



inside

- 2 Report from North America
- 2 Reflections on the CFM
- 3 RECORDS
- 3 Message from the Chaplain
- 4 8th ICCFM World Assembly in Pictures
- 5 What is ICCFM?
- 6 News Around the World
- 7 Message from the VP Couple
- 7 Executive Secretariat
- 8 Resolutions in Practice

LINK CALENDAR

March 21-24, 2002

Executive Secretariat Meeting of the Latin American CFM (SPLA PLENO) in Panama

July 4-7, 2002

CFM USA National Convention in Miami, Florida

July 19-21, 2002

MFC USA 12th National Convention, San Jose, California

8th ICCFM World Assembly

Four Resolutions to Improve Family Welfare

The July 25-29,2001 International Confederation Christian Family Movements World Assembly in Maceio, Brazil on the theme "Ethics of Life in a Globalized and Excluding World," convened 90 participants from 14 countries out of the 37 countries represented in the ICCFM. It was conducted in the same participatory method found quite effective in the 1998 Bangkok world assembly.

There were four working groups, two English and two Spanish, which came up with four main resolutions, one from each group, focusing on how the ICCFM could improve the welfare of families whose problems have increased because of globalization. The main resolutions are:

Group 1:

As the Family of God, we recognize that EDUCATION is a fundamental right of all family members. Therefore, we must promote, establish and emphasize education across the continuum of life including

- literacy, skills and career development
- emotional and spiritual formation for a critical conscience
- pre-marriage, marriage enrichment, parenting, action, and service for social

justice,so that all persons may participate fully and effectively in the life of faith, in the growth of the family, and in the civic and social structure of the community.

- praying for understanding the ethics of life in our hearts
- reflecting and living out the Gospel credibly
- reaching out and helping others to live out the Gospel.

Group 2:

Christian Family Movements of the world are called by God in a globalized community to reach out to others. Therefore, our national organizations should work with ICCFM to become a force for change that reflects the Gospel values by:

Just as in the parable the Samaritan saw his neighbor in need, we recommend that ICCFM work to raise awareness in its members. We commit ourselves to take the time to observe and to interact on what is happening in our world, locally and

page 7 ⇨



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT COUPLE

THANK YOU for trusting us to lead the International Confederation of Christian Family Movements for the next three years. The Maceio World Assembly of Families has united us more than ever before because it has opened our eyes to the plight of disadvantaged families throughout the world,

made increasingly miserable as a result of globalization. As president couple, we are fortunate to direct the Confederation at this time when we have learned to appreciate each other more deeply, valuing our diversity as CFM members with the same goals achieved in different ways in our different situations.

With your input, our goals for the next three years are the following:

1. To strongly uphold the ICCFM vision of renewing all things in Christ, especially the Christ of the little ones, the Christ of the poor, the Christ of the sinners, the Christ who came to bring us life in all its fullness.
2. To implement the resolutions of the Maceio World

page 7 ⇨

Report from North America

CFM and MFC on the North American continent expanded to include three distinct groups when MFC/LA was formally recognized at the July 2001 ICCFM Secretariat meeting. About 4100 families are now involved in the ICCFM in North America.

MFC/LA is composed of approximately 500 families located in Southern California. An important characteristic of MFC/LA is that the membership is representative of many different cultures which share the same language. They use three different texts as programming for their group meetings. Jorge and Tutty Gutzman of Ontario, CA are presidents of this group. They preside over a board that meets monthly. Rev. Jorge Stanfield, C.P. is their chaplain.

MFC/USA is the largest of the three groups with 2000 families. The organization is made up of federations in 7 regions of the United States. They create their own material and follow a 4-year rotation in their programming. Mario and Margarita Gavidia of Hayward CA are the president couple and Rev. Clemente Barron is their national spiritual assessor. This group will have a meeting of its national board in California July 18, 2002 followed by a national convention July 19-21, 2002. CFM/USA has approximately 1600 member families. Peter and Jane Buchbauer of Winchester, VA are presidents. Rev. Bill Young is the national chaplain.

CFM's national office is located in Evansville, IN. Jane and Paul Leingang are the executive directors. CFM/USA publishes a newsletter ACT eight times a year and maintains a web-site at www.cfm.org. The newsletter can be found on the web-site. Each year they publish a new program. The 2001-2002 program is entitled "Love Still Happens in Families". They will hold a national convention July 4-7 in Miami, FL. The three groups are working separately and collectively to respond to the resolutions adopted at the World Assembly in Maceio, Brazil.

In response to the resolution that education is a fundamental right of all and taking into account the diverse education levels of its



members, MFC/LA has decided to re-establish a portable library. This library will include a wide range of books that will target literacy, various skills, and self-development MFC/USA will consider appropriate actions in response to the resolutions at an upcoming meeting of its leadership.

CFM/USA followed up on the second resolution by writing and distributing an inquiry meeting on "A Christian Response to Violence". This was a direct response to the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in the USA. They will respond to the first resolution by writing and distributing an inquiry on the fundamental right to education.

CFM-MFC in North America will investigate the possibility of developing a leadership formation program in response to resolution 3. In response to resolution 4, the 3 groups will work together to support the 2004 ICCFM World Assembly to be held in the United States.

REFLECTIONS ON THE CFM

The Power of Change

With all the events of the last few weeks I want to share with you some of my thoughts about how CFM is/could be affected in a positive way. Last week I ran across a quote from Margaret Meade: "*Never underestimate the power of a small group - indeed it is the only thing that has ever changed the world.*" In the past I always thought that this applied to small groups who did good things - like CFM. But it occurred to me that the terrorists have been described as a loosely knit network of small groups in over 50 countries - but they do evil - and they have changed the world!

We have had to this point two speakers at our convention - the first was John Kasich, a former congressman from Ohio and Elizabeth Dole, now running in the Senate from North Carolina. The message that both of them delivered was 1) education should be a primary focus and 2) someone else will not change the world - not the government, not churches, not the schools, not business. It is only individuals working in teams in an active way in their neighborhoods who can make a difference. Does this sound familiar?


In the past two or three decades CFM has continued to exist despite the unpopularity in many quarters of spirituality and being involved in religious groups. A "cushy" life has lulled many families into abdicating their responsibilities in many arenas, among them — marriage, parenting, education, religious training, and spirituality. We came to believe that regulations solved everything — someone else would do it! But "someone else" did not take responsibility for a safe world and we were jolted into reality.

We have been encouraged to "return to our normal life." I am not sure returning to that "normal" life is good for families. Maybe it is time for a "new normal." What an opportunity for CFM to be a catalyst for this change. We have the structure, the programs and leadership to be a real resource to families who have had their level of awareness elevated by these catastrophic events. What a way to get their attention!

*Excerpts from a letter from
Sue Hamilton, Special Presidential Representative to Jane Leingang, Executive Director of
CFM-USA*

RECORDS

First, on October 30, 2001, ICCFM past president couple Jose and Margarita Pich e-mailed the minutes of the 12th General Assembly of the International Confederation of Christian Family Movements, just three months after the event. Our special appreciation to Joe and Margarita and their Barcelona team for having been so efficient and giving us a good example to emulate.

And then, on November 3, 2001, ICCFM Vice-President Couple Carlos and Magda Hita proudly informed us that the Proceedings of the 8th World Assembly of Families have just been completed and are awaiting publication. The task was specially assigned by Latin American President Couple Marco and Ines Gomes to the Salvador de Bahia team led by Carlos and Magda Hita, Octavio and Celice Aguiar, Tales and Teresa Silva. A great big thanks to Huayna and Eliana Padilha for having kept the World Assembly documents in such perfect order that compiling the Proceedings enjoyed a speedy start. 

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAPLAIN

new visions

IT IS INDEED A PLEASURE TO SERVE as Chaplain to ICCFM as part of the team of the President Couple Nop and Elma Muangkroot, whom I know since the "World Family Assembly", known as FAMILIA'7H, which was held in Tanzania. I now readily serve the President couple and all the Confederation members.

I first got to know CFM in Chicago in 1955, just a few months from my priestly ordination in Rome (8.12.54). Just before my ordination in the island of Malta I have started marriage preparation meetings. I went to Chicago to learn from Msgr. Jack Egan (who departed this year) all about the Cana Conferences. He introduced me to Pat and Patty Crowley. They injected in me the ideals and spirit of CFM, which became since then one of my pastoral activities. On my return to Malta I founded in 1956 the Cana Movement and later CFM. Today CFM is spread in about 40 parishes in Malta. The couple responsible for Europe are Tony and Lily Gauci, who are doing a sterling work to spread CFM in Eastern Europe. Since then I introduced CFM in Italy, where it is present in many dioceses.

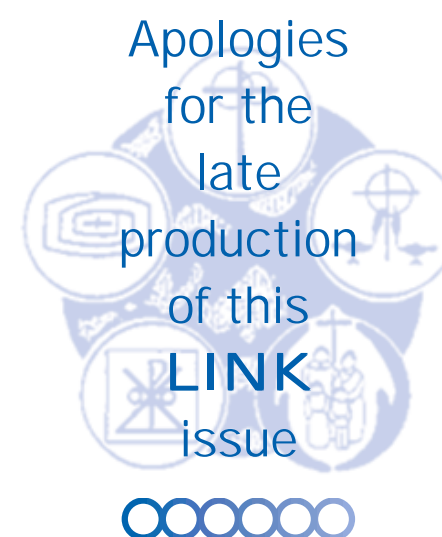
All this is not history. It is my witness of love and gratitude to many couples in CFM, spread in many countries who have enriched my priesthood. It is thanks to them I have nearly passed 50 years of missionary work and evangelization of families. I have received more than I ever gave. Now I have a new challenge to build for the new Millennium with the President Couple: a dynamic world wide and ever new Confederation.

The past meeting in Malta, Bangkok, and Brazil, have given us all a NEW VISION and Mission, which is now the 3-year plan of our President Couple. Our task is "to create a Culture of the Family (J.Paul II) "as a grass root religious, social, and community Movement within the Church. See, Judge and Act how best to put in your pastoral action in your CFM. Like Father Gabriel Calvo (Marriage encounter) I think we should open CFM to the sons and daughters. They should be more involved as they will become the CFM of tomorrow. To achieve all this goals we need to build a spirituality of marriage which is the fruit of Sacrament. In my Column in this news letter Already our friends Joe and Charito Hilario are doing this week after week through Email. I will follow their approach to build happier, holier and more holistic families (the three H's). I wish to have from all CFM groups the names, addresses, fax, Email of all Chaplains. I wish to communicate urgently with them. I wish you all confide in our Lady, Queen of Families, your family and all CFMs Family Groups. God bless you.

Msgr. Charles Vella <vella.charles@hsr.it>



// ...I will do my best to communicate to you some spiritual reflection, on which we build the CFM of the new Millennium. //





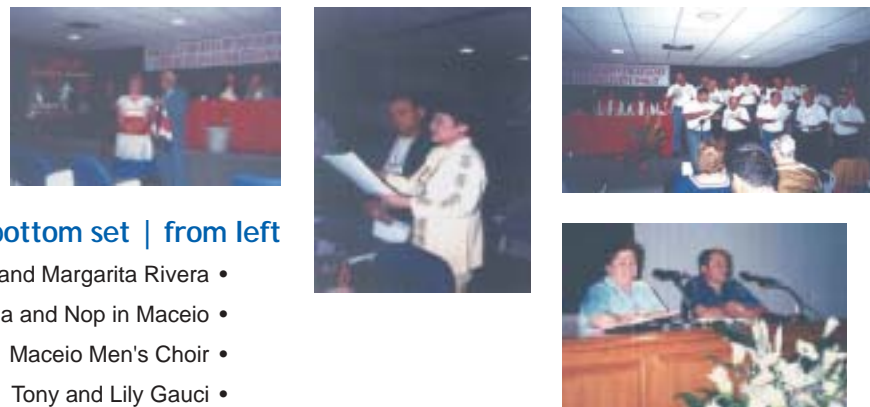
top set | clockwise from far left

- Opening Ceremony
- Opening Mass
- Alvaro and Margarita Rivera
- Jose and Margarita Pich
- Elma, Nop, Rev, in Maceio

8th

ICCFM

World Assembly in Pictures



bottom set | from left

- Alvaro and Margarita Rivera •
- Elma and Nop in Maceio •
- Maceio Men's Choir •
- Tony and Lily Gauci •

What is ICCFM?

Mission

The mission of the International Confederation of Christian Family Movements is to promote, encourage, and help the Christian Family Movements so that the organizations and their members live their human and Christian vocations and bear witness to the essential values of the family, based upon the faith as announced by the Gospel and proposed by the teachings of the Catholic Church. The ICCFM shall support the expansion of the CFM in those countries where it is established and shall try to establish it where it does not exist. The ICCFM is committed to provide the leadership to the worldwide local community-based CFMs in the total development of the family and it will do this by:

1. Formulating and implementing the ICCFM Strategic Plan in a participatory and decentralized manner with the continental and national CFM Councils
2. Facilitating and promoting effective and efficient communication between the IC and the Continental Councils (CC), between and among the ICs, and between the IC and the National Councils (NC);
3. Promoting effective communication and partnership between the CFM and the other Church-endorsed organizations promoting the development of the family;
4. Developing, resources generating, and managing the implementation and evaluation of global CFM development programs.

ICCFM Philosophy

1. The total development of the family connotes the development of the family as a cohesive unit, and the development of the individual person in terms of his/her: Head (knowledge), Hand (skills), Heart (attitudes), Health and Soul (4HS development) - all along Christian values and doctrines.
2. CFM participation in the development of the community is crucial in ensuring the success of the CFM in the pursuit of its mission.

ICCFM Goal

1. The local community-based CFMs are adequately informed about the roles of the ICCFM, and are appreciative of the CFM international projects as they are impacting positively along local community contexts.
2. The CFM members, globally, are recognized as 'lay missionaries' in their respective communities. ICCFM Vision. The International Confederation of Christian Family Movements (ICCFM) is a leading international partner of the Vatican in the advancement of the development of the family globally along traditional and current Church doctrines.

• to study any materials for meetings such as guidebook, pamphlet etc.
Loy and Trining Marquez, Philippine national president couple, coordinated the visit.
Information from Joe and Charito Hilario

Latin America: CFM Assembly/Day

October 7 is Latin American MFC Day. Last October 7 all MFC member countries commemorated the day in unity with solemn prayers and special celebrations.

ICCFM VP Carlos Hita, who suffered a stroke in June, is now walking 4 to 5 kilometers a day for exercise. Magda is very proud of his efforts during the rehabilitation process and his determination to get well. Our deepest thanks to God for blessing the ICCFM with Carlos' remarkable recovery!

Paraguay President Couple Francisco and Vicenta Servin proclaim that Paraguay is the most beautiful country in the world! They are enticing everyone to attend the General Assembly of the Latin American MFC.

ICCFM Presidential Representatives Alvaro and Margarita Rivera will represent President Couple Nop and Elma Muangkroot and Vice-President Couple Carlos and Magda Hita at the AGLA General Assembly on November 24 -25, 2001, in Asuncion, Paraguay. They will convey greetings and special messages to the Assembly.

Arnold and Esther Witzel of Argentina reported that November 25, 2001 is a very special day: Argentina will celebrate MFC Day and 53 years of MFC's foundation. Congratulations!

In the realities of prevalent social injustice in which a majority of families are deprived of even the minimum essentials for a balanced physical and mental development, Helio and Selma Amorim's article on "Austerity and the Family" leaves the ICCFM with this conscience-awakening conclusion: "Without doubt, living in austerity is liberating; it is the basis of happiness and the statement of social solidarity."

Asia: CFM Singapore

Mark Tan of CFM Singapore continues to write his incisive analysis of current social problems in the light of Christian teachings. Watch for a sharing of his insightful reflections when the ICCFM website will be posted.

South Korea: CFM Established

Professor Francisco Choi arranges the study meeting for CFM in Korea and five couples attend on biweekly basis. To develop further the CFM in Korea, Peter Tae Hwan Kim, contacted Joe and Charito Hilario to assist him to visit and to study CFM meetings in the Philippines last October.

The objectives of his study visit are:

- to see how CFM meeting is conducted
- to know CFM concerned on family as M.E., Focolare, or any small Christian family communities
- to study any materials for meetings such as guidebook, pamphlet etc.

Loy and Trining Marquez, Philippine national president couple, coordinated the visit.

Information from Joe and Charito Hilario

RESOLUTIONS IN PRACTICE

CFM Bangalore: Taking English to Disadvantaged Indians

DAVID LOBO is involved in a new project he is setting up for a business associate. The project objective is to take English to the Indian population [hopefully to as many of them as possible] who do not know English. This population is in fact bypassed by development to a great extent, as they do not know English. India is doing so well in the IT world with \$ 8 billion income generated this year because of a big population who knows English.

The project was launched last October 2, 2001 in the village and island of Charao in Goa at the institute of a famous teacher, and much decorated linguist Prof. K. J. Mahale. He is the senior advisor to the company called E-Learning Technologies Pvt. Ltd.

David is looking for ideas, that will make the teaching more interesting and learnable. Anyone aware of new and dynamic language learning techniques that will help is requested to inform him. He would be most happy to get suggestions and advice.

He would also like to get confirmation on the theory that if a person learns 60 unique sentences and 600 special words, the person will be able to speak that language. Does anyone know the 60/600 combination? or anything like this? Please contact David at <deejay@blr.vsnl.net.in>

Parish Renewal Experience Weekends in RP

WE HAVE successfully conducted a Parish Renewal Experience (PREX) weekend last August and are now training with our own team to conduct the second PREX on October 19-21. It is a renewal program for the Church with a comprehensive plan for parish life, which starts in the family. It leads to building of *Basic Ecclesial Communities* through families. Since this is a continuing formation program, the methodology is CFM's *Observe-Judge-Act*.

We were appointed the parish coordinator of PREX because of our experience in this methodology and involvement in the family apostolate. We saw that we have been prepared through our years in CFM

for this valuable contribution to the Catholic Church. This program is therefore an emerging role of CFM in parishes.

What is significant in PREX is the role of the parish priest as the focal point in the renewal program. As we mentioned earlier, this PREX program came from the USA. We are hoping that all CFMers will seriously look into this program (or similar parish renewal programs) as CFM's participation in an integrated comprehensive plan to build the Church through families.

A PREX Manual is available through email: speditph@info.com.ph or FAX (632) 890-7131.

Reported by Joe and Charito Hilario

The Least Of These Brothers Of Mine

THE LOURDES TAMIL SCHOOL is run by our Parish for school drop outs from the low-income Tamil community. Often, children are forced to drop out from regular school due to financial difficulties, family problems or because of the shift from Tamil to English as the medium of instruction. The majority of the students in the Lourdes Tamil School live in slums and work part-time as domestic help or in small industries or as newspaper distributors to supplement the family income.

I teach English in the School, preparing the children for the Tamil Board Exams. They are hardworking, intelligent, but slow, due to the fact that English is an unfamiliar language and the conditions at home are not conducive to study.

Gwen DePenha

LINK



For further details contact:

Link-Lazo
ICCFM Secretariat
nopelma@mfcfm.com
traustriaco@yahoo.com

Editorial Board
EDITOR
LILIA ROBLES-AUSTRIACO
MANAGING EDITOR
ELMA MUANGKROOT
GRAPHIC DESIGNER
KAHLIL A. DE PIO

Link-Lazo, published biannually by the International Confederation of Christian Family Movements (ICCFM), is distributed to members as part of the membership. Link-Lazo includes worldwide news on activities of ICCFM.

The International Confederation of Christian Family Movements (ICCFM) is a leading international partner of the Vatican in the advancement of the development of the family globally along traditional and current Church doctrines.

The ICCFM Mission is to promote, encourage, and help the Christian Family Movements so that the organizations and their members live their human and Christian vocations and bear witness to the essential values of the family, based upon the faith as announced by the Gospel and proposed by the teachings of the Catholic Church. The Confederation shall support the expansion of the Christian Family Movement in those countries where it is established and will try to establish it where it does not exist.