough.

I know that all this is easier said than done. But keep trying and remember you are building character in your child. Perhaps you might tell him that Jesus is proud of him when he obeys his parents. You'd be surprised at what a little help from God can do! So pray too that your "no's" are accepted in a thoughtful, kind, and understanding way.

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

# Global Family Night

by Mary East

St. Mary Student Parish, Ann Arbor, Mich.

Our CFM group staged a Global Banquet for our families (CFM Program Booklet: *Building a Better World*, 2003, Chapter 7, pp. 45-50) but made it a more realistic experience by involving housing and employment scenarios as well the meal.

We looked through old *National Geographic* magazines and picked out articles on three families to exemplify three levels of need: one was a family of French aristocrats (Vol. 176, page 80); one was a family from Estonia (Vol. 178, page 6) and the third was a family of Kurds (Vol. 182, page 32).

After all our CFM families had arrived at the home of the hosts, one parent set the stage by reading a story from a picture book about people who have challenges meeting their daily needs. Then we shared the magazine photos of the three "families" we would be forming that night. We described the part of the world each of these families lived in and the circumstances that challenge them. We then invited participants to draw "identities" from a basket, making sure that all the "parents'" roles would go to children, who would then be in charge of solving the problems presented to the families.

The French aristocrats moved to the dining room; the Estonians gathered in the front living room, and the Kurds repaired to the deck outside the family room. Each group reviewed their magazine article to understand the lifestyle of their new family.

The first scenario was about housing. The Kurds were given only a few blankets for shelter. At first, they gave the blankets to those who said they were cold, but eventually realized they could all huddle together under the blankets



and keep warm. The Estonians were told their roof was leaking and they had no money to repair it. They made a house out of chairs and formed a new roof with a blanket. The French were invited to remodel the castle. They rearranged some of the chairs and draped tablecloths over the windows. We then gathered the three families and visited each location so each could relate how they had solved their problem.

The second scenario was about employment. The Kurds were told that there were no jobs for them because they were Kurds. They explored options of how to survive when there are no jobs: begging, stealing, asking for aid, hunting, and fishing. The Estonians were told that the father had broken his leg and could no longer work. They sent their teenager to work, realizing that that meant he had to leave

school. The French were invited to celebrate because the father had been elected mayor. Then we visited each location to learn what had happened to each family.

Then we gave each family a card describing their meal for the day. The Kurds received a pot of rice and beans with paper plates but no silverware or water and had to eat sitting on the floor of the family room. The Estonians were sent to the kitchen and to help themselves to spaghetti with sauce and bread. They ate off paper plates with plastic silverware and had water to drink at the kitchen table. The French family was served a nice dinner of salad, quiche Lorraine and ratatouille on china, with crystal and silverware and apple juice to drink. Initially all the families ate separately, but soon the French family brought salad and the Estonians brought bread to the Kurds. The Kurds realized the Estonians had no vegetables and shared their salad. The Estonians



saw the Kurds had nothing to drink and shared their water, and then the French brought their apple juice.

Gradually, everyone gathered with the Kurds in the family room and the meals were all combined. We talked about how it felt to share and how it felt to receive the gifts and be able to share in turn. Some of the adults described insights they had gained about how difficult it is to know how to help those in need. We asked the children who were

## From the National Chaplain

by Father Don Conroy



### Parenting for the Future: The Essential Ingredient

The world, as we know it, is changing quickly. **Thomas L. Freidman**, economist and *New York Times* columnist, has written a blockbuster book on our interconnected world and how to survive changing conditions.

In *The World is Flat* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2005) Freidman attempts to explain how we can't sit on the side lines, but must get involved in the game. If our country is to survive economically and culturally, we need to deal with a "flat" world. In a nutshell, we can no longer complacently live on the top of the economic mountain. Through new technologies, especially the internet, developed and developing countries share a "flat" or level playing field on which we all must compete successfully or perish.

After analyzing how this state of affairs came about, Friedman offers five points of advice. The first four don't surprise me. They include a new style of leadership, stronger life-long employability, key social safety nets, and social

"parents" of the families how it felt to be responsible for their families. After the initial burst of discussion, watched the video *Affluenza*. The video is a PBS program on the high social and environmental costs of overconsumption and materialism that we borrowed from the library. The evening ended with families visiting and kids playing but we

activism within corporations. It was the fifth that jumped out at me!

This world-class corporate economist has zeroed in on the need for better, more responsible and effective parenting. He is certain that this can't be left to government or big corporations. The indulgent, hands-off style of many American parents won't cut the mustard any more. If we are to survive and prosper, we must do a better job of parenting.

Freidman explains that parents must wake up to "know in what [kind of] world their kids are growing up and what it will take for them to thrive." Then he puts it on the line: "Put simply, we need a new generation of parents to administer tough love: There comes a time when you've got to put away the Game Boys, turn off the television set, put away the iPod, and get your kids down to work." Wow!

We North Americans have gotten used to being the dominant global commercial and political (and maybe sports) power. We have

felt closer to each other because of the shared experience, impressed with how well our children had solved problems, and closer to those in the world who have unmet needs.

[Thanks to group leaders **Karen Burnard** and **Michael Jackson** for inviting Mary to write this article.  
—ACT ed.]

come to have a sense of entitlement. All we need to do is to sit on our backsides and wait for the world to come to us.

No longer. In the new "flat" and level interconnected world we can get by-passed and considered no longer relevant.

Our sense of invincibility and entitlement has fooled us. We think we'll always be on "top of the world cultural, economic and power" pyramid! This gives us a false sense of security when it gets down to the nuts and bolts of survival.

The next generation must be better educated, have a deeper sense of social justice, and more adaptable to the new "operating reality" of the planet.

The difference is what I call "parenting for the future."

Freidman ends with a punch. He explains that we have come to think "that delayed gratification is a punishment worse than spanking. The sense that our kids have to be swaddled in cotton wool so that nothing bad or disappointing or stressful ever happens to them at school is, quite simply, a growing cancer on American society."

Do you think that contemporary parents are up to the task?

*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

### What do you see?

Early in the years of the Industrial Revolution, some workers wanted to complain that their factory was unsafe. A Belgian priest, Canon Joseph Cardijn, insisted that the workers first must return to the factory and to write down what they could see.

Cardijn did not want the workers to make a judgment about the factory without having the facts to back it up.

So the workers went to the factory and reported what they could see. A metal machine guard was missing, exposing gears that could catch the clothing or flesh of a worker. Oil dripped on the floor, making it slippery.

Facts gave substance to the workers' conclusions: exposed gears and a slippery floor were the facts to support their claim that the factory was dangerous.

Cardijn's simple method did not stop with the first two segments. If a person can only say, "the factory is unsafe," there's not a lot anyone can do about it. But if a person can say, "the gears are exposed and the floor is slippery," both worker and employer can see what actions can be taken to make the factory safer.

Cardijn's approach to factory safety is the same approach members of the Christian Family Movement and other groups around the world use to guide their lives — at home, at work, in the neighborhood and in the world.

### • *Observe the world around you.*

The world around you might be within the walls of your home, or within the relationship you have with your spouse, or with a child, or with a friend.

When you examine your home, what do you see?

Do you see people who love each other? Who share meals and prayers and hopes? Or do you see strangers growing apart in separate rooms?

What do you see in your neighborhood? Do you see neighbors who know and care about each other? Or do you see doors and windows closed to the sights and sounds of other people?

What do you see in society? Do you see fair laws, equal justice and respect for life? Or do you see some members of society exploiting others?

### • *Judge what you see in the light of Gospel teaching.*

When you see what you see, does it conform to Gospel teaching? How would Jesus view what you are seeing?

### • *Act to make the world better.*

If you judge that Jesus would not approve of what you are seeing, take the time to make a difference. By careful observation of the world, or just a tiny portion of it, you already know how you can make the world better.



What's heaven like? We ask our theologians. Heaven will include the "beatific vision."

Paul's first letter to the Corinthians reminds us that we can see now only dimly, but "when the perfect comes," we will see "face to face."

Matthew's Gospel tells us the "poor in spirit" will have "the kingdom of heaven" and the "pure in heart . . . shall see God."

Matthew also tells us that it is Jesus who gives us the power to see. Jesus asks two blind men, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to him, "Yes, Lord." Then he touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it done to you." And their eyes were opened.



Now is the time to pray for the gift of seeing God — dimly at first, but eventually face-to-face — in the members of our family, and in our neighbor, the sick, the imprisoned, the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger.

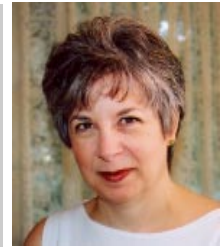
Now is the time to see with the eyes of Jesus, and to do what Jesus would do — to bring about the kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

*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

## To Enrich Marriage, Nourish Friendship



Autumn gardens reveal how we have tended them during the growing months. If we have been attentive—watering, feeding, putting up little weeds—our autumn garden is still beautiful and lush. If we have forgotten the garden, it will show the pitiful lack of care we have taken. Your marriage is like a garden. It will thrive if you care for it, nurturing your relationship and making room for God. It is good to be reminded, now and then.

You can nourish your marriage by remembering to be a friend. Accept one another's imperfections, and don't feel threatened if your spouse's opinions and tastes sometimes differ from your own. Give each other space. We are entitled to our private feelings and thoughts. Friends who try to invade the inner space of one another risk destroying the relationship. Permit your spouse to be himself. Accept her as she is. Be grateful for what is there, not annoyed by what your spouse can't give.

Be ready to give and to receive. Be eager to help and able to ask for help as well. But don't be over demanding or let yourself be used. Make your advice constructive. When your spouse needs to talk, listen without interruption. If advice is asked for, be positive and supportive. Be loyal. It means "being with" your spouse in bad times as well as good. It means honoring confidence. It means neither disparaging your spouse in her absence nor allowing others to do so.

Give praise and encouragement. Tell your spouse what you like about him, how thankful you are for her presence in your life. Delight in his talents, applaud his successes. Treat your spouse as your equal. In true friendship, there is no number one, no room for showing off how smart and successful you are, no room for envy, or for feeling superior or inferior.

Act. Attend or host a marriage enrichment program such as a "Date Night," complete with snacks and babysitting. Have couples gather for cocktails and a brief presentation, about 45 minutes in all. After this, the couple leaves on a date to talk about what they have learned.

### *Presentation Ideas for Date Nights*

- Listen to a portion of the great audio CD by Dr. James Healy, "How to Get Married and Stay Engaged". When you order it from [www.rootedinlove.org](http://www.rootedinlove.org) or call 815-741-5188, ask for the discussion guide that accompanies it (or call me for a copy, 410-547-5420).
- Any chapter of the CFM program book *Your Marriage, the Great Adventure* could be a nice evening enrichment activity. Do the Prayer and Observes in the gathering and take the Judge questions on your date with you. You can purchase the book for \$7 or request it as your member program.

*The space between  
spouses  
is potentially  
sacred space*

*waiting to be filled  
with marital kindness,  
attention,  
responsiveness, caring,  
service, passion,  
enthusiasm, fidelity,  
patience  
and forgiveness.*

*When filled  
with virtues  
appropriate  
to marriage,*

*that space is indeed  
filled with God*

**David Thomas**

*Written on Scrolls,  
Inscribed in Hearts*

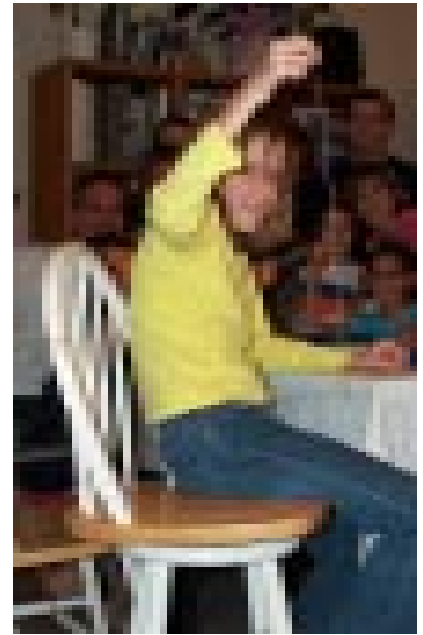
Abbey Press, 1989).

*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

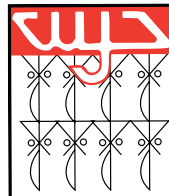


The three groups (25 families) of St. Anthony CFM, Pewaukee, Wisc., enjoyed a pool party last summer. Among their continuing action projects is to serve meals to parents and children participating in a "parenting through depression" support group and to visit with the children as the parents attend their sessions.



The CFM families of St. Anne, Gilbert, Ariz., gathered for dinner and to make bead necklaces to support cancer research. Photo courtesy of Chris and Kelly Sarotte.

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