

**Christian Family Movement National Board Meeting**  
**January 26-29, 2023**

**St. Lawrence Martyr Church, Redondo Beach, CA**

The Christian Family Movement national board of directors just returned from their winter board meeting hosted by St. Lawrence Martyr Parish in Redondo Beach, CA. The time together was filled with camaraderie & collaboration in our common goal of strengthening families & building community. It was a double blessing that Bishop George Rassas of the Archdiocese of Chicago was able to join us once again. The weekend started with a delicious Filipino dinner on Thursday night hosted by board members Joe & Miriam Nebres. Friday was spent growing together in friendship & prayer.



Miriam led a consolidated docent tour at the Getty Center in the early part of the day which was followed by a mini-retreat (Families: God's Gift to the World) in the afternoon. We were grateful for the opportunity to show appreciation for our spouses & recall the gift of grace received in sacramental marriage! Friday evening, we were invited to the home of past board presidents, John & Mary Poprac, & treated to John's famous smoked brisket (along with so many other delectable dishes!).

Saturday was a time for committee meetings & discussing how to best serve our member families & continue to spread the blessing of CFM to others. Training for use of new promotional & mentoring materials was given. Board members were encouraged to start/support new groups in their local areas & to reach out to clergy, leaders & other movements & organizations to increase collaboration. New volunteers & others are joining to help CFM grow through web, digital & social media efforts. New initiatives began in the Diocese of Galveston, Houston, Lansing, & Winnipeg, CA with motivation to push our boundaries. A new promotional video is planned to

to be available in April. Work began in earnest on our 75th anniversary celebration to be held at Mundelein Seminary in Mundelein, IL August 3-4, 2024 with the theme: CFM: *Making Friends, Making Disciples, Making a Difference for 75 years.*

Saturday evening was highlighted by Mass & potluck with the local CFM leaders & members, past/present/future with a super-reunion, super hero theme. Fun was had by all with names for our alter ego & photo booth with props! There were families with babies & those who had been in CFM for nearly 50 years, as well as second generation CFMers! We were honored by the presence of many guests, in particular by the North American continental presidents, Geremias & Rosario Morales.



Sunday's meeting included the election of new board members: Deacon Brad & Sarah Gallenberg of Oshkosh, WI. We said goodbye to our close friends & mentors, past presidents, John & Lauri Przybysz, who are retiring from the board effective May 31 (more about them in an upcoming issue of ACT). Our board meeting was truly a blessing, bringing together families & local/national/international leaders to see that God called each of us as part of CFM to recognize our mission of showing the love of God to the world in & through the family. May our hearts be open to see how God might be calling us to a deeper level of mission - reaching out beyond our comfort zone & working harder for the sanctification of our families, those around us & in society!

## History of the Christian Family Movement (Part 3)

*Original article written in July 1955 by Ned & Louise Taylor  
(2nd Federation Couple) for Los Angeles, CA Federation*

"Married couple's retreats are an important improvement over the conventional separate male & female retreats. Retreats taken separately tend to put the married partners out of step, particularly since it is rarely possible for a husband & wife to go to separate retreats on the same weekend. This generally means that one of the parents stays home & copes with the children alone while the other person goes off & has an inspiring weekend. Couples report that a retreat taken together is a rewarding experience; it is a needed shot in the arm for both their marriage & their spiritual life. Quite fittingly, these retreats end with a renewal of the marriage vows by all the couples present. A married couples retreat is one more way of developing marriage solidarity."

"Another CFM project which is gaining increased importance is the arranging of Cana & Pre-Cana Conferences. At these, the priests, psychiatrist (or psychologist) & a qualified married couple form the panel. Thus far, this has not been done in Los Angeles although it is a future objective."

"Other Federation functions are: 1) Planning study days to increase effectiveness of CFM couples; 2) Holding evenings of recollection; 3) Cooperate with national coordinating committee in developing CFM; 4) Contribute news to CFM newspaper "ACT"; 5) Start new CFM groups; 6) Distribute CFM literature; 7) Publish a local newsletter; 8) Hold annual picnics & dances."

*(The article then explains the structure of the CFM group meetings which follow the same format as we do today. Part 4 will continue in the next ACT issue.)*

### UPCOMING EVENTS

6th Gathering of representatives of **Movements & New Communities in the U.S.**—February 4, 2023 from 11am to 1pm.

Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis, July 17-21, 2024  
<https://www.eucharisticrevival.org/>

15th World Assembly of the ICCFM in Hungary—June 29 to July 2, 2023  
[Invitation EN.pdf - Google Drive](#)

**CFM USA 75th Anniversary Celebration August 3-4, 2024** at the Mundelein Seminary in Illinois.

For inquiries, photo submissions & other information, please mail to: Christian Family Movement National Office, P.O. Box 266, Dexter, MI 48130.  
Or email us at: [75thAnniversary@cfm.org](mailto:75thAnniversary@cfm.org).

**Making Friends, Making Disciples, Making a Difference**

## Presidents' Perspective:

### Brian & Mary Ann Thelen



As we were on our return flight from the CFM board meeting, we were tired. I wanted to be in my own space when a young, talkative man of 25 sat with us. He was an entrepreneur starting a cannabis business. Through our conversation we learned that he had converted to Catholicism at the age of 16 but had fallen away. He was a thinker and still hadn't come to a place of peace. It was a very congenial conversation and we ended up inviting him to an Alpha course at our church. He expressed interest and shared his contact information. This encounter was a little reminder that we never know when God may provide the opportunity to share our faith. Another opportunity came shortly after arriving at the airport. There was a distraught woman in the restroom calling out "You need to help me! Please help me!" The chain on her purse had gotten stuck between the sink and the countertop. She was clearly upset after a long and late flight. After punching at it with my credit card, it was helping, but not dislodging it. We continued to try and then finally she gave it a big tug and the chain broke, freeing her purse. She thanked me and explained what her evening had been like. I was happy to help, but I felt a twinge of disappointment. As we were struggling with the chain, I heard in my heart to recommend that we pray that we could dislodge it. However, I didn't respond to that inspiration and that is when she gave the tug and the chain broke. I'll never know whether a prayer would've dislodged it unharmed, but more importantly my opportunity to be a witness of faith was lost. I think we all have moments when we step up to the plate and others when we shrink back. I hope next time I will be quicker to respond to that nudge of the Holy Spirit. We never know when someone might be open to God through a simple word or gesture.

### CFM 75th Anniversary Graphic Design Contest DEADLINE EXTENDED!

*In honor of CFM's 75th anniversary celebration, we invite you to create a design that we will use for our posters, T-shirt & other promotional/souvenir materials.*

Theme: Making Friends, Making Disciples, Making a Difference for 75 years

Entries should be submitted by 02/28/2023 to [75thAnniversary@cfm.org](mailto:75thAnniversary@cfm.org).

Winners will be announced on 03/31/23.

**Additional competition details & guidelines are available at:** [https://www.cfm.org/75th\\_anniversary](https://www.cfm.org/75th_anniversary)

