

Presidents' Perspective

Hello from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania!

We are Sam and Juliette Tirone, the new President Couple for the Christian Family Movement.

We covet your prayers as we prepare to take on this new and important role.

Seventeen years ago, when we first joined CFM, we never could have imagined that we would one day be called to this position. Back then, our children were little, our marriage strained and vulnerable, our friend list short, and our faith shallow. Out of nowhere (it seemed to us then, but we know now that God's timing is perfect!), longtime members of a CFM group in our parish invited us along with 5 other young couples to form a new CFM group. And, as they say, the rest is history. Our lives were slowly and massively transformed. Those early years in CFM helped us identify and grow our desire to live out our faith in our home, church, and community. Our sustained involvement in CFM has helped us to stay strong in our commitment to those same endeavors. So here we are, 17 years later. Our children are now (mostly) grown, our marriage strengthened and cherished, our CFM friends are like family, and our faith is now the bedrock of our lives. Sometimes we wonder what our lives would look like if we hadn't been offered that personal invitation to join CFM all those years ago.

We are pretty confident that if you have been a member of CFM for any number of years, your story is much like ours.

CFMers know first hand how belonging to our Movement transforms marriages and family life. If your life has been enriched by CFM, can we count on you to help us grow our Movement by personally inviting (especially) newly married couples and young families to attend a CFM group in your parish? Will you consider mentoring a new group? Our national office is ready to help you and provide all of the necessary resources to get your new groups started! We need EACH MEMBER to GET MOVING and broadcast the mission of CFM in our parishes and communities, believing that we have all been divinely assembled by God to be a light of hope to marriages and families. It starts with a personal invitation- yours and ours. Your personal invitation can make the difference and change someone's life forever. Our invitation is for you to join us in zealously participating in our mission to (i) promote Christ-centered marriages and families, (ii) help individuals and their families to live the Christian faith in everyday life, and (iii) improve society through actions of love, service, education and example.

We look forward to getting to know you & learning about all of the great work you are doing! May God continue to bless our families, multiply our efforts, & strengthen us so, together, we can grow the Christian Family Movement.

Our Best,

Sam and Juliette



429 days till our CFM 75th Anniversary Celebration

Please plan now for our CFM's 75th Anniversary Celebration in Mundelein, IL from August 3-4, 2024! It will be here sooner than you think, so please begin (or continue) making plans for this milestone event. For more information, please visit [75th Anniversary -CFM-USA](https://www.cfm-usa.org/75th-anniversary).

Thank you to all who responded to the recent survey about our 75th anniversary celebration. The results will help us in creating a weekend to remember for all who will be there. If you know of any former CFM



members (or their descendants) who may be interested in this reunion, please pass the word or have them contact 75thAnniversary@cfm.org to be added in our distribution list.



In Memoriam

Dealing with the loss of someone you love, care about, and spent a lifetime with is never easy. Here at CFM, we cherish the memories spent with one another and we express our gratitude and prayers to those who have gone before us. Please feel free to reach out to the families of these CFM'ers who have recently passed on.



Jean Marie (Baltrus) Decoteau, North Brookfield, MA

[Jean Marie \(Baltrus\) Decoteau Obituary - Worcester Telegram & Gazette](#)



Carol Ann Randall, Vernon Hills, IL

[CAROL RANDALL Obituary \(1938 - 2023\) - Libertyville, IL - Daily Herald \(legacy.com\)](#)



William Washington Wnek, Lawrenceville, NJ

[William Wnek Obituary \(2023\) - Lawrenceville, NJ - "The Times, Trenton,"](#)



CFM InterACTIVE

Congratulations (again) to Linda Houston of St. Lawrence Martyr in Redondo Beach, CA for answering the May questions correctly!

1. What is the theme of CFM's 75th Anniversary Celebration? *Making Friends, Making Disciples, Making a Difference*
2. Who were the first national presidents of CFM?
Pat and Patty Crowley
3. In what city did CFM recently expand and what is the name of the deacon who helped them get started?
Winnipeg, Canada; Deacon Cordova

Here are our **June InterACTIVE** questions. Deadline for submission of entries is **June 30, 2023**. The first one to send the correct answers to act_editor@cfm.org will receive a prize.

1. Who is the founder of the Family Rosary Crusade?
2. In what city/state will the 75th anniversary celebration of CFM be held?
3. How many years of service as directors of the national board did John and Lauri Przybysz serve?

Growth of CFM — in CANADA!

Sometime ago, Pat Grappolini did a Google search for references to her late parents, Bernard & Mae Daly, who were among CFM pioneers in Canada. Together, they contributed to early program manuals for couples to use as they explored family life within CFM in Canada.



Pat's random search brought her to the CFM website. Immediately, she thought, perhaps there might be a place here for memories from those early days of CFM-Canada.

So here we are with snippets of what Bernard and Mae wrote for one of their program manuals sometime between 1960-64, the height of civil rights movement.

If not me, who?

If not now, when?

If not this, what?

"Three questions which we have to keep in mind and to which we must know the answers, if we are not to deny the goals of CFM and our Christian witness.

As we get involved with the "others" as this book will have us do, we will see why one little eight year old in New York, after having a Negro boy holidaying with him for two weeks, stopped at the second line of the jingle – "Eeny Meeny Miney Moe" and said to his mother, "I can't call Jimmy that – he's my friend."

Have you ever had a Ukrainian Catholic bishop, priest and lay person tell you they have concrete examples of being treated as second rate Catholics?

Were you listening on an extension when a W. Indian here in Ottawa couldn't rent a room because she was colored?

Have you ever thought or said, "She is a negro, but she's so clean"? "They're Protestant, but they're good people"? Are all of the educational problems here in Ottawa the fault of French Canadians? Has your Jewish neighbour tried to join certain Golf or Boating Clubs in this area?

We are ecumenical with our Anglican and Presbyterian friends. How much dialogue is there with our fellow French-speaking Catholics?

This year's book wants us to see things through the other fellow's eyes – to put our body next to his – not just our mind and our spirit. It wants us to feel by the end of the year, that the person belonging to the other race, religion, or color, and the politician at any level is – like Jimmy – our friend."

We'll share more excerpts of the Daly's treasure trove of CFM memories next time. Please send your stories and photos of how CFM took roots in your area to act_editor@cfm.org.