



Newsletter- November 2023

CFSM Singapore

2 Highland Road, #03-12

Singapore 549102

Website: <http://www.cfsm.org.sg>

Contact email: cfsmsg@gmail.com

HOW PREVALENT IS OVERSPENDING/OVER-COMMITMENT?

Between birth and death we have life. This is a journey that all who born have to take; some are long and others are not so but all of us who are born have to take this journey.

Our spending habits are largely influenced by our beliefs, motivations, family, peers and the economic conditions in Singapore. Some of us believe in secular values while others may adhere to their religious values.

SEE

Here are some examples of how the world influences us and we follow their ways:

1. When we send our children to pre-schools many of us are tempted to stress our children too much for them to be accepted in prestigious schools.
2. When we celebrate, we tend to choose elaborate and expensive choices. Examples are for birthdays, anniversaries, weddings, social and family get together.
3. Buying large and expensive homes sometimes to make a profit later but sometimes incurring a burdensome mortgage loan.

While some of the above mentioned are commitments that we unwittingly do, over committing is a danger that can get us caught in a debt trap.

When many of us are over-committing or living beyond our means, it is normal to feel safety in numbers and do likewise but the various financial crises that we have gone through have caught many of us unaware and left us in dire financial difficulties and sometimes losing our homes that we loved. Overspending by one or both spouses has lead to breakdowns and breakups in marriages, disputes in families and a general decline in the living standards of the affected parties.

Of course, there are some of us who profit by selling our large homes and move to a smaller units. But again this manner of buying and selling depends on us carefully getting our calculations right and making sure that we enter the market at the right time. These points would be the same in all major investments, such as company shares, unit trusts, start-ups, etc.

With modern methods of payment such as credit cards, debit cards, PAYNOW, PAYWAVE, BUY NOW PAY LATER, etc, overspending or over-commitment has become a very thorny problem in some families.

What are the other causes and consequences of overspending or excessive commitment that you can think of?

JUDGE

Personal Reflection

Moderation and caution are the leading sentiments that should guide us as we hold much of the responsibilities in the well-being of the family. We should plan carefully and dispense with our duty without being influenced by what goes around us. Save for a rainy day and be prepared for the unforeseeable future. While it is good to have the things that may provide much more comfort than we are used to, be sure you can afford it and do not overextend yourself. When we have a family, sometimes we may have to disappoint them for the greater interest.

Better to be safe than sorry. Don't be the one who lost the family fortune on indulgence. Pray to God and seek his guidance when preparing to loan, borrow or buy or you may have to "beg" to sustain yourself and your family.

Christian Reflection

Luke 9:7-9, Matthew 14:1-12 and Mark 6:14-29 is a story of a king who committed without carefully considering the consequences.

We also need to remember and obey God's commandment not to covet our neighbour's property or possessions.

What other messages from the bible can you think of on this topic?

What does the Vatican documents and the Catholic Social Teachings of the Church say on this topic?

ACT

Do not be led astray from our teachings and responsibilities by what you see others do as your condition and that of others is most of the time is not similar. Remember the Lord's Prayer and what it means to us and seek shelter in his words and teachings. Lasting Peace, Joy and Comfort comes from the Lord and will sustain you always. Do not be tempted to stray from the safe path.

1. What can I as an individual or as a parent do to prevent overspending/over-commitment?
2. How can I help others in my family or my friends to keep within their budget?
3. How can the Movement support spiritually its members in this respect?

(Edited version of an article by Basil Leo Camoens)

Announcements

1. Faith Formation Session

Topic: "Building the Kingdom of God"

Date: Saturday 4 November 2023

Time: 2pm to 5pm

Venue: The Catholic Centre, Flora Room, 55 Waterloo Street, Singapore

2. CFSM Base Group Leaders Retreat 2024

To Be Held on 12, 13 and 14 January 2024

12 January 2024 at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour at 8 pm

13 and 14 January 2024 at St Francis Xavier Major Seminary at Upper Bukit Timah Road (Full Day)

3. CFSM Member's Subscription Fee for Year 2024

As we draw to the end of 2023, the CFSM community seeks your generous support for the 2024 annual subscription of \$20 per family. This will help us to fulfill our mission to build God's Kingdom in Christian families by defraying our costs for the upcoming activities next year. Thank you and God bless. Please send your fees and donations to (please indicate your name and base group):

Christian Family & Social Movement

Account No: 04090521984

Bank: Maybank Limited