

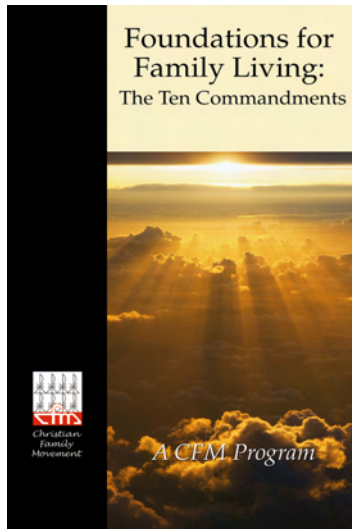


The Online Newsletter of the Christian Family Movement

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What's next for CFM? 2010 program, *Foundations of Family Living*, features the Ten Commandments

Members of the Christian Family Movement, in their action groups, parishes and homes, will study, pray and act to make a difference as they reflect on the Ten Commandments in the coming program year.



The Ten Commandments can be a fruitful source of reflection and action for Christians. Pope Benedict XVI spoke of the Ten Commandments while visiting the Jewish Community at the Grand Synagogue in Rome in January 2010. During his visit, the Holy Father reflected on the centrality of the Ten Commandments, often called the Decalogue, as a common ethical message of permanent value for all God's people.

In his speech, the pope stated: "To witness that the family continues to be the essential cell of society and the basic environment in which human virtues are learned and practiced is a precious service offered in the construction of a world with a more human face." Next year, CFM groups will plan concrete ways to put the virtues of the Ten Commandments into action in their homes, parishes and communities.

The pope said the Ten Commandments or Decalogue (which come from the Bible in Exodus 20:1-17; Deuteronomy 5:1-21) is "a guiding star of faith and morals for the people of God, and it also enlightens and guides the path of Christians. It constitutes a beacon and a norm of life in justice and love, a 'great ethical code' for all humanity." He noted that "Jesus himself recalled this frequently, underlining the need for active commitment in living the way of the Commandments: 'If you wish to enter into life, observe the Commandments' (Matthew 19:17)."

From this perspective, Pope Benedict saw three areas in which the Ten Commandments instruct and inspire both Christians and Jews to take action for the Kingdom of God:

1. We are called to recognize one Lord. "Reawakening in our society openness to the transcendent dimension, witnessing to the one God, is a precious service which Jews and Christians can offer together."

2. We are called to respect life and to protect it against every injustice and abuse, recognizing that each person is created in the image and likeness of God. “Bearing witness together to the supreme value of life against all selfishness is an important contribution to a new world where justice and peace reign, a world marked by that ‘shalom’ which the lawgivers, the prophets and the sages of Israel longed to see.”

3. We are to preserve and to promote the sanctity of the family, “in which the personal and reciprocal, faithful and definitive ‘Yes’ of man and woman makes room for the future, for the authentic humanity of each, and makes them open, at the same time, to the gift of new life.”

The Ten Commandments call us to honor God and family commitments, leading to peace in the community and salvation of our souls. Anchored as they are in right relationships in the family, the Ten Commandments offer a fruitful context for CFMers to learn how to better put their faith in action. All members are encouraged to renew their memberships for the coming year and invite more families to join their groups.

Called to Wisdom: New Meeting Resource for Veteran Groups Continues to Grow

Called to Wisdom, a new series of CFM meeting chapters being developed for members in the second half of family life, has become a popular program resource since its inaugural meeting, “The Empty Nest,” was featured in December ACT. Veteran CFMer Jule Ward has worked with her Chicago-area group, in coordination with the national CFM program committee, to write and pilot these meeting resources.

Now two more chapters are available. You may request them by contacting the national office. Current CFM members: Please call 812-962-5508 or email office@cfm.org for the meetings, including opening and closing prayers, Scripture reflections, and Observes, Judges, and Action ideas. CFM is for families at every life stage!

- **Chapter 2: “For Better or Worse, but not for Lunch: If Absence Makes the Heart Grow Fonder, What about Presence?”**

From the Social Inquiry: Each spouse cherishes retirement dreams, like travel, pursuit of a favorite leisure pastime, perhaps moving to a new location, but the linchpin is more time for each other. They will be able to share all three meals together. Gone will be the cup of coffee grabbed on the way out the door, the dinners interrupted by fidgeting babies and/or disputing teenagers. Then, one day this reality arrives.

- **Chapter 3: “Opportunities for Service: Closed Doors, Open Windows”**

From the Social Inquiry: After years of parenting and employment, we may feel exhausted by the tasks already accomplished, be ready to pitch our tent outside the gates of the city and rest, to take the time to “smell the roses,” so to speak. Surely, we think, it is time for others to build, to shelter the homeless. We have spent our resources for years, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, caring for the sick, and burying our dead. We have devoted hours to counseling the doubtful, instructing the ignorant, forgiving offenses, and bearing wrongs patiently at home and at work. Yet, God beckons us on. The gates stand open. There is work to be done. Which gate will we choose?



ACTION IDEA: Invite some friends over for the evening to try one of the *Called to Wisdom* chapters. They might be couples from your old group that have drifted away or they might be new friends who can experience CFM for the first time. Share the blessing of CFM—Each one, reach one!

PRAYER (from Chapter 2): Dear God, teach us a new song, composed of laughter and tears. Teach us to dance a new dance, moving in rhythm with your plan. Help us to follow your leading, to risk stumbling, to stumble, to laugh, to try again, knowing you are leading the dance. Amen.

Presidents' Perspective by Bob and Anne Tomonto

Summer Mission Plans for CFM and CFMers

The summer months give us an opportunity to look back on the past academic year and look forward to the new academic year. As the hustle and bustle of the kids' day to day activities and demands change, more family time becomes possible, at home and on vacation. Our oldest son, Matt has returned from his first year away as a college freshmen. Academically he did well, and for this we are proud. But more importantly, we recognize the changes in our son, his growth in maturity and sensitivity. We recognize his desire to seek more, to make an impact, to help and be part of the family, and at the same time his need for some level of independence.

This summer we would like to encourage families to reflect on their "family mission plan." What is our mission as parents, what are our goals for our children, our grandchildren and what can we do to accomplish these goals? We hope CFM is part of your mission plan and we hope that CFM is providing the encouragement and support you need as couples and families. CFMers are very special – many of our friends have a real vision of what they need to accomplish in life with their families. These individuals are less concerned about organizational titles and more interested in being a witness. The need to be a witness is not about visibility, as much as it is about being part of the bigger picture – making an impact on others through your actions.

Reflecting on the direction of CFM, we are excited about where CFM has been and where CFM is going. Some highlights:

- This spring, the CFM office participated in the Religious Education Conference in Los Angeles and shared with the attendees the program materials CFM has to offer. Our appreciation goes out to Tom and Laura Toussaint, Dan and Noreen Thomas, John and Mary Poprac, St Lawrence Parish CFM in Redondo Beach, Cal., and Missy and Paul Parkison.
- CFM Executive Director Couple Paul and Missy Parkison are attending the National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers (NACFLM) annual conference to be held at Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio, in June. Paul and Missy are presenting a workshop and staffing a booth.

A Prayer for the Growth of CFM

Lord God, thank you for the Christian Family Movement.

Bless and guide us as we share the gift of CFM with other families, always helping us to know when to speak through words and when through deeds, keeping us always faithful to our mission to promote Christian marriage and family life through loving service and faithful example.

Bless families in every way and surround them with a sense of your mercy and love. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

- CFM has partnered with REACH (Reconstruction Efforts Aiding Children without Homes) to form a build team traveling to Haiti in July to provide shelter for orphans.
- The CFM summer board of directors meeting will be held at St. Meinrad Archabbey in southern Indiana the end of July. We will gather in prayer and grow as a community dedicated to the mission of CFM.
- The 11th World Assembly/15th General Assembly of the International Confederation of Christian Family Movements (ICCFM) will take place in Goa, India in September 2010. Here many of our past and present board members and some other very active CFMers will experience CFM from an international perspective.
- Also in September, representatives of CFM-USA will share with the Pontifical Council for the Family at the Vatican ways the Christian Family Movement helps families fulfill their call to be evangelizers.

Each of these events gathers CFMers from local communities, advancing our common mission and promoting Christian values and morals. Thank you all for standing up and being a witness.

Enjoy the summer months,

Bob and Anne

Bob and Anne Tomonto are members of St. Louis Parish CFM, Miami, Fla.

CFM at the 2010 RECongress: “Incredible Abundance” *submitted by Missy Parkison*



The Christian Family Movement hosted an exhibit booth for the first time this year at the Religious Education Congress hosted by the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. This annual event draws 40,000 Catholics together to celebrate and explore ways to deepen and live their faith.

Executive director couple Paul and Missy Parkison traveled to California to represent CFM alongside local CFM couples from St. Lawrence Martyr parish in Redondo Beach. These local CFMers were fantastic representatives of CFM-USA. The theme of this year’s Congress was “Incredible Abundance,” and the atmosphere in the exhibit hall was certainly charged with faith-filled energy and enthusiasm.

CFMers from all over the country - and beyond - came by our booth to say hello and share stories of how their family has grown in faith through membership in the Christian Family Movement. Those less familiar with CFM were introduced to our process of family faith formation through action and took away some information and review book copies to share with others in their home parishes.

Our invitation to participate in this event provided an opportunity to work on some new promotional material. New brochures show CFMers in action and reflect our mission with the phrase: “Christian Family Movement: Families Sharing Faith in homes, at church, with the world!” If you would like a digital copy of the brochure to print and use locally, please contact the office.

CFMers know the benefits of Observing, Judging, and Acting with other families to make a difference in the world. We hope our work at the Religious Education Congress has advanced our mission by reaching more families directly and through parish ministers and priests.

Family Activity Corner *by Anna Kieliszewski*

Summer, Sun, and Service

Yea! It's summer! It's time to take a break from schedules, school work, and rushing around. The list can go on! I know that the school calendar can feel overwhelming at times. Summer gives us a chance to go to the local swimming pool, go camping, visit with relatives, be on vacation, visit a local museum or just have an impromptu gathering with the neighbors.

What changes for you in the summer? Do you have your dinner outside on your deck or patio? What are your family's summer traditions? How about your faith life? Are you finding time to relax with God? Are you finding the local church when you are on vacation? Can a person on vacation find your church?

In the days of old, most hotels had a list of local churches and times of services. Well, we are finding this not to be true anymore. We were surprised recently that more than one hotel had no idea where the closest Catholic church was, let alone mass times. We looked in the phone book, but found it very confusing. Ok, if I had been better prepared, I would have gone to www.masstimes.org ahead of time. Since I didn't, it took awhile, but we finally found a church.

This experience made me think of my local church. Do we have flyers in the hotels in our area inviting travelers to our parish mass? Maybe your parish has a sign on the highway telling the mass times – I saw this once in Nebraska. How are you welcoming travelers? Maybe this could be a service project for your CFM community. Involve your families. Can you see how exciting it would be for your children to help with this? Think of this as teaching our children another form of evangelization.

What other areas of service could you become involved in this summer? Look around your neighborhood. Is there someone who needs weeds pulled and flowers planted? Is there a shut-in who could use a nice note or visit reminding them that someone cares? We tend to think of service more during Advent or Lent, but Christ calls us into action at all times of the year.

Blessings on your summer days! May they be peaceful, relax-ful, and full of fun!

Ken and Anna Kieliszewski, parents of two children, have been members of CFM at St. Thomas of Villanova Parish, Palatine, Ill., since 2003.

Spiritual Director's Discourse *by Father Tom Rzepiela*

In God's Hands

“Plan to fail. The road to success is not a straight line. Contingency plans give you the mental assurance that you’ll be able to adapt to unexpected crises. Know that it will happen. And when it does, get right back on track, right away. Success comes with persistence – persistence to overcome challenges and persistence to see the big picture.”

Did you read those words in the opening paragraph? Do they make sense to you? Do they help you understand what life is all about? Can you guess who wrote that opening paragraph? Would you believe that it was written by the popular doctor, Dr. Oz? It is taken from a column written by him entitled – “Four Ways to Make Weight Loss Last.” It is the fourth or last way. I believe, however, that these words apply not only to weight loss but also to our lives.

I don’t know any of us who “plan to fail.” No one ever wants to fail! But all of us know what it is like to have things not go exactly the way we want them. Things always go wrong! Little things and big things! And our patience gets tested. What happens is that far too often we think that we are in charge – of our plans, our events, our goals, our spouse, our children – and even ourselves. We forget that it is God who is in charge. Yes, it is our life, but our life is always in God’s hands. Do you remember the saying – “if you want to make God laugh, just tell Him your plans”?

Summertime is here and it is supposed to be a more relaxing time for us as things slow down and we seek to focus more on our family and various summer family activities. Hopefully, you and your family have made some summer plans to vacation, relax, and enjoy the summer sun. And hopefully, your work and parish and volunteer calendars will ease up so that you can spend more time with those you love.

In June, we celebrate Graduations, recognizing achievements and academic and leadership accomplishments. As Dr. Oz wrote – “success comes with persistence.” We also celebrate Father’s Day, often in ways which are less grand than we did for Mother’s Day. But we still celebrate Dad. He is a gift from THE FATHER. He guides us with the firmness and dedication of a faith-filled man who sees and knows a father’s love. He never gives up hope and continues to help us “see the big picture.” And although he may not be as patient as Mom, he has those “contingency plans” which allow us to “adapt to unexpected crises.”

In July, we celebrate “the American holiday.” Over the July Fourth holiday weekend, I encourage you to gather as a family to pray in thanksgiving for the gift of your American freedoms. I am sure that you have some traditions associated with this unique holiday. So enjoy your summer! Make your plans to relax with God, with your family and with yourself. It can truly be a time of great peace and joy with those you love. And just be ready to listen to God laugh – at you and with you!

Father Tom Rzepiela is Pastor of St. Thomas of Villanova Parish, in Palatine, Ill.

Your Marriage the Great Adventure by Lauri Przybysz

Stay in the Game

Many famous people have been caught cheating on their spouses lately. Tiger Woods' fall from grace when his infidelities came to light, his subsequent apologies and return to golf have been examined in gruesome detail. The story sparked a lively debate in the media about the value of marital fidelity and

The Ten Commandments of marriage

St. Edna CFM, Arlington Heights, Illinois

1. Do not go to bed angry. Resolve your differences.
2. Talk to each other and communicate all the time.
3. Love God separately and together.
4. Be an active member of CFM at your parish.
5. Be the person you want to be married to for your spouse.
6. Court your spouse.
7. Tell your spouse you love them each and every day.
8. Forgive each other.
9. Go on dates and play together – especially, but not only, on your anniversary.

character. Where are the role models for faithful, happy marriage?

A different golf star, Phil Mickelson, won the Masters' Tournament this year, and we might learn another marriage lesson from him. Mickelson made marriage news when his wife, who is battling cancer, joyfully welcomed him at the 18th hole in Augusta. Psychologist and pundit, Stanton Peele, reflected on the meaning of their tearful embrace, "For many, the message was, 'there are more important things than golf.' Although I agree with that sentiment, that wasn't the theme of this particular hug. This could be termed the 'I won this out of love for you and because your strength and commitment make me a better human being' hug."

Pro golfers play before huge galleries. People are watching how you "play" your marriage, especially when you are under stress from challenges, great or small.

Knowing that marriage is important to many more people

than just you two can help you work just a little harder at being patient, kind, and understanding of your mate. As Peele told his readers in the Huffington Post (April 12, 2010), "Mickelson played among his best golf ever, at a time when his wife – and he along with her – is suffering. But she – and his love for her – nonetheless made him a better golfer. It may only be golf, but that's what love does."

They say that married couples should lead each other to heaven. This is because each of us can become better people, benefitting from the practice marriage gives us at patience, forgiveness, and humility. Peele took this lesson from the Mickelson's display of affection and commitment: "If a marriage succeeds – and love works – people are made better by the relationship and experience. They improve their dealings with others and the world – as opposed to either getting lost in an intense romance, or being dutifully committed to a routine marriage – and face the world more bravely, fruitfully, and energetically."

You may not be famous (or a great golfer) but you may be the only Good News about marriage that people ever read. Your day-to-day interaction can be a powerful witness to love and fidelity in a world hungry for good examples.

John and Lauri Przybysz live in Severna Park, Md., and have six children and 13 grandchildren. Lauri is coordinator of marriage and family enrichment for the Archdiocese of Baltimore.



Taking the Time to Make a Difference *by Paul R. Leingang*

Along the Property Line: Part II

Earlier this year, I experienced an unforeseen consequence. Or a bad result from a good intention. Or the consequences of Adam's fall.

In any case, I can now report Part II of the experience.

Some weeks ago, I decided to trim back an overgrown hedge along the property line with my next-door neighbor. The fence was less than four feet high; the hedge of euonymous plants had ascended to about 13 feet tall.

My plan was to trim the hedge back, so that it would be at or below the height of the fence. When I did that, though, all that remained along the 25-foot length of fence were four twisted and leaf-less stems of euonymous; all the leafy parts had come from the upper branches up, down and sideways.

So I cut down the plants all the way to the ground. Instead of a fence-high hedge, I have little stubs in bare ground.

The exposed fence had lots of gaps and twists as boards had been forced apart by the growing branches of euonymous.

It seemed only fair to me, that I should offer to re-build the neighbor's fence that had been damaged by my hedge, and then we both would benefit from it.

It was the same kind of idea that led to my cutting back the hedge in the first place. Unforeseen consequences. Good intentions. You get the picture.

I removed a few of the crooked and misplaced boards – and one of the fence posts promptly keeled over. It had rotted through, and, of course, I thought it would be easy to replace. It was just one post along the fence row.

As I pushed the section of fencing aside to remove the stub of the rotten post, three more posts gave way.

Over the course of some weekends and evenings, with some new posts and boards, the fence is back up. Some additional nails or screws are still needed, but the fence is basically whole again.

I have been eyeing that sagging gate lately, though. It looks like it might be easy to fix, I think, but then I wonder if I'll ever learn.

* * *

Property rights are complicated. In all of the years of living side by side, neither my neighbor nor I have ever gone to check the city records or surveys, to see exactly where may lie the exact line of ownership. We live in relative harmony and good will, balancing in this micro-world of rights and responsibilities, of common good, of respect for each other.

I can't help but think of the reality of unforeseen consequences in the larger world of nations, and how borders are constructed and maintained.

What was the Christian reaction to the Berlin Wall? To the barricades isolating Palestinians in some parts of Israel? To the fence today in some areas between the United States and Mexico? What will be the result of demanding that people carry proof of legal immigration in Arizona?

The simplest solution may have to begin with the acknowledgement that our relationships with our neighbors are never simple, that unilateral decisions have bilateral consequences.

The next step is to move ahead in mutual respect for each other, not through the imposition of the will of the stronger on the weaker, but always honoring the dignity of Gods' sons and daughters on both sides of the fence.

At the heart of the Christian Family Movement and of other movements springing from the encouragement of Cardinal Joseph Cardijn is the sequence of "observe, judge and act."

Observing must always come before judgment is made and action is taken; and along our property lines, the view must always be seen from both sides, if we are to make a difference that is pleasing to our God and to our neighbors.

Paul Leingang is director of communications for the Diocese of Evansville in Indiana, and editor of the Message, the diocesan newspaper. His award-winning weekly column, Taking the Time to Make a Difference, is syndicated in a number of diocesan newspapers. Paul and his wife, Jane, are members of CFM in Evansville.

Parent to Parent by Mary Lou Gorman

Teach your Child to Forgive

Many parents are concerned about their children fighting. First, you need to know that it's a way of growing up and you shouldn't concern yourself too much over it. Sibling rivalry is a natural consequence of circumstances that happen. Younger children want to hit back if they think something that happened is unfair. Many times, a parent does not have to interfere because the children will settle the matter themselves, but some instances may go too far. When they do, so no one gets hurt, you need to step in.

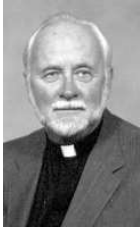
Questions might be asked and these in turn should calm the anger. Sometimes it helps to separate the fighters and ask them individually what happened. You need to remain calm so that the children see that anger needs to be softened. It's up to the parent to show that reconciliation is the goal. Beyond that, forgiveness and love need to be fostered. Sometimes, a punishment is necessary and should be administered to the guilty party who started the fight. Complete separation cools the tempers and helps the guilty parties think about what they did.

Children also need to see how parents who argue reconcile with one another and make up. Teaching children not to hold a grudge is important. Forgive and forget should be the norm. Remind them that they should ask Jesus for help when they lose their tempers and that Jesus loves them—and their brother or sister—very much and wants them to do the right thing.

Being a good parent (or grandparent!) takes lots of positive modeling. That's how you grew up to be so soft tempered! Mom and Dad taught you, right?

Mary Lou and her late husband, Phil Gorman, of Arlington Heights, Ill., joined CFM in 1953.

Recalling Rev. Wilfred Hansen: A Tribute *submitted by Ray Maldoon*



The Rev. Wilfred Hansen ("Wil") died on April 25th, 2009. Wil was a Protestant minister who played an active part of the CFM national office in the 1970's. He died in Ortonville, Minnesota, where he had been the pastor of the Congregational United Church of Christ. Unfortunately in his last few years he suffered from Parkinson's disease and other degenerative problems.

At the time Wil worked for CFM, he was the pastor of St Stephan's United Church of Christ in Chicago. Wil proudly showed visitors the old church building with its classic stained glass windows and limestone walls in a neighborhood that once was mostly Polish. The neighborhood was in transition, and he shepherded his congregation as it too changed. He was proud when St. Stephan's became the first Korean United Church of Christ in the United States. Wil earned recognition as a social activist on racial issues in those turbulent years in Chicago and later for his work on environmental causes in Minnesota.

Rev. Hansen was hired by CFM as a project manager for the writing of F.I.N.D. (Families in Nurture and Development) under contract from the National Institute on Drug Abuse of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. This was the first and only venture of this kind by CFM. Over the course of a year, the book was written in typical CFM program book style. The agency printed the book, and it became available through it and other government agencies.

When the F.I.N.D. project ended, Wil continued working in the national CFM office. Though Wil was ordained and served as a minister, he also had business experience. He served as office manager, then acting executive director of CFM, and always, with and without the title, chaplain. In the time after Msgr. Reynold Hillenbrand retired and Fr. Ed Kohler resigned, Wil led prayers, counseled and consulted. He was also CFM's onsite resource in our ecumenical efforts.

Wil and his wife Phylliss had a large combined family and extended family that included seven children and seven step children.

Ray and Dorothy Maldoon served CFM-USA as National Presidents, 1968-1977
