

## **Ways to Grow a CFM Group** **Ways to Grow CFM in Your Parish**

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As a parish CFM leader, we ask you to help spread the word about CFM to others in your parish. You know the value and blessings that CFM has brought to you and your family. Here are some suggestions for sharing CFM with others. We know that many people need to hear the same message multiple times before they decide to act on it, so don't be frustrated if people don't seem to respond initially. You are planting seeds... sooner or later they will grow!

### **Adding New Members**

1. **PRAY** that the Holy Spirit will guide you and will open the hearts of couples to hear the message of CFM.
2. Meet with someone or multiple people on the parish staff (pastor, director of religious education, pastoral minister) to tell them about CFM. They will be able to refer others to CFM and help you build groups.
3. According to the 2006 member survey, **Personal Invitation** is the best method to use in adding new members. Face-to-face or phone calls work best.
  - a. Ask current CFM couples to each think of a few people you could invite to join a group. Ask the couples to contact the people or ask them to give you the names and numbers and you can contact them. Call these people.
  - b. Every time you are at Mass or at a church/school function, look around and notice people... would they like CFM? Keep a running list of these names over the year. Start calling them when you are ready to start a group.
  - c. Ask you parish staff to help identify people who would be interested in CFM. For example, these groups:
    - i. Recent RCIA "graduates" – ask if you could speak about CFM at one of their meetings after Easter.
    - ii. Baptism Class participants – ask if you could speak about CFM at their meeting.
    - iii. New parishioners – attend New Parishioner Orientation or ask parish for names and numbers of new parishioners.
    - iv. Moms group members – ask if you could speak at one of their meetings.
    - v. Marriage Preparation Classes – ask the program facilitators to share information about CFM with the engaged couples.
    - vi. Vacation Bible School volunteers
    - vii. Religious Education volunteers
    - viii. Bible Study members
4. **Bulletin Announcements:** You may not receive a lot of calls strictly from bulletin announcements but you will build name recognition in the parish. Also, it gives everyone in the parish the opportunity to join CFM.
5. **Witnessing from the Pulpit:** Your pastor may allow you or other current CFM members to share your experience of CFM before the end of Mass.
6. **Ministry Sign-Up Fair:** Use this as another opportunity to share your excitement for CFM. Create a fun sign for your table. Show the DVD, if possible. Provide information sheets and have a sign-up sheet.

7. **Kick-Off Party:** invite current and new members (include information about the party in the bulletin announcements) to gather for socialization. Take this opportunity to have current members fill out registration forms for the coming year.

In many cases, it works best to have all of these activities occur within a 4-6 week period of time. Then people “see” the CFM name and hear the message multiple times in a short time period.

### **Ongoing care of new members:**

Sometimes groups don’t always “gel” during the first year. The parish leader may want to stay in contact with new members to help them stay excited about CFM and the benefits it will bring to their families.

1. **PRAY** for the success of the CFM groups in your parish and around the world.
2. Invite a current CFM couple to “mentor” the new group for the first year. This includes attending the new group’s meetings as well as their own group’s meetings. This enables the new members to ask questions and get answers immediately. The mentor may also want to help the leader of the new group with getting meetings scheduled each month.
3. The parish leader may want to call each of the new CFM members midway through the year to make sure they are enjoying their CFM experience. Is it what they expected? Are they having any problems in attending meetings (babysitting issues, scheduling conflicts)? The parish leader should try to address any concerns that arise.
4. Talk to the CFM group leaders toward the end of the CFM year to get a sense of any members that may not join again the following year. Try to resolve any problems that may be keeping these couples from staying in CFM (babysitting issues, etc.).