



### CFM welcomes new national board members: Deacon Tom and Kathy Rothermich



Kathy and Tom Rothermich have been part of Christian Family Movement for more than 30 years. They learned about CFM through an article in the St. Louis Catholic newspaper, & wrote away for more information. They're so glad they did! It has been a great influence on their family, and led to many close friendships. They started and led a group at their parish in the St. Louis area. When they moved to Kansas City ten years ago, to be near kids and grandkids, they started a group at Queen of the Holy Rosary, their wonderful parish in the country, where Tom serves as a Deacon. Now Queen of the Holy Rosary has nine groups! Some groups are for young families, and some are for middle-aged members.

Tom and Kathy are high school sweethearts, and have been married for 46 years. They have four adult children and ten grandchildren, from age four months to 21 years. They appreciate that they still have their moms, who are both 92 years old! Tom and Kathy are retired, and are doing a lot of camping, often with one of Tom's horses!



*Editor's Note:* Tom and Kathy were the first recipients of the CFM Action Award in recognition of their significant enhancement of growth, mission, & visibility at the parishes that they belonged to over

the years. Read more about them & this award on page 58/84 of the 75th Anniversary Commemorative Book: [Digital 75th book 3 Index 8-5-2024 SM PI DB.pdf - Google Drive](#) & on our Facebook page: <https://fb.watch/AAIVTgk00a/>



### 2025 National Summer Board Meeting July 25-27, 2025 in Baltimore, Maryland

The Christian Family Movement (CFM) National Board held its summer board meeting in Baltimore, MD, from July 25–27, 2025. The weekend began with a visit to the Baltimore Basilica, where members spent time in prayer and reflection. That evening, they enjoyed dinner and warm hospitality at the home of former board members John and Lauri Pryzbysz.



On July 26, the board joined Our Lady of the Fields Parish for the 5:00 PM Mass, followed by a lively Family Fun Night filled with pizza and line dancing. The gathering offered a joyful opportunity to connect with the local community and celebrate faith and family life.



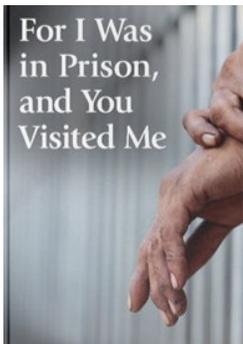
In between fellowship moments, new national board directors, Deacon Tom & Kathy Rothermich, were officially commissioned via Zoom, and the board engaged in meaningful discussions focused on CFM's mission and plans for the year ahead—living out the call to “Observe, Judge, Act.” More photos and stories next month. Stay tuned!



## CFM in Action

### Ann Arbor, MI

#### CFM Group Interacts with the Incarcerated and Those Returning to Society



Members of the CFM group in Ann Arbor Michigan had the privilege of interacting in two different events that involved the incarcerated and those returning to society. The first event was in cooperation with Keryx organization. Members of two of the local CFM groups participated in the serenade portion of the

weekend (similar to Cursillo). It took a lot of preparatory paperwork to be accepted into the prison as well as a couple of hours going through security, but the experience was well worth it. It was apparent on the faces of the incarcerated that the weekend was having a profound impact on many of them and tears and cheers came from the prisoners as the 40-50 singers processed out of the meeting area. The Keryx volunteers who had been with them all weekend later pointed out that the serenade is a very big way the prisoners experience love. Many of them never have visitors and they are touched by the effort that strangers make to come in to the facility and share the love of God. The second event was sponsored by Catholic Charities of Washtenaw County, MI. It was a "Matthew 25 Dinner" that hosted those returning from correctional confinement and were transitioning back into the community alongside people who were willing to eat with them and share stories, hear their challenges with this transition, and brainstorm. The CFM members truly enjoyed the interaction with those returning to society and were surprised by the many hurdles that they have to overcome to be successful, from finding low income housing, to getting a job, finding transportation, learning to use technology that may have never existed before they were incarcerated, finding a support system and so much more that we take for granted. The conversation and dinner was well-facilitated, allowing us to get a window into their lives and what can be done to assist. The dinners were made possible through a grant. If that avenue falls through, CFMers were brainstorming how we might help them to continue to happen.

If your CFM groups are interested in Prison Ministry, please visit:

[Prison Ministry Resources](https://www.catholicprisonministries.org/)

<https://www.catholicprisonministries.org/>

*Prison Ministry*

## FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION - August 15, 2025 - National Today

### **FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

*In giving birth you kept your virginity; in your Dormition you did not leave the world, O Mother of God, but were joined to the source of Life. You conceived the living God and, by your prayers, will deliver our souls from death.*

CCC no. 966



## **Back to School Blessing**

Dear Heavenly Father,

For all the children returning to school, send your Holy Spirit as their guide and protector.

Keep them free from danger and unnecessary harm. Put our sons and daughters in the right place, at the right time, to receive your grace. Let them learn and grow strong. May the presence of your Spirit fill their hearts. Help us to mature as parents and caregivers.

Bless every family, oh Lord.

We entrust our children to you, dear God. Since from the beginning, they are yours to keep.

In the name of the greatest Son of all, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

### **IN MEMORIAM**

[Edmund Joseph Decoteau Obituary - Worcester Telegram & Gazette](#)



[James P. Ford 1930-2025 | News, Sports, Jobs - Tribune Chronicle](#)



[JoAnne H. Apfeld Obituary - Oshkosh Northwestern](#)

