

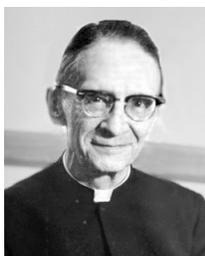


CFM and its Legacy

Excerpted from:
[‘Nice Boy Up from the Parishes’](#)
[Commonweal Magazine](#)

"The election of Pope Leo XIV on May 8 was a stunner, writes Margaret Steinfels. " Not simply an American pope, mind you, but a pope born and raised in Chicago. If you were born and raised in Chicago, ever lived there, or merely passed through, you'd instinctively grasp the true import of this election.

"Chicago was the home of the "specialized Catholic Action movements": the Young Christian Workers, the Young Christian Students, and the **Christian Family Movement**. These were nurtured by **Msgr. Reynold Hillenbrand**, a pioneer of liturgical renewal, whose tenure as head of Chicago's seminary produced a generation of priests who were social activists and community organizers. They joined laypeople in the Catholic Interracial Council, the Catholic Labor Alliance, the labor paper Work, the interracial Friendship House, and The Critic, a literary journal.



Excerpted from:
[French YCW and YCS leaders to be beatified – ACI](#)

The Vatican's Dicastery for the Causes of Saints has recognized the martyrdom of more than twenty French YCW lay leaders as well as chaplains and seminarians linked to the movement.

Pope Leo XIV approved the decree, which also recognized the martyrdom of many more French lay leaders and priests from other movements including the Scouts, and the Young Christian Students (YCS).



Young Christian Students and Young Christian Workers were the forerunners of **Cardinal Cardijn's** work. CFM was started after people who were in France brought the observe/judge/act method to the U.S. Chicago held a joint national office for YCW, YCS and CFM. Pretty exciting stuff! We still need to pray for the canonization of Servant of God Cardinal Cardijn, too!

CFM in Action

Queen of the Holy Rosary, Bucyrus, Kansas

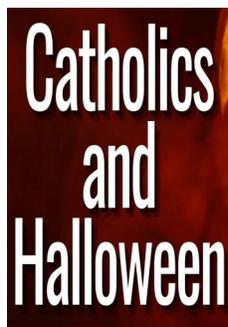


Members of CFM at Queen of the Holy Rosary in Bucyrus, Kansas recently volunteered at Giving the Basics, a local charity that provides essential personal care items to those in need. The group helped package donated toiletries, which were later distributed to schools, shelters, and other community organizations.

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In addition to serving others, the group also enjoyed fellowship together at their annual CFM kick-off gathering. Traditionally, Deacon Tom and Kathy Rothermich have hosted a potluck supper at their home to start the year. But with the group's growth—both in size and in the age of its members—the Rothermiches tried something new this year: an ice cream social. The simple change proved to be a hit! Members gathered at the Rothermich home to enjoy ice cream, conversation, and community. Best of all, the relaxed setting encouraged mingling and connection without the need for extra seating or elaborate planning.



Faithful Ways to Celebrate Halloween & All Saints' Day

- [Easy All Saints Day Party Ideas - 7 ideas for the best All Saints Day party ever - Teaching Catholic Kids](#)
- [Can Catholics Celebrate Halloween? - FOCUS](#)
- [It's Time for Catholics to Embrace Halloween - Word on Fire](#)

IN REMEMBRANCE



Robert (Bob) James Tomonto Jr.
 August 24, 1957 -
 September 21, 2025

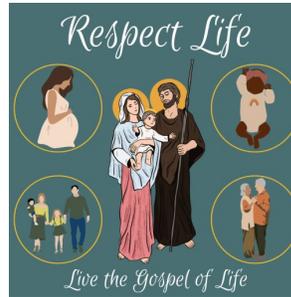
[Obituary information for Robert \(Bob\) James Tomonto](#)

It is with deep sorrow that we share the passing of Bob Tomonto, Jr., a beloved pillar of the Christian Family Movement. We extend our heartfelt condolences and prayers to his wife, Anne, & the entire Tomonto family.

Bob and Anne carried forward a long and faithful legacy of service in CFM—leading local groups and contributing at the national level. As the child of former CFM and ICCFM presidents, Bob Sr. and Irene Tomonto, Bob Jr., and his wife Anne, truly lived the spirit of CFM. In recognition of this enduring commitment, Bob & Anne were honored with the CFM Spanning the Generations Award in January 2025.

The Tomontos have continued to be deeply active in their local & regional CFM communities since their youth. Their family co-authored a CFM book for teens “In Search of Jesus.” They helped create, implement, & expand Covenant Weekends—a program staffed by fellow CFM members. Continuing their family’s tradition of leadership, Bob & Anne went on to serve on the National Board & as National Presidents of CFM.

Holy Rosary and Respect Life Month Families as Witnesses of God’s Love



The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary and this is a reminder of the promises for those who pray this contemplative prayer with Our Lady. It is a sign of predestination.

Each October, the Church observes Holy Rosary & Respect Life Month, a time to reflect on the dignity of every human person from conception to natural death. We pray, through the intercession of Mary, that the members of the **Christian Family Movement** would continue to be bold witnesses to the value & dignity of all life in our homes, churches & communities.

Respect for life begins at home —listening patiently, forgiving quickly, & showing compassion—teaches our children how precious every person truly is.

We are also called to extend this witness outward:

- Pray for life – include mothers, fathers, unborn children, and the elderly in family prayer.
- Support local outreach – volunteer or donate to a food pantry, pregnancy center, or senior ministry.
- Speak with love – build others up, especially the vulnerable or overlooked.
- Practice kindness – small acts like a meal for a neighbor or a note to the lonely affirm human dignity.

Reflection:

What place does the Rosary have in our family prayer life? How do I show respect for the gift of life in my own home?

Family Mission Challenge:

Support life as a family—pray the Rosary, bring a meal to a new mom, or visit someone who is lonely.

Pray for peace in the world and unity in your home.



[Judith Printz Obituary \(2025\) - Niles, IL - Colonial-Wojciechowski Funeral Homes - Chicago](#)

[William Edward Drury, Sr. Obituary - The Providence Journal](#)



[Yoshio Francis Uyemura Obituary - Sierra Madre, CA \(1932-2025\)](#)

CHOOSE FROM 2 TIME ZONES

OUR MONTHLY ONLINE CFM GROUPS ARE FORMING.

Would you or someone you know be interested in joining?

EAST COAST
 Tuesdays 8pm EST
 Starting Oct. 14

WEST COAST
 Thursdays 6pm PT
 Starting Oct. 16

QUESTIONS?
office@cfm.org
 800.581.9824

2ND TUESDAY OR THURSDAY OF THE MONTH

Please register through this link:
[CFM Online Group Registration Form](#)