



CFM in Action

A simple recipe for a dynamic faith group

September 22, 2023 Text and photos by Jill Esfeld

To read the full article please click on this link:

[A simple recipe for a dynamic faith group - The Leaven Catholic Newspaper](#)



Queen of the Holy Rosary, Wea, pray together during an outing this summer at Tanglewood Lake in LaCygne.

BUCYRUS — “Pastors are always trying to get small faith groups going,” said Deacon Tom Rothermich of Queen

of the Holy Rosary Parish in Wea. And it can be hard.

“The Christian Family Movement program is easy. It’s so nonthreatening; everything is laid out for you.”

“The Christian Family Movement (CFM) is a national support organization for faith groups throughout the country. Available to anyone interested in growing a faith community, CFM materials are Catholic-based.”

“They have a whole library of lesson books and they come in a variety of topics,” said Deacon Rothermich. “Some of them are focused on young families and raising children. Some are focused on elderly parents or how to deal with being an empty nester — so, different stages of life.”

“Deacon Rothermich and his wife Kathy were in a CFM faith group in their St. Louis parish for many years.”

“When they relocated to this area eight years ago, they brought their love for CFM with them, introducing it to their new parish. The Rothermiches have been in a CFM group now for 25 years.”

“When Queen parishioners Diana and Adam Roth started a young family group several years ago, they wanted to connect with other families, but they struggled with the task of planning meetings.”

“Deacon Tom came to one of our meetings just to introduce CFM as an option,” said Diana. “We actually ended up loving it.”

“It’s such a great way to introduce a little bit of structure.”

“The Roths’ group grew. Now, in addition to the Rothermiches’ groups for older adults, there are three CFM groups for families with young children in the parish.”

“Groups may use different guidebooks based on where

they are in life’s journey. But the CFM goal is at the heart of every discussion — to develop personal relationships through prayer, friendship and action to serve others.”

“Former National CFM presidents Brian and Mary Ann Thelen say the draw of the program is its ability to facilitate connectivity.”

“The Roths find being connected through CFM is vital to raising a Christian family in a secular society.”

“CFM groups meet at least once a month. Some groups meet in parish facilities & others take turns hosting in their homes. Often, there is a 2nd monthly meeting for socializing or doing a service project.”

“Refreshments are always involved, and though the meetings can last as little as 90 minutes, they usually go longer.”

“The advantage of the CFM model is structure that facilitates informal discussion in a social atmosphere.

Queen parishioners have found that the CFM program is the perfect way to achieve that.”

“When you meet and get together,” said Diane, “you make each other better.”



277 days till our CFM 75th Anniversary Celebration

As you already know, 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—Making Friends

At the ICCFM World Assembly in Vac, Hungary last June 2023, many friendships were formed among the attendees who hailed from all over the world. When Pip & Wilma Cua, recent past president couple of ICCFM from the Philippines came to visit the USA in October, they had a mini reunion with Geremias & Rosario Morales, Wilbur & Juanita Hooker, & Miriam Nebres. Aside from reminiscing about the wonderful experience they all shared in Hungary, the group discussed their respective CFM ministries' activities. An idea was hatched about having a quarterly Zoom meeting where CFM'ers from around the world can check in with each other, discuss the Sunday scripture reading of that week, & apply the OJA method in the reflections. If you have other ideas on how we can make this come to fruition, please send your comments to act_editor@cfm.org. If any of our CFM readers are visiting places where there are CFM groups, don't hesitate to let them know you're coming. You just might get some new friends for life!

Catholic Family Life Association (CFLA) Conference

Marriage and Family:

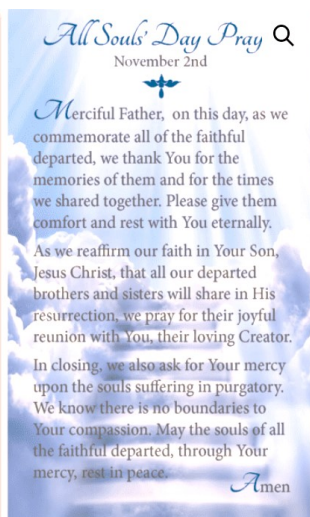
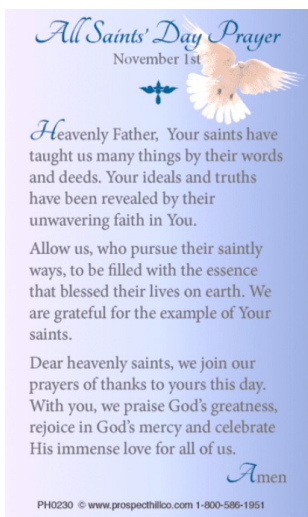
A Eucharistic Journey for a Lifetime October 17-19, 2023, Orlando, Florida

CFM participated in [CFLA's](#) 2023 Conference with an information booth & was represented by Sam & Juliette Tirone and Albert & Susie Zimmerman. The [Catholic Family Life Association](#) (CFLA) strives to implement a vision of marriage & family ministry encompassing the entire life cycle. CFM's mission and structure fills the need (after Pre-Cana, Cana, and Baptism) for supporting families in their eucharistic journey for a lifetime.

The Tirones & Zimmermans took turns presenting CFM to Directors of Religious Education, family support groups, & to conference participants, while juggling time to also attend the various conference presentations, breakout sessions, roundtables, business meetings, Mass, & talking to people at the Exhibit Hall. They were able to sign up 26 people who were interested in more information about CFM in their respective parishes or diocese. There was a lot of interest in reestablishing family support programs in parishes after the pandemic.

It was an exhausting, but exhilarating and inspiring experience. Both couples were so grateful to share this enriching conference experience with each other.

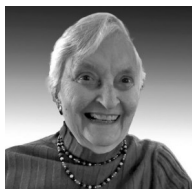
**Thank you,
Sam, Juliette,
Albert & Susie
for
representing
CFM at the
CFLA
Conference so
well!**



In Memoriam



Sr. Patricia Crowley is the daughter of CFM's founders Pat and Patty Crowley [Sr. Patricia Crowley, prominent Chicago sister who made a mark on the church and community, dies | Global Sisters Report](#)



[Margaret Ahmann Obituary \(1930 - 2023\) - Hyattsville, DC - The Washington Post \(legacy.com\)](#)

To learn more about Pat and Patty Crowley, we will be featuring a series of articles about the founding of CFM. Aside from what you will find at CFM.org, here is one from US Catholic Magazine.

[Dynamic duo: Pat and Patty Crowley \(uscatholic.org\)](#)