



Fr. Don Conroy's 60th Anniversary of Ordination

CFM-USA extends our prayers and best wishes to Fr. Don Conroy, past national and international chaplain, in honor of the 60th anniversary of his ordination. To mark this joyful occasion, CFM-USA is making a donation to the National Institute for the Family. The National Institute of the Family was founded by Fr. Conroy more than 40 years ago as a research and development organization to promote family ministry. Since that time, the Christian Family Movement, both in the USA and International, continues to be a key part of Fr. Conroy's ministry.

Thank you, Fr. Don, for your dedication to families and promoting the domestic church around the world!

<https://theaccentonline.org/2024-diocese-of-greensburg-jubilarian-priests/>

[National Institute for the Family - CATHOLICS FOR FAMILY PEACE](#)



CFM National Winter Board Meeting Pinecrest, Florida, January 17-19, 2025



CFM has spanned the generations for 75 years, not just in our programming (newly married to empty nesters to grandparents), but also in our leadership. At the 2025 Winter Board Meeting, the first "CFM - Spanning the Generations" Award was presented to the Tomonto Family at St. Louis Catholic Church in Pinecrest, FL. For the Tomontos, leadership was really a family affair—from Irene and Bob Sr. serving as national presidents (and also with IC-CFM for a period of time) to their kids writing a book for teenagers that was published and used by the national movement over a couple of generations (Title - In Search of Jesus). The Tomontos were also very active in their local and regional CFM by creating, implementing and proliferating Covenant Weekends that were staffed by CFMers. Bob, Jr. and Anne Tomonto continued the tradition of leadership when they too served on the national board and as National Presidents. CFM hopes to encourage all these ways of spanning the generations into the future. We hope you will continue to carry the mission of CFM: [About - Christian Family Movement](#)

More stories and photos about the Winter Board meeting will be shared in our ACT newsletter March issue and on our social media pages. Stay tuned!

CFM in Action: Our Lady of the Wayside Parish, Arlington Heights, IL CFM Families Brighten Spirits With Carols & Crafts



Last December 2024, some CFM families and others from Our Lady of the Wayside Parish in Arlington Heights, Illinois brightened Christmas spirits with Caroling and a Craft event at The Moorings, a senior living facility. The wee ones stole the show with dancing and shaking jingle bells. So cute! The singing and crafts were a big hit. To see the video and other photos, check out this link: [Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic Church | CFM Families Brighten Spirits With Carols & Crafts](#)



**A CFM
Love Story**
**Dave and
Lisa
Przybysz**

At the 2024 CFM 75th anniversary celebration in Mundelein, IL, two young children, Ava and Ivan, attended with both sets of grandparents whose children, Dave Przybysz and Lisa Simcoke, then pre-teens, met 31 years ago at another CFM nationwide event.

Here’s Dave sharing their CFM love story:

“I met my wife at the Christian Family Movement 1993 National Convention in Iowa. Sometimes I tell people we met at the Field of Dreams, where the movie was filmed...after all, we did take a day trip there. Lisa was from the Detroit area while I grew up outside Pittsburgh. We were about 12 years old and at that time, I already noticed Lisa’s pretty eyes. Lisa told her mother, Olga Simcoke, that she was going to marry me and that she wanted a pet potbellied pig.

“When you’re older,” Olga told her. Thirteen years later, we were married and had a one year old pet pig named Burger. He was our practice child and lived for 19 years.



Going back a bit, Lisa and I met for the second time at the 1995 CFM convention in Oberlin, Ohio. This is when I really noticed those pretty eyes. Even

though I thought she had a crush on my little brother, I started sending her love letters. We exchanged hundreds of letters over the next few years, and over her family relocations to New York and back to Michigan.

Lisa’s parents, Dave and Olga, were originally from Pittsburgh, and were pals with my parents, John and Lauri (past CFM Presidents and now ICCFM Vice-Presidents). Their family visited us twice while we were in high school, which intensified the bonding. I was pretty nervous, but we did hold hands.



We kept sending love letters and when technology evolved, we switched to emails and Instant Messaging, throughout college. She went to a Catholic school, Uni-

versity of Detroit Mercy. I went to Penn State. We had other boyfriends and girlfriends during school, but we kept in touch. After undergrad, Lisa decided to go to chiropractic school in Atlanta to get her doctorate. Before she moved to Georgia, we visited a couple of times to see if we were going to be a couple for real, or move on from our childish romance.”

To find out more about how Dave and Lisa managed their LDR (long-distance relationship) flourishing then, up to what it is now, please check out next month’s March ACT newsletter.



Meanwhile, we hope that you will all have a Happy Valentine’s Day (and month) and may you all thrive in the best love story we have all been gifted with : God sending us his beloved son!

**Cardinal Joseph Cardijn’s
OBSERVE, JUDGE, ACT Legacy:
Enrique Shaw Tornquist**



The cause for canonization of Argentine business leader and Christian Family Movement founder, Enrique Shaw, has taken another step forward after the alleged miracle attributed to his intercession passed the medical stage. In 2021, Pope Francis declared Shaw as “venerable”, so this medical phase passing may lead to the next step: beatification. In his lifetime, Shaw’s goal and calling was to be “Christ in the business world.” CFM is so blessed to have one of its international founders a candidate for sainthood.

For more information about him, click on [Centre International Cardijn](#) (2nd article) and [Argentine businessman Enrique Shaw moves closer to beatification | Catholic News Agency](#) .



In Memoriam



[Rita M. Parlin, 93 - Austin Daily Herald | Austin Daily Herald](#)

[Luz Mate Obituary \(2025\) - San Antonio, TX - Castle Ridge Mortuary - North](#)

