



International Confederation of Christian Family Movements



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT COUPLE

March 25, 2007

Dear CFM Members,

Easter, the greatest feast of Christendom, is here again! During this time of Lent, as we await Christ's Resurrection, the victory of love over sin and death, let us turn our thoughts towards the Youth, the hope of our future.

As spring bears new life to earth, so does the Youth bear new life to mankind. Mary and Joseph were mere youths when Jesus was born, and though they were young parents, they fittingly brought up the Child destined to be the Savior of the World. Jesus Himself, Son of God and Redeemer of Mankind, was only 33 years old at his death on the Cross, also a mere youth especially in terms of our modern times, but He is our very Way, our Truth, and our Life.

Youth has a greater capacity than we can ever comprehend or appreciate—Youth is God's gift to us, and it is our role to bring up our young people fittingly, to develop their full potential according to God's plan.

We are honored this year that ICCFM Vice-Presidents William and Esilda Cheng of Panama are sharing their Easter Message with us. William and Esilda will lead the Panel on Youth at the Tenth ICCFM World Assembly of Families in Fatima, and they would like us to reflect on issues affecting the Youth, our most valuable asset. Let us pray to the Holy Spirit that their words will bring us new insights to share at the World Assembly.

Thank you very much, William and Esilda.

With great love and prayerful Easter wishes to each one of you,
Nop and Elma
ICCFM Presidents

EASTER MESSAGE - "The Lord is risen!" Mt. 28: 6

Friends and Brothers in the faith, Members of the International Confederation of Christian Family Movements:

"The Lord is risen!" beautiful Easter proclamation that fills our hearts with great joy; the promise becomes a reality and it is this event that gives us the strength and happiness to keep working together for a common dream: justice and peace.



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It is an appropriate occasion to send everyone our special Easter greetings with hopes that many families are getting prepared to participate in the X World Meeting of Families and the XIV ICCFM General Assembly to take place in Fatima, Portugal from the 25th to the 29th of July of the present year: There will be very important subjects: Prayer as God's Presence in the Family, Marriage as a Total Self-Giving, Sin as the Root of Social Evil, and for the first time, youth will have representation in the panel, Value of the Youth to Family, Church and Society.

We would like to emphasize that in the month of February, the Second Meeting of Latin America MFC Youth took place in Panama, in which 200 youngsters from eleven countries, after three days of work, meditation, prayer and fraternal living, articulated the following resolution addressed to all youth:

"We, the youth of the Christian Family Movement, have experienced the vocation of love. We, who from different Latin American countries came to Panama thinking of amusements, of what we were going to see, believing that as usual we were going to hear the same things . . . you know what? . . . we discovered something so "cool" that we would like to share with you:

- Among so many different ways to show love, we understand that LOVE is one and true because it comes from Christ.
- Now we know with confidence and without fear that we are able to give to others the gifts that God gives us.
- We realize that we are valuable and that our sexuality should not be manipulated neither by the communication media nor by social pressure; we should be faithful to the beliefs taught by our families and firm in defending the idea of being as pure and virgin as possible.

"Therefore, Youth, spread your thought to others, make everyone listen to your heartbeat; let the hands of Christ Who is the Light, the Truth and the Life guide you. Free yourself from the chains of sins, return to Him who is filled with mercy and Who wants to have you as a disciple; just listen to His call. He is touching your life; your past does not matter, only the present, so you can become a Missionary of Love today and always."

In a world full of tensions at all levels, where pleasure, sex and lack of values want to drag down youngsters with false advertisement and promises, to know that our Youth courageously prepared that resolution, fills our hearts with joy and makes us want to exclaim: not all is lost!—there is hope, above all, if in each continent we propose to motivate the youth to become part of the MFC.

Friends and brothers, let us all get ready to participate and contribute to this great Assembly which reunites families from all continents, from different cultures, with



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different anxieties, but all united together with great hope to collaborate with God in the construction of the Kingdom here and now. One way to do it is by questioning ourselves:

- If autonomy is one of the clearest attributes of a person's dignity, why is it that young people can not often reach it?
- If young people in the family are loved and respected, why do so many of them lose their identity when they meet their friends?
- What should be the role of parents and educators in laying down the foundation of a strong sense of identity in the youth and preventing them from falling into the net of relativism?

The Panel on the "Value of the Youth to Family, Church and Society" will be followed by an Open Form during the World Assembly. Please discuss the above questions among your CFM groups and your friends and communicate your ideas to your National and Continental Presidents, to be shared at the World Assembly in Fatima. As the youth is the future of the world and the future of the MFC, we would like to make sure that a truly fruitful exchange of ideas about this most important subject, THE YOUTH, will follow the Panel D presentation.

Easter is a time of love, a time to thank God for the wonder of life. May He keep us together as the central axis of our families, of our Movement and of the World.

To all a fraternal hug,
William and Esilda Cheng
ICCFM Vice-Presidents