



CFM in Action

Spirit of Christ Church in Arvada, Colorado



Pat Gacnik (former CFM National Board VP with her husband, Frank) celebrated her 90th Birthday this past June with many friends and family there to help make her day very special. In fact, Sheila Osterhaus (another former Board member) came from Nebraska to be with Pat for this special occasion. Pat is the mother of nine children all of whom have been a part of CFM over the years while growing up with OJA (Observe, Judge, Act), with emphasis on the ACT part. Through CFM, Pat's family have visited migrants, fed the hungry, and have visited and worked on an Indian reservation. Pat belongs to the CFM group led by Gene and Linda Nuccio in Denver, Colorado. Happy Birthday again, Pat! Keep promoting the CFM way of life!



Backpack Blessing



May you play every day and
Learn all you can

May you stay flexible when
they change the game plan

May you have lots of fun
with old friends and new

And know every day
how much God loves you!



Time to Get Your Group Together and Celebrate 75 Years of CFM!

August 3-4, 2024

CFM will celebrate its Diamond Jubilee at Mundelein Seminary!

Celebrate with us during the month of August

- Attend your usual Mass and pray for all families who have been, or are, a part of CFM through the past 75 years.
- Invite your CFM members past and present to a potluck picnic in the park or at the beach. Don't forget the cake!
- Sit down with your family and talk about what CFM means to each member. Have the children draw pictures of activities they have done with CFM



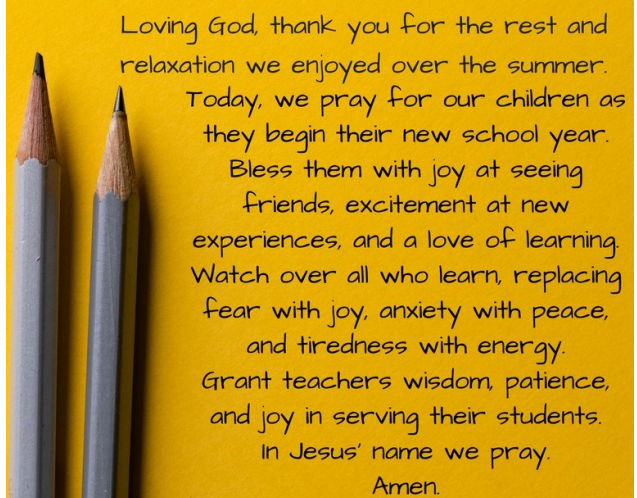
Remember to send CFM your pictures or videos of your celebration!



Inspired by the suggested action in ch. 8 of *Families Protected and Prepared*, Members of Pittsburgh CFM spent the morning of July 4th praying graveside at the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies.



A BACK-TO-SCHOOL PRAYER



Loving God, thank you for the rest and relaxation we enjoyed over the summer.

Today, we pray for our children as they begin their new school year.

Bless them with joy at seeing friends, excitement at new experiences, and a love of learning. Watch over all who learn, replacing fear with joy, anxiety with peace, and tiredness with energy.

Grant teachers wisdom, patience, and joy in serving their students.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

Remembering CFM's Past Leading Lights

In honor of Msgr. Reynold Hillenbrand, CFM established an award to recognize exemplary leadership and dedication of priest chaplains of their local CFM groups.



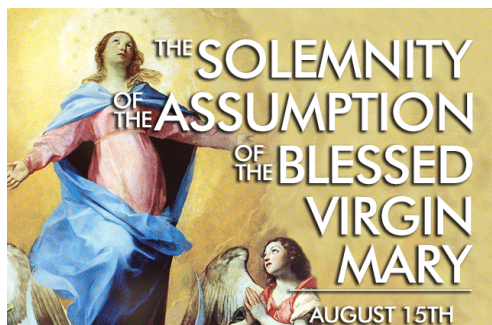
2011
Rev. Donald Conroy
St. Bernard Parish
Indiana, PA

The CFM National Board was treated to a special evening of food, fellowship and reflection on Friday, March 4th, 2011 at the home of then president couple, Bob and Anne Tomonto in Miami, FL. This propelled into a week-end filled with planning, decision making and recognition at the Winter Board meeting. Father Don Conroy was presented with the Hillenbrand award for his years of service to CFM.

Rev. Donald B. Conroy is a priest of the Catholic Diocese of Greensburg, Pennsylvania, and Executive Director of the National Institute for the Family (NIF), a recognized Catholic non-profit, tax exempt organization for research and development of ministry to families.



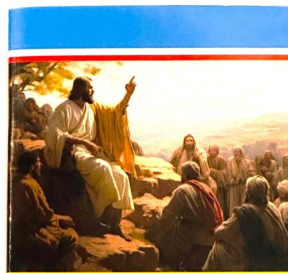
Fr. Conroy was the North American chaplain to the International Confederation of Christian Family Movements (2010-2016) and National Chaplain of the Christian Family Movement-USA (2002-2010). The Pontifical Council on the Family invited Fr. Conroy to participate in a symposium on family ministry at the Vatican in 2010. He was one of the organizers of the National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers. Fr. Conroy co-edited *Earth at Risk: Advancing the Environmental Dialogue Between Religion and Science* (Humanity Books, 2000). He also serves on the Board of Managers of the Lord's Day Alliance of the USA, an ecumenical organization that promotes the joy of Sunday.



[The fascinating history of the feast of Mary's assumption | Catholic News Agency](#)

2024-2025 Program Guide

Parables: More Than Just Stories



Parables:
More than just stories



"At its simplest, a parable is a metaphor or simile drawn from nature or common life, arresting the hearer by its vividness or strangeness, and leaving the mind in sufficient doubt about its precise application to tease it into active thought."

C. H. Dodd

What Can We Learn from Jesus' Parables?

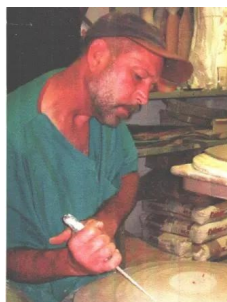
1. Parables teach us something about God.
2. Parables teach us something about ourselves.
3. Parables illustrate our need for something
4. Parables serve as a guide to action.
5. Parables reveal the future Kingdom that is already at hand.

6 Important Reasons Jesus Taught in Parables

[6 Important Reasons Jesus Taught in Parables - Beliefnet](#)



In Memoriam



[Steve Aitchison Obituary \(2024\) - Ames, IA - Ames Monument & Cremation Center \(legacy.com\)](#)



[John Courtney Obituary \(1936 - 2023\) - St. Petersburg, NY - Buffalo News \(legacy.com\)](#)



[WILLIAM DEMPSEY Obituary \(2024\) - Malden, MA - Boston Globe \(legacy.com\)](#)
[William Dempsey Obituary | June 30, 2024 | Malden, MA \(weirfuneralhome.com\)](#)