



CFM Celebrates 75 Years of Making Friends, Making Disciples, and Making a Difference



From Aug. 2 –4, 2024, CFM members and their families joined the weekend long celebration at Mundelein Seminary and at Doubletree Hotel. The National Board held their Summer Board meeting on Thursday, August 1st with the

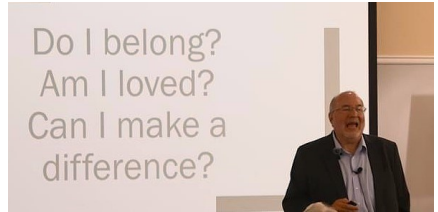
current national chaplain, Fr. Karl Romkema, CSC, in attendance. Final preparations for the anniversary celebration were completed on Friday morning, August 2nd, right before the meet-and-greet reunion dinner-social that night which was filled with reminiscing, games, testimonies, and hugs. Friday night was meaningfully capped by a candlelit rosary walk around Mundelein Seminary's beautiful campus, including the Lourdes shrine. The walk was followed by Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction in the residence chapel.



CFM kids and teens had their own activities of engagement.



On Saturday, our Keynote Speaker, Dr. Jim Healey, PhD, shared practical ways for CFM groups and families to bless each other and to help send us forth in strengthening our faith life, individually and collectively.



Do I belong?
Am I loved?
Can I make a difference?

[CFM 75th Anniversary Keynote Dr Healy \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)



Full engagement and participation was in every breakout session as attendees put Dr. Healy's words of wisdom into the Observe-Judge-Act method within the safe space of sharing and moving forward with ideas and inspiration.



The afternoon allowed members to hear the comprehensive summaries from each breakout group; to witness what the International Confederation of Christian Family Movement (ICCFM) has been doing the past few years in 5 continents of the world; and to learn from 3 workshops (Blessing Our Families: A follow-up by Dr. Healey, Creating and Building a CFM Culture in Your Parish, and What Our Past Teaches Us about Our Future: A panel of past CFM Presidents/Chaplain).

Turning 75 is no easy feat, so this achievement was fittingly celebrated on Saturday night at the Doubletree Hotel Ballroom with awards presentations, feasting, posing, and dancing amid sparkles and bubbles galore plus music by Bella Second Shot Band. More photos and videos are available for viewing on our FB page (see details next page).



August 4, 2024 - The celebration culminated with Sunday Mass concelebrated by a bishop, three priests, and four deacons (a rare blessing indeed!), as we were called forth to live the Gospel and continue making friends, making disciples, and making a difference. Congratulations to us, the CFM community, for 75 years of service to God and our communities and may we continue to go, grow and glow!



National CFM's past and present president couples

National CFM's current board members





CFM presented the inaugural **Pat and Patty Crowley Award** at CFM's 75th anniversary Celebration Gala on August 4, 2024 to recognize those who have served CFM in significant leadership positions at the national and/or international levels) & have shown a serious long-term commitment to the Movement and its promotion. We were honored by the presence of 9 family members and friends of the Crowley family, including four of their children.



Gary and Kay Aitchison from Ames, Iowa, are our distinguished first recipients of this award. Rick & Sandy Hoeng accepted the award on their behalf. The award was presented in recognition of their faithful and manifold acts of service to families, the Church and the world through their participation 7 contributions at local, national & international levels in CFM. During the more than 20 years that Kay and Gary have been involved in CFM leadership (4 years as CFM Presidents, 16 years as Executive Directors, Programming Committee contributors as writers and editors of CFM's group materials, International delegates to 6 ICCFM world Assemblies and 1 European Congress, participants in the 1987 SYNOD, "Consultation of Catholic Lay Leaders," & the 2000 Jubilee Family Congress in Rome, Italy), CFM reversed a steep decline in membership and increased its visibility within the church & in the media. The list of their accomplishments is a testimony to their creative and faithful action in service to the Lord & to all of us. **Thank you, Gary and Kay!**



On a sad note, our dear Gary passed on last August 18, 2024, shortly after Rick and Sandy visited Gary and Kay to deliver the plaque. Gary's legacy will live on in the many acts of service that he has done for God and the world. Rest in peace, God's beloved and faithful servant, Gary!

75th Anniversary Celebration Photo Albums on Facebook

A few people captured some amazing moments, and now all the photos are organized into albums on our Facebook page for you to enjoy! Here's how you can find and access them:

1. Visit the CFM-USA Facebook Page: Head over to our official Facebook page. [Facebook](#)
2. Navigate to the 'Photos' Tab: Once you're on our page, look for the 'Photos' tab just below our cover photo. Click on it.
3. Browse Our Albums: Under the 'Photos' section, you'll see different albums we've posted. They each begin with "CFM 75th"
4. Click to View: Click on any album that catches your eye to view all the photos inside. You can scroll through, like, comment, and share your favorites!

Feel free to tag yourself in any photos you're featured in. Enjoy reliving the memories with us!



CFM welcomes new national board members: Deacon Pete and Jan LeTourneau

"We are Deacon Pete and Jan LeTourneau of Arlington Heights IL. We have two children in their 30's - Emily and her husband Jon (from Heath, Ohio), and Andrew and his wife Amanda (from Pittsburgh, PA). We have lived in Arlington Heights for 30 years, & joined CFM shortly after we moved and became parishioners of Our Lady of the Wayside. At that time, it seemed like it was non-negotiable - everyone new to the parish MUST join CFM! Recently having celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary, one of areas we reflect on is how integral CFM was and is - not only in our own spiritual growth, but in helping us to raise our family in the faith while living in a world that makes it difficult. We don't know what we would have done without it, and it's one of the reasons we are so passionate about being involved in this wonderful organization! We want to continue to provide this "safe space" to all families. During our time in CFM, we have held positions as Group Leaders, Treasurer, Communications, Chair Couple, and currently serve as Liturgical Couple."

Pete was ordained a Deacon in 2018 and currently works as the Director of Parish Ministry and Evangelization at Our Lady of the Wayside. Jan retired 2 years ago after almost 40 years in the corporate world. They enjoy working together on many ministries including Baptismal Preparation, Marriage Preparation and Respect Life. In their free time, they love to travel, hike and bike. Thank you, Deacon Pete and Jan, for saying YES to become board members!

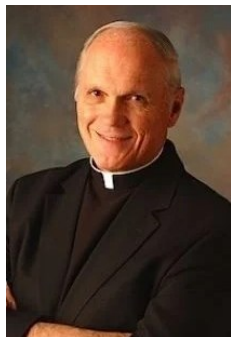


Remembering CFM's Past Leading Lights

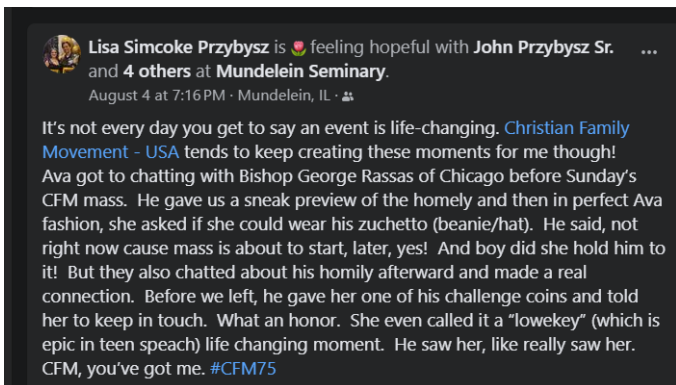
In honor of Msgr. Reynold Hillenbrand, CFM established an award to recognize exemplary leadership and dedication of priest chaplains of their local CFM groups.



2018
Bishop George Rassas
Archdiocese of Chicago



The Hillenbrand award was presented to Bishop George Rassas at the CFM National Board Summer meeting in 2018. He had been very gracious in joining the national board meetings since 2013. Bishop Rassas retired in 2018 as Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago. CFM is very lucky to have a bishop who easily forms deep connections with people. His impact is immense and that was readily manifested at the recent 75th anniversary celebration of CFM held in Mundelein Seminary in Illinois.



[George James Rassas - Wikipedia](#)

[Bishop Rassas: 'I'm the luckiest person in the world' - Chicagoland - Chicago Catholic](#)

<https://bit.ly/3AvUsrW>

[Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic Church | HE'S NO LONGER "OUR" BISHOP BUT WE'RE LIKELY TO SEE BISHOP RASSAS OFTEN \(olwparish.org\)](#)



CFM 75th anniversary: the Celebration Continues



The main event may have already happened in Mundelein, but the celebrations need not stop. We will be having a virtual celebration before the year ends with inspirational talks, testimonies, games, & virtual visits with members from all over the world. We encourage you to continue celebrating CFM's 75 years of existence at your respective CFM groups by:

- Attending your usual Mass and praying for all families who have been or are a part of CFM through the past 75 years.
- Inviting past and present CFM members to your kick-off events or monthly meetings.
- Gathering with your family and talking about what CFM means to each member. Do some reminiscing using old photographs and start making new memories.



2024-2025 Program Guide

Parables: More Than Just Stories

The Purpose of Parables

Matthew 13:10-13

"The disciples approached him and said, 'Why do you speak to them in parables?'

He replied, 'Because knowledge of the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven has been granted to you, but

not to them. To anyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. This is why I speak to them in parables, because 'they look but do not see and hear but do not listen or understand.'"



In Memoriam



[Gary L. Aitchison Obituary \(1935-2024\) | Ames, IA \(echovita.com\)](#)

[Gary Aitchison Obituary - The Ames Tribune](#)



[Mary McDonald Obituary \(2024\) - Arlington Heights, IL - Daily Herald \(legacy.com\)](#)



[Rosemary Worklan Obituary - Lindenhurst \(1930-2024\) \(chicagotribune.com\)](#)