



Sharing resources with CFMers in Asia



We are one in the Spirit! CFM USA gladly responded to the request from CFM India and granted them permission to adapt the Discipleship Series and We Hold these Treasures for the families in their local CFM groups. CFM members around the world use the same OJ A method for training in living our faith in action. We are happy to share our creative resources with our friends in India, a true action of solidarity that we have learned as CFMers. India presidents, Elena and Kenneth Smith, shared photos of their members. Asia Continental presidents Anita and Lukose Vallatharai are working with the program team.



A Mission of Love for Families in Africa

This June, the Christian Family Movement-USA (CFM) has an incredible opportunity to support a great missionary effort! Two couples and a priest from the International Confederation of Christian Family Movements (ICCFM) Headquarters team will travel to Malawi and Uganda to train leader couples on how to begin and grow CFM in their parishes. This mission comes at the invitation of local bishops, with support from CFM leaders in Malawi who are promoting the Evangelical Solidarity Project—a 3-level way of organizing CFM. Over 250 couples are expected to participate in the training!

ICCFM needs funds to cover:

airfare for the missionaries and printing materials for the participants (who attend at no cost)

Missionaries will be hosted by local families offering meals and hospitality—truly a beautiful example of Christian solidarity.

Donate today to support this mission through paypal.me/iccfm

or send a check to: ICCFM, 101 Idlewilde Rd., Severna Park, MD 21146

(Managed by Lauri & John via ICCFM North America Non-Profit Charity | EIN: 47-1817048)

Let us pray for the success of this mission and thank God for the generous hearts who are saying “yes” to this calling. May the Holy Spirit guide and bless their efforts to build strong faith-filled families across Africa!

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.



Pope Francis, born as Jorge Mario Bergoglio on 17 December

1936 in Buenos Aires, Argentina died on 21 April 2025 (aged 88) in Domus Sanctae Marthae, Vatican City, Rome, Italy.

As the Christian Family Movement reflects on the passing of Pope Francis, we are reminded of his invitation to “make noise,” to be “missionary disciples,” and to live the faith in our homes and communities with joy. His legacy will continue to guide us as we work to strengthen families, build communities of faith, and serve the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We invite all members and families to pray in thanksgiving for the life of Pope Francis and to offer Masses and rosaries for the repose of his soul. May he be welcomed into the embrace of the Father with the words, “Well done, good and faithful servant.”

We also extend our heartfelt prayers to the College of Cardinals as they prepare to elect his successor. May the Holy Spirit guide the Church in this time of transition and renewal.



INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF CHRISTIAN FAMILY MOVEMENTS

Every family, despite its weaknesses, can become a light in the darkness of the world.

(AL 66) Pope Francis

WE ARE PURSUING:

- SUPPORT THE CHRISTIAN FORMATION OF MANY FAMILIES IN EAST AFRICA.
- CREATE SOLID CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES
- DEVELOP THE LOCAL LEADERSHIP
- TO SUPPORT THE GROWING OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.
- OUR FIRST STAGE FOR TRAINING, IS THE FUNDRAISING OF \$25 K

For more information about ICCFM, visit our webpage:

www.iccfm.org

ABOUT US

We are in 42 countries and Missions over the world to transform families: living their human and Christian vocations and bear witness to the essentials values of the family.

USE PAYPAL FOR DONATIONS:

[PayPalMe/iccfm](https://paypal.me/iccfm)

AFTER DONATE, PLEASE EMAIL US YOUR PAYPAL RECEIPT TO:

vicepresident@iccfm.org

Board Retirement Reflection



Greetings All! We are Brad and Sally Shewmon, from Our Lady of the Wayside CFM Action Group located in Arlington Heights, IL. We've had the honor to be on the CFM Board of Directors for the last 6 years and are retiring from the Board. During our years, we have served as Secretary couple, Membership Committee chair, and Vice Presidents. We wish to express our gratitude to everyone for entrusting us with this opportunity to serve. It has been a tremendous blessing to work with the other CFM Board couples and Chaplains during our tenure. We've learned a lot and have met many wonderful new friends domestically and around the world! We had the great privilege to meet many members during CFM's 75th anniversary in Aug'24 at University of St Mary of the Lake / Mundelein Seminary last summer. We also had the rare opportunity to attend the World Assembly of Families in Budapest, Hungary in Aug'23. Both were great reunions and fabulous events, and we encourage all to join in the future if able. Our hearts are full! We hold fond memories of our time on the CFM Board and pray that OTHERS will be open to serving in this capacity – you will not be sorry! We look forward to being Ambassadors in the Chicago area! God Bless you and let's all remember CFM in prayer.

Love, Brad & Sally

"The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace." - Numbers 6:24-26



Bi-Annual CFM Board Calls—We Want to Hear From You!

It's that time again! As part of our bi-annual CFM board outreach, we're reaching out to action group leaders to hear how things are going in your groups: which program book you are using and how it has been received, any recent action or service events you've held, areas where you could use support, and your suggestions for future books or resources. If a CFM board member contacts you, thank you in advance for taking the time to share your insights. Your input is invaluable to the growth and vibrancy of our movement. Have a blessed CFM season!

Month of May Prayer

Heavenly Father, In this merry month of May, we thank You for the gift of motherhood and for the Blessed Virgin Mary, whose "yes" brought salvation to the world.

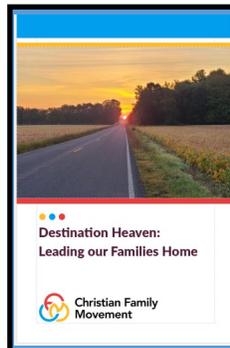
Mary, Mother most holy, intercede for all mothers—those who hold their children in their arms and those who carry them in their hearts. Comfort the grieving, strengthen the struggling, and bring peace to the hopeful. We also remember those who gave their lives in service to our country. Grant them eternal rest and let perpetual light shine upon them.

Holy Mary, wrap them in your care, console their families with Your loving mercy, and lead them to Christ, the Prince of Peace. United in prayer, we ask for grace to cherish life, to honor sacrifice, and to walk always in the light of Christ. Amen.



2025-2026 Program Guide

Destination Heaven - Leading our Families Home



When it comes to raising children, parents are the primary educators and facilitators in the efforts to get their children to heaven. However, many people will impact, inspire and guide them throughout their lives. According to St. Gianna Molla, every vocation is a call to motherhood or fatherhood, earthly, spiritual and moral. This book on parenting is not only relevant for biological parents, but for all mature Christians. The opportunity to take part in the divine by creating a new life, shaping a soul, and preparing that soul for eternal life is one of life's greatest challenges and greatest joys. It is our desire that the topics in this book resonate to strengthen our understanding of parenting, that we might impart to the next generation the richness of the life God intends for each of us—to know him, love him and serve him in this world and ultimately to attain our heart's deepest longing...to return to the home of our loving Father in heaven.

In Memoriam



[Donald F. Kraft Obituary \(2025\) - Chicago, IL - Salerno's Galewood Chapels](#)

[Julie Lesage Obituary \(1943 - 2025\) - Moline, IL - The Rock Island Dispatch Argus](#)

