

CFM in Action

St. Raphael the Archangel Catholic Church in Oshkosh, WI



The CFM groups at St. Raphael's Parish in Oshkosh, WI collected items for their local establishment called [Fr. Carr's Place 2B](#), a Life Enrichment Center that strives to foster hope, self-worth, and self-sustaining life through temporary housing, meals, medical and spiritual services, educational programs, and volunteer opportunities.

St. Raphael's CFM groups held one of the year's meetings there, plus a tour/presentation and prayers in its beautiful chapel. One of the members described this event as the highlight of the year.



To kick off the 2023-24 CFM year, the St. Raphael Parish groups held an indoor picnic on September 10, 2023. It was a great opportunity for catching up and looking forward to this coming year of CFM fellowship. Thank you, Deacon Mark Leafgren and Carol Staszkiwicz for sharing your CFM in Action photos and stories.



If you would like to have your CFM groups featured in our ACT newsletter or in our social media sites, please share your stories and photos by sending them to act_editor@cfm.org.

Thank you, CFM families, for putting your faith into ACTION!

Getting to Know You

Fr. Karl Romkema New National Chaplain for CFM



I am Fr. Karl Romkema, CSC, a priest of the Congregation of Holy Cross. I professed my final vows in 2018 and was ordained in 2019. I was born and raised near Detroit, Michigan, the second oldest of nine children. I did my seminary formation at the University of Notre Dame. As a deacon & new priest, I spent 3 years in parish ministry in Austin, Texas. I currently live at Notre Dame as the Director of the Old College Undergraduate Seminary program. I oversee the formation of twelve college-aged men as they discern priesthood and religious life in Holy Cross. I also serve as a spiritual director to students on campus, and provide chaplain ministry at Holy Cross College and Saint Mary's College in South Bend, Indiana. I am very excited to serve as National Chaplain for CFM. Know of my prayers and affection.

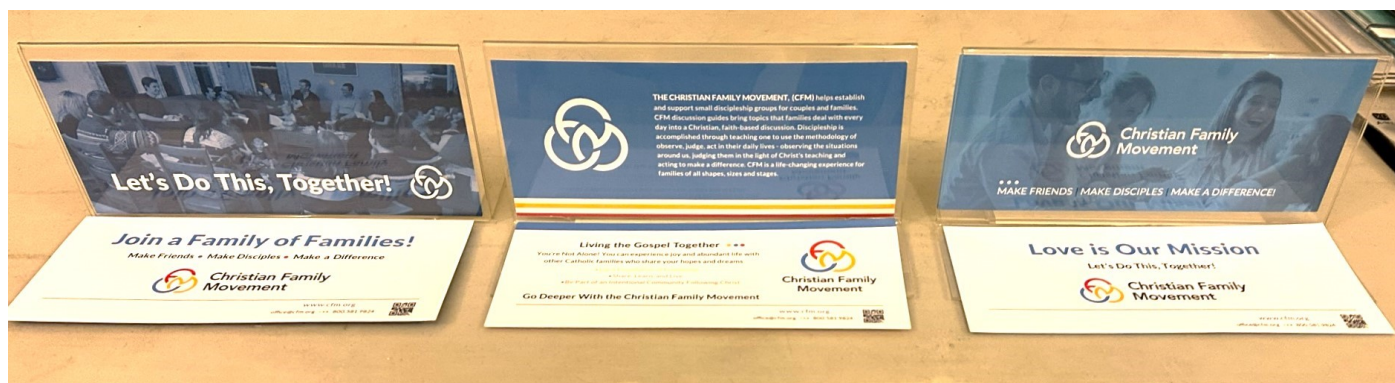
Fr. Karl



307 days till our CFM 75th Anniversary Celebration

Have you marked the dates yet? CFM will be celebrating its 75th year of existence with a weekend of food, fellowship, and fun from August 3-4, 2024 @ Mundelein Seminary in Illinois. Please visit [75th Anniversary -CFM-USA](#) for more information so you can plan your August 2024 vacation with CFM!





Christian Family Movement Tri-Cut Cards

The CFM National Office has these professionally printed cards available for promotional use. We hope you think they are as beautiful and helpful as we do!!!! We ask that you talk to your parish staff and find ways that you might promote CFM through your ministry fair, rack for display, marriage ministry events, giving to a friend when you invite them to join your CFM group, etc.

The first batch of 24 cards is free! If you would like to order more, they are available through the CFM National Office (800-581-9824 or office@cfm.org) for \$10.00 (24 count, 8 of each design) which includes postage! If you like one design better than another, you may specify your preference. You may also add your local contact information on the lower left of the card with an address label.

May God bless your efforts to strengthen marriage and build community through the gift of CFM! We are here to help you! Please reach out to us!

The Work of Our Hands (by Miriam Nebres)

What do you see when you hold your hands up? Who do you hold hands with? When do you feel that you're in good hands? Have you ever been played into someone's hands or have taken the law into your own hands? Did anything ever get out of hand in your life? Do you often find your hands free, full, tied, or dirty? Do you know anyone like the back of your hand? OK, by show of hands, how many of you says, "Enough of these hand-me-downs already?" On the other hand, where is this supposed to lead to? The answer is at hand.

There is a lot of POWER in our hands...a seemingly unlimited potential for blessings to give and to receive: life, families, friends, health, wealth, careers, vocations, travel opportunities, nature, modern conveniences, etc.

1 Chronicles 29:12 says "Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all."

Jesus showed that to us. His hands healed the sick, brought the dead to life, fed thousands with loaves and fishes, turned water into wine, and put a detached ear back to a soldier's head. He held the bread and wine at the Last Supper instituting the Holy Eucharist.

Through him, with him and in him...we hear that doxology over and over at Mass, and we only need to remember this so we may be able to continue his mission through the **work of our hands**... to give more than to receive, to help and heal and not to hurt, to create and build rather than destroy.



We are His Hands and Feet

"Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours."

~ Teresa of Ávila

Marriage Moments & Parenting Pointers by Susan Vogt

October is Respect Life Month. Pick the life issue that you feel most strongly about (preventing abortion, supporting new mothers, helping those whose lives are mired in poverty, caring for the frail elderly, working for gun control, eliminating the death penalty, bullying...) Discuss with your family why this is important to you. Is there a common issue you can **act** on?

