

THAILAND COUNTRY REPORT

National Presidents: Wisit and Orphin Sirithanasart
National Chaplain: Rev. Fr. Bunsong Hongthong

1. Methodology employed in the evangelization of members
 - a. Formation program through unit meetings
Each of the four groups has unit meetings, some regular and some irregular, mostly once a month or once in two months
 - b. Family life programs
Marriage Enrichment Seminar, Family Planning, Family Counseling
 - c. Outreach
Spiritual and corporal works of mercy when there are special Church celebrations and when the need arises

2. Services rendered by the CFM (based on the policies of BEC and Family Life Promotion Program)
 - a. Promoting the dignity of the human person
 - b. Preferential love of the poor
 - c. Promoting the Gospel of Life / Pro-life programs
 - d. Health care
 - e. Education
 - f. Peacemaking
 - g. Promoting globalization without marginalization
 - h. Promoting national responsibility
 - i. Protecting the environment

3. Total number of active membership
100* families

*ICCFM Thailand has 4 affiliated groups: the CFM, the Family Life Promotion core group, the Marriage Enrichment Seminar graduates who form groups, and the Bishop-mandated Basic Ecclesial Communities (BEC groups) in 4 dioceses which have clusters of Catholic communities (Thare, Ubol Ratchathani, Surat Thani and Nakorn Rajasima). These groups maintain their affiliation with the ICCFM through Rev. Fr. Bunsong Hongthong. The number and sizes of the groups vary greatly from year to year, depending on the initiative of the bishops and the parish priests.

4. Achievements
 - a. Interfaith dialogue – the Marriage Enrichment Seminar is open to Catholic, mixed-marriage and Buddhist couples
 - b. Family counseling – our members in the Family Life Promotion Council pioneered a family counseling program through Catholic schools as one strategy to reach out to troubled families
 - c. Hosting of the CFM Asia Continental Convention

- d. Civic involvement – membership in the Thai Family Studies Association and giving a well-received presentation on Catholic family service programs during the Thai Family Studies Convention on the crisis faced by Thai families
- e. Participation in Asian Family Life Symposium meetings and presenting the Thai reports on “Family Counseling” and “Young Married Couples: Current Issues and Challenges”
- f. Fulfilling the family evangelization mission with other Catholic action groups like the Legion of Mary and St. Vincent de Paul

5. Expectations

- a. To work more with the BEC as it is strongly mandated by the Federation of Asian Bishops Conference
- b. To adapt existing CFM handbooks to the Thai situation and translating them into Thai for use in BEC meetings
- c. To increase interfaith dialog with Buddhists as a form of family evangelization
- d. To work more actively with other religious and civic family organizations in Thailand because we have a lot to share

6. Difficulties

- a. Very few Catholics living far from each other
- b. No fulltime staff to focus on implementing new resolutions and actions
- c. Few volunteers who have their own daily work and whose commitment vary from person to person and from time to time
- d. Too many activities competing for time
- e. Permissive society and detached nature of the people