



## Christ Has Called Us to Family Ministry

The National CFM Board works to connect and energize CFMers all over the country for our joint mission to promote Christ-centered marriage and family life, to help individuals and their families to live the Christian faith in everyday life, and to improve society through actions of love, service, education and example.

Nine couples from the Board of Directors, National Chaplain Fr. Louis Golamari, and Bishop George Rassas (below) participated in their semi-annual meeting, by Zoom on Jan. 23 and 24, 2021. Evening Prayer was live-streamed on the [CFM Facebook page](#) from Fr. Louis' St. Jude Parish in Oshkosh, WI, with the aid of parish



### *We move forward in faith.*

(above). President Couple Mary Ann and Brian Thelen said, "Our roots give us wings as we look to the new challenges in the Church as we come out of Covid and to the challenges in society as we deal with racial tensions, political unrest, and a disinterested and isolated culture. We move forward in faith with our expansion efforts, looking toward the dioceses of Lansing, Green Bay and the Archdiocese of Washington. With faith, we dare to imagine that we are seeing a transformed CFM that will 'play its role on the stage of history once again.' As our forerunners in the movement have done, we observe, judge and act to discern our next steps. We are humbled by your commitment and congratulate and thank you for your tireless effort for the Lord and the Movement."



Please join all CFMers in praying the Our Father at 8:30 p.m. nightly  
for all those affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

## Pre-Meeting Communications

### Ideas for Text or Email

**Make it personal.** When writing announcements, pretend you're speaking directly to one person. People want to feel invited not notified.

**Example:** *When you want to communicate, "The meeting tomorrow is on page 24. Be sure to be prepared to report on your actions and prepare the observe questions."*

*Instead, consider: "We're excited to see you tomorrow at our CFM meeting, another graced opportunity to grow in faith alongside other parishioners. We would love for you to join us and share your thoughts on Meeting 6. You will find it on Page 24 of our program book. For your convenience, here are the observe questions..."*

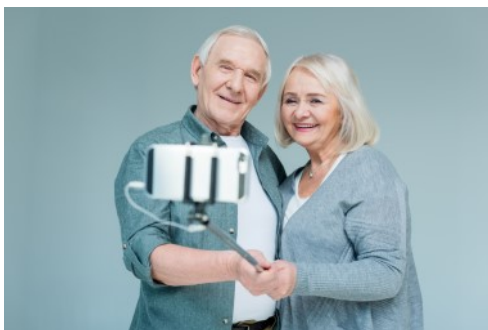
**Plan for comfort.** In person, offer seating where people can see and hear well. Online, suggest they go online for their small group in a quiet place free from interruptions and where they can talk frankly without being overheard by roommates or family. Try to establish a "safe place" to explore their questions.

**Help them feel prepared.** Suggest they bring all they need to the "meeting": notebooks, pens, snacks, drinks, etc. so they will not need to get up and roam around. This will help create a "set apart" time, just for them.

**Create a shared experience online.** Consider mailing participants a note or holy card or ask everyone to bring a holy image/item from their home to share with the group.

**Make the invitation attractive.** Try using Evite or other invitation programs/apps to announce the meeting. These programs are free and can include pretty graphics.

**NEXT MONTH: More ideas for dynamic meetings online!**



## Marriage Enrichment Resource in Covid Times

by *Marriage Moments* Author Susan Vogt

Covid-19 not only can affect our health, time, and income, but also our patience with our spouse. A conflict might start small and then continues to irritate. In marriage we might call this a pinch.

Read [The Pinch](#) for examples and ideas to help.

**CATHOLIC FAMILY CRATE** <https://catholicfamilycrate.com/>

Explore this new apostolate that delivers highly engaging and beautifully crafted catechesis tools that make growing in the faith doable in a busy, modern life; and helps families establish themselves in the good, true, and beautiful elements of our traditions and teaching. They do this mainly through their monthly "crates," educational kits designed to make cultivating a strong family within the domestic church easy and streamlined. While their materials are designed with ages 3-12 in mind, most of these materials are designed to be enjoyed and appreciated by all ages.



## World CFM Leaders Pray for Health and Solidarity in New Year's Liturgy

This month, more than 68 couples and individual CFMers from all over the world — Italy, Philippines, Hungary, Spain, Honduras, Panama, Mexico, India, Dominican Republic, Australia, Singapore, Guatemala, Brazil, Bolivia, and USA — gathered for a live-streamed Mass on the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord, to begin the new year in prayer together. International Chaplain, Bishop Gerald Alminaza of Manila, told the CFMers, “We are gifted to give.” We prayed for the end of the pandemic and for all who suffer from it. Bishop Gerry urged everyone to recommit ourselves to solidarity with all people and to reach out to all families to show the love of God for them. See more about international CFM at <http://www.iccfm.org>



### How Will You Share in the Mission of CFM?



If your life has been touched by the mission of the Christian Family Movement, please consider donating and supporting us as we boldly step out in faith to do the Lord's work! CFM is committed to reaching out to a wider audience, and this comes with a significant cost in updating and maintaining our digital and social media presence.

[Donate to CFM here.](#)

### CFM Logo Shirts, Hats and Bags

Share the CFM message at church and in the community. Choose just the right apparel for your group at CFM's exclusive online store. Logo is available with black or white lettering. Shop from the full Lands End catalog at: <https://business.landsend.com/store/christianfamilymovement/>

