



## Reflection: CFM is a Way of Life by Deacon Don Grossnickle



Kathy and I began our CFM journey BC (Before Children) in 1975 at Our Lady of the Wayside Parish in Arlington Heights. As the family grew, so did our lifestyle connections to the CFM model: observing, judging, and acting.

Attending meetings locally led to National meetings in South Bend as the message of integrating Christ penetrated our hearts so that making a difference in helping others was much more than a slogan.



Our involvement grew and Kathy and I had the privilege of editing a program book for the National. For a young father a vocational calling led to study for Don and Kathy and Don was ordained a permanent deacon in 1988.

Serving the Archdiocese and parish and raising the family while helping run public high schools kept Don, Kathy and family super involved. Always time for CFM.

Happy to share CFM has led to working as a retired deacon now working mostly from home as a missionary deacon in Uganda East Africa's medical clinic work.

Happy to circle back and thank God CFM has become so close to our family.



The best we CFMers can do is keep inspiring ourselves so we can share God's love with others.

For more information about Deacon Don and his ministry and mission work, please visit these links:

- [The Deacon as a Global Mission Partner – The Deacon](#)
- [GUEST POST: For World Mission Sunday, a deacon reflects on his mission in Uganda - Deacon Greg Kandra](#)
- [An Unexpected Journey - Catholic Journal](#)
- [Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic Church | A Call to Service: Archdiocese Interview with Deacon Don Grossnickle](#)
- [After a Brush with Death, A Chicago Deacon Does God's Work in Uganda – Light One Candle – the blog of The Christophers](#)



### OFFICE HOURS

Pam is available to respond to calls between the hours of **12-4pm, Tuesday thru Thursday.**  
**1-800-581-9824**

Emails to the office are checked daily, Monday thru Friday.  
office@cfm.org

## Our Lady of the Wayside's CFM Thanksgiving Mass and Agape



Turnout was great for Thanksgiving Mass and Agape, sponsored by Our Lady of the Wayside's Christian Family Movement.

Families gathered for buffet breakfast, coffee and camaraderie. Thankful hearts.



For more photos, please click this link:  
<https://olwparish.org/2024/12/03/agape-and-thanksgiving/>

## 2025 Family Conferences

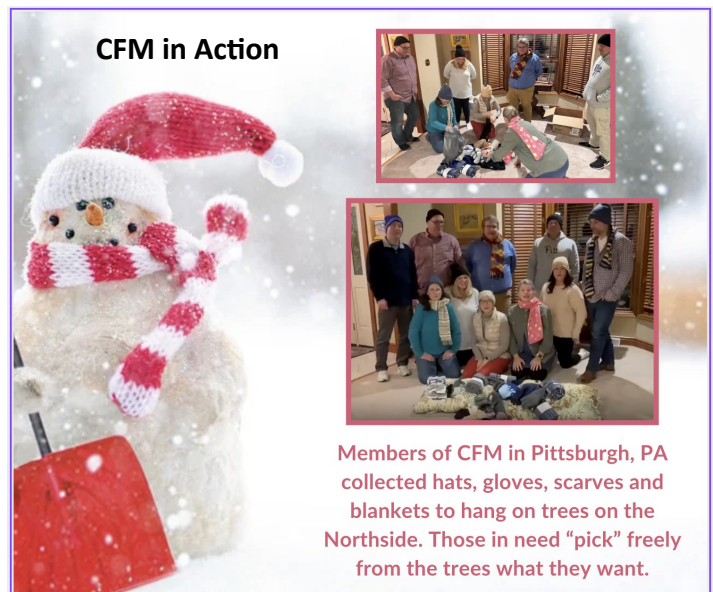


CFM families are encouraged and challenged to attend any of these conferences in 2025 curated for you to help you grow your faith and experience transformation and meaningful connections.

1. Los Angeles Religious Education Congress, Anaheim Convention Center, Feb 20-23, 2025. <https://recongress.org/>
2. 2025 Catholic Social Tradition Conference, March 20–22, 2025, University of Notre Dame. Signs of the Times: Interdisciplinary Responses to Religious Nationalism. Registration closes February 15, 2025. <https://socialconcerns.nd.edu/cst2025/>
3. Jubilee of Families, Children, Grandparents and the Elderly, 30 May 2025 - 1 June 2025, Rome. REGISTRATION DEADLINE: March 30, 2025. <https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en/pellegrinaggio/calendario-giubileo/GrandiEventi/Giubileo-delle-Famiglie-dei-Nonni-degli-Anziani.html>
4. National Catholic Educational Association 2025 Convention, 4/22-4/24/2025, Orlando, FL. Orange County Convention Center. \$530 before 3 March. NCEA invites you to this one-of-a-kind event that brings together Catholic and other religious educators from across the U.S., Canada and other countries to exchange ideas and debut cutting-edge research and technologies related to education. <https://www.ncea.org/ncea2025>
5. 7 - 8 June 2025, Rome. Jubilee of Ecclesial Movements, Associations and New Communities (such as CFM). See link above for Jubilee calendar.
6. Family Life Conference, June 27-30, 2025, Lac Ste. Anne, Alberta Canada. Catholic Family Ministries, <https://www.catholicfamilyministries.com/> \$50 per person.
7. 2025 Midwest Catholic Family Conference, August 1-3, 2025, Wichita, Kansas. \$125/person through 28 June. The Midwest Catholic Family Conference exists to form God's family as disciples of Jesus Christ through speakers, sacraments, and prayer cultivating a community of faith inspired by the Holy Spirit. This looks like a great place where we could introduce

families to CFM. Unsure of vendor cost. <https://catholicdioceseofwichita.org/director-of-the-midwest-catholic-family-conference-is-already-planning-for-2025/>

8. Good News Conference, October 24 - 26, 2025, Hyatt Regency Orlando, \$1899 per person package double occupancy. A conference for those who desire to grow closer to Christ through the Good News as preached by the world's most dynamic evangelists. Speakers: Bishop Robert Barron (Diocese of Winona-Rochester and Founder of Word on Fire), Father Mike Schmitz (Presenter of "Bible in a Year" and "Catechism in a Year"), Sister Raffaella Petrini (Secretary General, Vatican City), Jeff Cavins (Biblical Scholar), and others (TBA). <https://goodnewsconference.com/>
9. World Meeting of Families, sponsored by the Holy See's Pontifical Council for the Family, is the world's largest Catholic gathering of families. Held every three years. 2025 will be the Jubilee in Rome. The next World Meeting of Families will be held in 2028, location and dates TBD, but before that the next gathering of Catholic families will be the "Jubilee of Families" in Rome for the Jubilee Year 2025. <https://aebishops.org/jubilee-of-families-in-2025-next-wmof-in-2028/>



### In Memoriam



[Richard "Dick" Nielsen Obituary \(2024\) - Saginaw, MI - Snow Funeral Home - Saginaw](#)