

Presidents' Perspective: Brian & Mary Ann Thelen

Dear friends, we write our final column as we retire as presidents of CFM-USA on June 1, 2023. It is a perfect time to reflect on the great work God has done through the movement. Families are strengthened, faith is deepened, friendships are formed, parishes are built into a family of families, neighborhoods and society are transformed as members respond to the needs around them. These characteristics of the movement are what motivate us. One of the marks of these past several years has been increased virtual communication and the creation of materials and a plan for expansion. Our sincere hope is that the materials created will prove to be great resources for expanding to new neighborhoods, parishes and dioceses. We also see the importance of increasing collaboration with those who believe in the value and mission of the family and who are willing to partner with us – families who recognize their vocation as missionaries, interested clergy/chaplains, diocesan and parish staff, as well as benefactors. We believe all these connections and relationships will eventually provide us new (and perhaps surprising) avenues for expanding CFM. Pope Francis urges us to move out of the crisis of the pandemic by seeing, judging, and acting with the Holy Spirit, “Dare to create something new.”

In closing, we wish to acknowledge the tremendous contributions of **John and Lauri Przybysz**. They retire this May after 22 years of service for the national movement. We are full of appreciation for the service they have so generously provided in nearly every role of the board as well as Lauri serving as ACT Editor and Executive Director. Their gifts and passion, wisdom and expertise will be greatly missed as will their presence. They have mentored so many of us! May God bless them in this next phase of life's journey!

And as for us, even though we retire as President couple, we will continue to serve on the national board as past presidents. You will find **Sam and Juliette Tirone** (the newly elected presidents) to be talented, energetic, charismatic and though maybe not necessary, fun! We know you'll love to get to know them! Together with you, our members, we continue to shape the history and impact of the Christian Family Movement. It is an honor and privilege to work alongside all of you in this ministry. Holy Spirit, we ask you to guide us and enkindle within us a spirit of unity & enthusiasm to show Your love to the world, in and through the family!



Parting Words from our Beloved Friends, John and Lauri Przybysz

We thank God for calling us to serve on the National Board of the Christian Family Movement. His burden is easy and His yoke is light.

In return for our service, He has given us the joyous company of the Saints – all of the good people we worked with on the Board, and the thousands of CFM families that we have met all across the USA and all around the world.

The Christian Family Movement has been a great help to us in passing on the faith to our 6 children and 21 grandchildren. God is good, all the time.

We have never known a better time for us to step away from the Board. The leadership is strong. The bench is deep. The Board members are talented & committed. We entrust the Movement to them under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. For those who share the vocation to Christian marriage, there is nothing else like the Christian Family Movement. God bless CFM!

461 days till our CFM 75th Anniversary Celebration

Please continue making plans for your August 2024 vacation which hopefully will include your attendance and participation at **CFM's 75th Anniversary Celebration in Mundelein from August 3-4, 2024**. More information is available at [75th Anniversary - CFM-USA](#)

We recently sent a survey about our 75th anniversary celebration. If you have not responded yet or if you did not receive that survey, here is the link for you to respond:

[75th Anniversary Survey - CFM-USA](#) The DEADLINE is **May 3, 2023!**



Getting to Know You Andy Pozdol, CFM Webmaster



I've lived in the Chicago suburbs my entire life and currently am located in Arlington Heights with my wife Judy. We attend Our Lady of Wayside, where we have been CFM members since 1982. We have 2 adult daughters. I have been in computer programming all of my professional life, from mid-1970s to today. I was in charge of my company's Y2K project, during which I was introduced to web development. In 2000, I began dabbling around coding websites and volunteered to take over websites at our local churches when a need arose. I started volunteering as cfm.org webmaster in the early 2000s, under the leadership of then CFM Executive Director Jane Leingang. During that same time, Elma Muangkroot was ICCFM president and she got me to take over the iccfm.org (English) and cimfc.org (Spanish) sites. That was interesting working with Elma on the translations as well as pages for the international conventions. From about 2016-2023, as database software became more friendly, ICCFM and CFM took on managing their websites. With the recent retirement of Lauri Przybysz, I was once again asked to step into the role of webmaster. So here I am, back to help out!

CFM InterACTIVE



Congratulations to Linda Houston of the *St. Lawrence Martyr (Redondo Beach, CA)* CFM group for being the first to correctly answer our **April InterACTIVE** questions.

1. Name the 3 types of pinatas featured in the March 2023 ACT newsletter: *elephant, star, giant orange with black hat*
2. In what city and country will the 15th World Assembly of the ICCFM be held? *Vac, Hungary*
3. Who are the authors of the CFM Six-Meeting Program Guidebook for Grandparents? *Gary & Kay Aitchison*

Here are our **May InterACTIVE** questions. Deadline for submission of entries is **May 31, 2023**. The first one to send the correct answers to act_editor@cfm.org will receive a prize.

1. What is the theme of CFM's 75th Anniversary Celebration?
2. Who were the first national presidents of CFM?
3. In what city did CFM recently expand and what is the name of the deacon who helped them get started?

Memorandum of Collaboration signed between the International Confederation of Christian Family Move- ments and Holy Cross Family Ministries with the intention of encouraging families to pray the rosary more



Most Reverend Gerardo A. Alminaza, D.D., the Bishop of the Diocese of San Carlos, Negros Island, Philippines, and the International Chaplain of the International Confederation of Christian Family Movements gave the following reflection:

"...Truly, nothing happens by chance. Everything is grace, pure gift of God. We're making history for the glory of God and the fulfillment of God's plan for families. We can never fully imagine what the Risen Lord can do as a result of our collaboration so that we fulfill in a synodal way the Great Commission we are reminded of by St. Mark in today's gospel: "Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature." Given our present situation, the historic signing of the Memorandum of Collaboration is so providential & timely because the charism of the Congregation of the Holy Cross founded by Blessed Basile Moreau is still contemporary & urgent; that is, "to renew the Christian faith, to regenerate society, to 'bring about better times' by a constant response to the most pressing needs of the Church and society" and the motto he gave to his Congregation is "the Cross, our only hope." Moreover, Venerable Patrick Peyton, founder of the Family Rosary Crusade, has a clear and tested response to our present crisis: "The family that prays together stays together". "The Rosary has saved the world in the past. It will save the world now, by saving the family."

To read more: <https://blog.familyrosary.org/everything-is-grace-family-reflection-video>

Sad News and Request for Prayers



Bill and Mary Lou Lenzen were featured in last month's ACT newsletter celebrating their 50th anniversary. Since then we heard some sad news. Bill unexpectedly passed away on April 18. Clearly, we never know when the good Lord will call us home. This is a reminder to hold those we love close to us & constantly remind them of our love for them.

Gene & Linda Nuccio, the Lenzen family, and the rest of the Spirit of Christ Catholic Community CFM group, are requesting prayers for the repose of Bill's soul, & comfort & strength for Marylou who will be facing both physical and emotional challenges in the coming months.