



Vol 58 • No. 8
December 2005-
January 2006

*Invest in the future
of CFM:
Donor envelope
inside*

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Christian Family Movement

Plans for the 2007 ICCFM World Assembly

by Tony and Lily Gauci, Malta

The International Confederation of Christian Family Movements will hold its thirteenth General Assembly and tenth World Assembly July 25-7, 2007 in Fatima, Portugal.

A committee from CFM Portugal met with Antonio and Maria Celeste Moniz, president couple of the Christian Home Movement (a member of ICCFM), Parede, Portugal, Nop and Elma Muangaroot of Bangkok, Thailand, and ourselves to plan the program.

Reservations have been made for meeting rooms and for clean but rather Spartan accommodations in a local convent only a minute away from the shrine. We have reserved 64 double rooms in one building and 34 in another through the Rector of Fatima. Hotels are also available.

For those who wish, there will be time during the assembly for an optional tour of Coimbra where Lucia de Jesus Santos lived in the Carmelite convent of St. Teresa until her death on February 13 of this year. Lucia was one of the three visionaries of Fatima. Her cousins Jacinta and Francesco Marta died in

the flu pandemic of 1918-9. They were beatified by John Paul II on May 13, 2000. Their cause for canonization is pending. The Holy Father is expected to go to Fatima for that ceremony.

A ten-day optional tour of Portugal and Spain and possibly Lourdes, France is being planned for those who have time for a more extensive trip. Details will be available when plans are finalized.

This will be an anniversary year at Fatima: Lucia was born one hundred years ago (1907) and the first apparition was 90 years ago (1917). A new church of the Holy Trinity is being built, and the plan is to dedicate it in 2007. The Holy Father hopes to go to Fatima for the canonization of Jacinta and Francesco.

A tentative conference program is outlined [on page 7]. Further details will be made available on the ICCFM website as they become available.

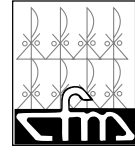
If you would like to be among the delegates of CFM-US to the assembly, please contact the national office.

—continued on page 5



Presidents' Perspective

by John and Lauri Przybysz



ACT is published up to eight times a year by the Christian Family Movement.

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

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

Vitality through New Growth

The Christian Family Movement sustains its vitality by constantly bringing in new members. All of us need to keep inviting new people to join.

At this time of year, you may look around your Action Group and miss seeing some friends from last year. Take the opportunity to add some fresh faces to your group.

CFM's method is to observe the world around us, judge what we see in the light of Christ's teaching, and act to change the world for the better. Over the years, many of our members have gotten caught up in an action and have found a new calling. Often this new calling becomes their main mission in life. People leave CFM in order to devote full time to serve God's people in a new way. That is a good thing.

CFM builds lay leaders. Look around your church and local community. You will see many leaders who first discovered their call to ministry in CFM.

It is a statistical fact that the average family stays in CFM three years. So we need to replace about a third of our members every year. Lots of groups face the same challenge and manage to prosper. For nearly 100 years, the Boy Scouts have successfully recruited new boys to replace those who have grown into young men. We can do it too.

Many families stay with CFM for decades. Lauri and I have been in CFM for 25 years, and it has been a great blessing for us and for our children. Most national board members have also been called to long commitment to CFM. But we are exceptions to the rule. Most of the friends that we have made in CFM have gone on to other callings. They still serve the Lord, but in different ways.

Most people join CFM because somebody gives them a personal invitation. That is how we joined. In 25 years, we have only had one family join because they read an announcement in the church bulletin and decided to attend a CFM event. The rest have joined because someone in our group invited them.

Every group should have the rule, "New people are always welcome." It is basic Christian hospitality to welcome newcomers. As Jesus said, "Freely you have received, freely give." (Matthew 10:8)

Give the gift of CFM to someone you know. Take a chance. Open up your heart. Make someone new feel welcome.

—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.

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.

Observe, ...Did you say "Judge"? ...and Act

by Kathleen Miller
Editor

"Observe, judge, and act" is the animating method of CFM, and the middle word sometimes surprises sweet polite tolerant Christians.

Especially this year, when our program book is based on the Gospel of Mark, the gospel where Jesus emphatically isn't "nice" and where he demonstrates tough manly love as the model for leadership, it's a good idea to look at that word "judge" with some sober judgment.

It's important not to confuse "judgmental" (unfair or unjust condemnation of a person) with judgment, a necessary and rational assessment of ideas or actions. Our scriptures, and the teaching of the church, give us the tools to tell the difference between right and wrong, the difference between wise and stupid, and the difference between beauty and garbage.

Wise judgment is based on knowledge. We can't fully know the state of another person's soul, so obviously we can't judge a person. Fortunately, Jesus himself is the judge of the living and the dead.

But we CAN know the effects of society's conditions and people's actions, and as Christians we have a responsibility to keep our heads on our shoulders and to stand up for what we know is right and good. When we observe what IS, judge situations in light of the Gospel, and act energetically as followers of Jesus, we truly make a difference.

Parent to Parent

by Mary Lou Gorman



Faith, Hope, and Charity

We all need reminders about teaching our children what really matters. An easy short list of true priorities is "faith, hope, and charity." The wise parent seems to effortlessly model *faith* in many ways. Some good examples are going to church, remembering to pray at mealtimes, expressing to children how much Jesus loves them, and praying with them at bedtime.

We must also teach them to *be hopeful* no matter what comes their way. Express hope in your own life and let them know that being hopeful is good. It's a positive reaction to good things we want to come our way. Hope inspires others to be hopeful too. If there were no hope, this world would be pretty

dismal. There is even hope to be found in hardship, since "God works all things to good" (Romans 8:28).

Charity reminds us to teach them to love and be generous. Love needs to be expressed in the home and charitable giving should be encouraged. Sensitivity to the needs of others, and sharing what we have with others should be encouraged. Faith, hope, and charity are gifts from God, so parents should teach their children how to use them and how to grow in character through their exercise.

Mary Lou and Phil Gorman, Arlington Heights, members of CFM since 1953, have four daughters and 14 grandchildren.

Members of St. Jane Frances CFM, Pasadena, Md, walked in the Cure Autism Now October walkathon at FedEx Field in Washington, D.C., to raise funds for research.

Dave and Christine Ambrose organized the group's action.

One of 165 babies born in the US is affected by autism. For more information and ways to help, visit www.cureautismnow.org.



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Butch and Linda Feulner
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and Bernie Skeldon
Fred and Julia Berning

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John and Patricia Ciprian
John and Marilou Ciprian

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anniversary and 15 years in CFM
Jim and Rosemarie Fagan

In memory of
Mary Pat Mariner
Phil and Mary Lou Gorman

In honor of Father Sam Palmer
Ed and Sheila Osterhaus

In memory of Jim Quinlan
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*We keep thanking
and we remember
for we constantly
before our God
of the way you are
and laboring
and showing
in our Lord*

—1 Thessa



*Chris
Family M
Honor Roll*

October 1, 2004—





Catholic Movement of Donors

October 15, 2005

God for all of you
you in our prayers,
tly are mindful
d and Father
proving your faith,
ng in love,
nstantcy of hope
Jesus Christ
lonians 1:2-3—

Mary Ann Stowell
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In honor of Father Sam Palmer
Father William Eckert

In honor of
Chuck and Jan Rogers
John and Barbara Dolan

On the occasion of the birthday of
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Phil and Mary Lou Gorman

In memory of Harriet Grenier
Rosemary Schmitt

In memory of Miriam Trosclair and
Rocco Andriello
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John and Lauri Przybysz
Terry and Jean Smith
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In honor of
Bro. Bruno Nemcosky
Gary and Kay Aitchison

In memory of
Dorothy Borchard
David Borchard

In memory of Jerry Prete
Anne Prete

In honor of
the 50th anniversary of the ordination
of Msgr. Charles Vella

Gary and Kay Aitchison
Peter and Carolyn Broeren
Wayne and Susan Hamilton
Paul and Jane Leingang
Father Sam Palmer



*We are also grateful
to those who have
remembered CFM
in their wills.*

ICCFM World Assembly

July 25-29 2007

General Theme

The Legacy of Fatima to the Family: Spirituality and Sacrifice

Wednesday, July 25

Registration, welcome by ICCFMM representatives
Welcome by civil and ecclesiastical authorities
Main address and Dinner

Thursday, July 26

Holy Eucharist (celebrated in Portuguese)
Panel: Prayer as God's Presence in the Family
Panel: *Mary's Family and Her role in our Family*
Mary as wife and mother, as disciple of Christ;
Mary and immigrants

Workshops
Panel: *Marriage as total self-giving*
Entertainment

Friday, July 27

Holy Eucharist (celebrated in English)
Panel: *Youths in Family, Society, and Church*
Workshops
Panel: *Sin and social evil; Christian hope*
Sightseeing in Coimbra (Optional)
Visit the first university of Portugal;
see the burial site of Lucia, Fatima visionary

Saturday, July 28

Holy Eucharist (celebrated in Spanish)
Reports and discussion from the floor
Round Table of CFM past presidents

Reports by International President Team
Continental reports: Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America,
North America, Oceania.
Candlelight procession

Sunday, July 29

Reports of Special Committee: U.N. – New York and Vienna; Vatican
Election of International President Couple
Short addresses
Rosary and Solemn Closing Eucharist
at the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Fatima

Wayside Action Update

CFM of Our Lady of the Wayside parish, **Arlington Heights, Ill**, recently helped a family evacuated from New Orleans because of Hurricane Katrina [see *ACT*, October, 2005].

"It was overwhelming to experience the support of the Wayside CFM," said **Joanne Masters**. "Within two weeks we were able to furnish a home." CFMers and other Wayside parishioners donated bedding, furniture and other necessities after a brief announcement at the first leaders meeting.

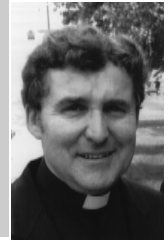
The family will soon return to Louisiana to reconstruct their home, which suffered significant water damage and even more devastating mold damage, only partially covered by insurance. They'll need to remove furniture and tear out wall board and insulation. The family will keep furniture and household goods donated by CFM, and funds collected by CFM will pay for transport to Metairie. Action leaders **Jim and Christine Thomas** are coordinating efforts to store items until the home is ready.

Each family member has repeatedly expressed thanks to CFM for help in their time of serious need. They feel overwhelmed by the generosity of people they didn't even know.

Joanne commented, "It was good to help them while they were here, but it was also impressive to see them motivated to move on. The generosity of the local community gave them back their faith in humanity and a positive outlook on the world. It made them see that people want to help."

From the National Chaplain

by Father Don Conroy



The Internet, the Family, and the Gospel

The Internet is a fascinating but intrusive reality in my life. Daily it becomes more and more unavoidable.

Though I might wish to rely on simpler, earlier forms of communicating and keeping track of life, the Internet, like telegraph, telephone, radio and television, is here to stay.

A new parochial vicar recently joined me at Holy Family Parish and already he has his own website (thepunkpriest.com). Daily he communicates through e-mail with a wide range of young people. With him, it seems effortless, while I can barely manage to keep up with the sheer volume of stuff coming to my in-box.

As I contemplate plans a new website for the parish, about to celebrate our 150th anniversary. I reflect on how our parish was founded on the new technology of its day, namely the railroad, led to the founding of our Catholic community in western Pennsylvania as it opened the west.

We enter the 21st century with technologies and means of communication unimagined in the era of railroad and telegraph. This has vast implications for spreading the Gospel as well as for keeping in touch between generations and building family life.

Recently, I came across two documents from the Pontifical

Council for Social Communications. One was a document on the Internet and ethics; the other is entitled "The Church and Internet." I was surprised to find these messages which were issued under the authority of Archbishop John Foley, an American who heads up the Vatican communications office. They are very readable and rather helpful for sorting out my thoughts. They gave me a handle on how to use this new way of communicating in my daily life and my ministry with families.

The first, called "Ethics in Internet," presents an overview of

*we have a wonderful
new way to expand
the potential
for creativity
and good.*

how to approach a value-centered or ethical way of dealing with the Internet and information technology in this strange new world. Getting to the heart of the matter, it notes: "...the person and the community of persons are central to ethical evaluation of the Internet." Key to everything is the principle: "...the human person and human community are the end and measure of the use of the media." This ethical reflection is important as we use this powerful and personal way of connecting with people in our families or with the wider world community.

The Internet, moreover, has several striking features. One is its egalitarian nature so that "anyone with the necessary equipment and a modest technical skill can be an active presence in cyberspace, declare his or her message to the world, and demand a hearing." Used responsibly for the building up of human relationships in your own family or the human family we have a wonderful new way to expand the potential for creativity and good.

As when the printing press made it possible for everyone to have access to the Bible, we now have exciting new possibilities for spreading the Good News. Back in the 16th century, many people, especially those in charge, often worried that some people would misinterpret the scriptures, and some did. But others saw great potential for good. These were the ones who wrote the catechism, edited the missal, and published volumes stored in formerly only in manuscript form.

Today we—you and I—have a choice. With God's grace and a hopeful attitude we can use this great advance in communications for the good of civilization and the spread of values so needed by a new generation.

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

Let's celebrate 'Family Day'

If you type in "family dinner" to do a Google search on the Internet, you get more than 16 million results. Many of the entries are about the importance of the family dinner — while acknowledging that it is rapidly becoming a nostalgic topic instead of a daily reality. The topic seems to be everywhere.

An excellent commentary in the *Wall Street Journal*, July 29, was entitled, "Much Depends on Dinner." The author, **Cameron Stracher**, stated that "we are a nation of take-outers, and drive-throughers, eating our meals on the go, dining by ourselves and laughing alone." In his opinion, "The family dinner has become an endangered species, the victim of our own ingenuity and productivity."

Stracher observes society at large and his own family in particular. He noted that the easier it is to pick up or microwave something, the less likely we are to share our meals with others. And he acknowledged that his own schedule — arriving home at 7:30 or 8 p.m. each night of the work-week — was not compatible with the schedule of meals and bedtime for his young children.

Most disturbing, though, was another reason for the decline in shared mealtimes, one rarely spoken about: Parents don't want to eat with their children.

Stracher quoted Arlie Russell Hochschild, in a 1997 book, *The*

Time Bind. Many men, according to that author, would rather stay at the office than come home to deal with a six-year-old having a temper tantrum. And even in families where both parents are at home, they often wait to have dinner until after the kids are in bed. One mother was quoted as saying, "It's just not fun to eat with them."

Stracher's commentary — and many Internet items — include disturbing statistics. Odds of being overweight were greater among kids who seldom or never ate with their families. Teens that never ate dinner with their family were 72 percent more likely to use illegal drugs, cigarettes and alcohol.

Even beyond the disturbing statistics, to my way of thinking, is the reasoning offered by Stracher in the following paragraph.

Dinner "is like a formal poem, with a fixed meter and time. It can't be hastened by new technology or e-mailed as an attachment to our kitchens. Instead, it's one of the few opportunities for conversation in a noisy world, a place to take a slower measure of our frenzied days. By missing mealtime, we are missing a substantial part of our children's lives. Sooner than we realize, they will not be at our table. Sooner than that, they will not want to have anything to do with us."



An organization known as CASA, the National Center on

Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, created "Family Day — A Day to Eat Dinner with Your Children," on the fourth Monday in September (Sept. 26 this year).

CASA publications include the following list of seven "Family Dining Do's."

- ◆ Use Sunday as the day to pick several nights during the upcoming week when the entire family can eat together. Make the best attempt to stick to the schedule.
- ◆ Encourage your children to create menu ideas and participate in meal preparation.
- ◆ Turn off the TV and let your answering machine take care of incoming calls.
- ◆ Talk about what happened in everyone's day: school, work, extracurricular activities or current events.
- ◆ Establish a routine to start and end each meal. Say grace, light candles or tell a story. Eat desert or play a board game after dinner to continue the conversation.
- ◆ Keep conversations positive and make sure everyone gets a chance to speak.
- ◆ Start the pattern of family dinners when children are young.

For more information about Family Day, visit www.CASAFamilyDay.org.

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.

We all know couples who are getting divorced. They may be people who have struggled with serious abuse or violence in their marriages. More often than not, though, these divorcing couples seemed to have pretty good marriages, as far as we could determine. They looked a lot like us. They seemed to just drift apart. Seeing them break up is frightening. Could it happen to us?

What is the source of the strength of our marriage? What has kept us together?

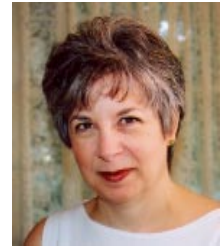
Are there tangible steps we can take to make our relationship rock-solid? In his new book, *The Power of Commitment: A Guide to Active, Lifelong Love*, **Scott Stanley**, best-selling marriage expert, reveals that the secret ingredient for finding lasting love is understanding commitment. Too often, men and women find themselves in half-committed, *Maybe I Do*, relationships that lead to frustration, sadness, and, in many cases, divorce. But it doesn't have to be this way.

Stanley speaks of our marriage vows, our commitment, as a boundary that is made around *me* and *you*, creating *US*. "In great marriages, you will clearly see that this third identity is nurtured, protected, and enjoyed." This boundary protects our marriage and gives us the freedom to really explore the full potential as individuals and as a couple. With other partners, other options, "off the table" we are free to set our sights on working to make our marriage successful.

We value lifelong devotion, loyalty, teamwork, and building

Your Marriage: The Great Adventure

by Lauri Przybysz



"Committed to Us"

a lasting vision for the future. Stanley offers a five-step plan (based on his groundbreaking marital research and uniquely spiritual approach) for understanding commitment, including learning to handle the pressures of everyday life, moving through the pain of unfulfilled dreams and hopes, overcoming attraction to others that might endanger a marriage, transforming your thinking from "me

With other partners, other options, "off the table" we are free to set our sights on working to make our marriage successful.

versus you" to "we" and "us." The book also includes frank discussions of myths and pitfalls of the cultural trends toward premarital cohabitation and the search for a soul mate. It has been called one of the finest books on divorce prevention ever written.

Have a Vision for Your Marriage. Much is at stake, not just for you personally or for just the two of you. "Good marriages result in better opportunities for children, better social connection among adults, family financial security, and fewer risks for mental health problems, better physical health, and even more satisfying sex." We need to be realistic about our

marriages, but still have a vision of our marriage for the future. We need to imagine how we will be when we have grown old together. Imagine "sending me a valentine, birthday greetings, bottle of wine"—you get the picture. This vision helps us maintain our dedication to each other.

Sharing your vision and dreams for the future with your spouse is a very intimate endeavor. Stanley cautions us to treat our mate's dreams as something precious and his sharing as the great gift of trust that it is. For this conversation, agree to some simple ground rules respecting each other's revelations and keep conflict issues off-limits.

Act to Nurture Marriage

- ◆ Take a walk together or plan a quiet dinner for two or an evening out. You may want to make time for such a "dream date" on a regular basis.
- ◆ Think of ways you can encourage your spouse in making one of his dreams come true.
- ◆ Share this book with dating, engaged, newlywed and not-so-newlywed couples.

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

On Sunday, Oct.23, *The Des Moines Register* carried an article about former national chaplain **Father Sam Palmer** and his battle with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease. Father Sam has been feeling effects of his disease, which was diagnosed in 2004, in his legs. He has recently begun to celebrate Mass at St. Pius Catholic Church from a wheelchair. The article quotes 20-year-old parishioner **Mary Sue Lone** as saying, "The way Father Sam has faced his illness is quite an inspiration to the parish. He bears this cross with humility, and he hasn't lost his sense of humor." Father Sam tries to be as independent as possible. He has had his car altered for hand controls so he can continue to drive. He has obtained permission from the diocese to celebrate Mass in his home when he is

unable to travel to the parish due his health or weather concerns. Father Sam has been a life-long promoter of CFM and the **observe, judge, act** method.

Friends may contact Father Sam at 3105 67th St., Des Moines, IA 50322.

CFM member **Sandy Hoenig** of **Ames, Iowa**, has published the book *Joy of Forgiveness*. For information, visit the www.joyofforgiveness.com.

Ed and Donna Leeds, former CFMers from St. Gabriel in **Poway, Calif.**, have started a CFM group at St. Mary Parish in **Johnson City, Tenn.**

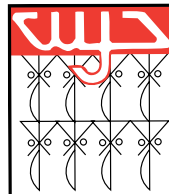
Matthew and Janice Bross, formerly of St. Theodore Parish in **Wentzville, Mo.**, requested new books for their group which they formed in **Beaconsfield, England**.

Matthew has been working for a telecommunications company there.

Past Presidents Jane and Peter Buchbauer will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary December 26.



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