



LINK

Bulletin of the International Confederation of Christian Family Movements

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Link-Lazo, published annually 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 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.

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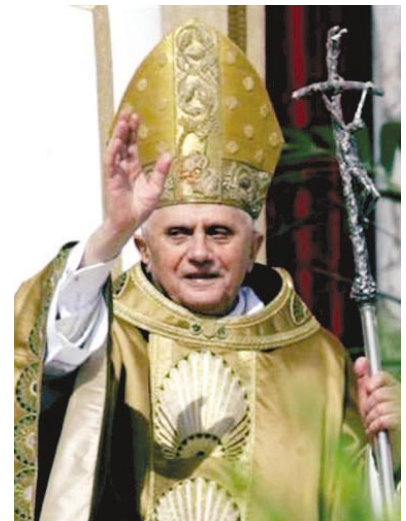
CFM OUTREACH—in unity with two great Pontiffs of the millennium

The CFM is looking beyond the walls of the family to show “generous solidarity towards the multitudes . . . suffering and dying from poverty and hunger” (Pope John Paul II) and to promote



“ . . . give also to us the strength to show generous solidarity towards the multitudes who are even today suffering and dying from poverty and hunger . . . ”

“true social development . . . that respects the dignity of all human beings” (Pope Benedict XVI). CFM brings to its mission the gifts of prayer and action, committed to serve people in its communities and throughout the world. Outreach activities from Latin America, the USA, India and the Philippines attest to this commitment.



“From God I invoke unity and peace for the human family and declare the willingness of all Catholics to cooperate for true social development, one that respects the dignity of all human beings.”

(SEE PAGE 14)

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENTS

Dear ICCFM Members,

This LINK issue is an Annual Review covering July 2004 to June 2005. A long time has elapsed, indeed, but thanks to technology, we have been able to communicate through e-mail, individual or general, during the past year. Our ICCFM presidency has been quite blessed in the sense that we have instant access to each other. However, LINK has taken longer to organize because we want to make it as comprehensive as possible. Thanks to everyone who has contributed, and very special thanks to Emilio Wong of the MFC Latin America Secretariat for the Spanish translation for LAZO.

The IX World Assembly of Family and XIII ICCFM General Assembly news, photos, documents, proceedings and minutes have long been posted on the ICCFM website and/or sent by e-mail. We hope you have taken the opportunity to seek information through the website. ICCFM Webmaster Andy Pozdol, whose



efficiency is unsurpassed, instantly updates the website as soon as he receives a contribution. He is *impatiently* waiting for ALL of us to send in something to share: news, best practices, messages. Since the last World Assembly, Dario Saenz of MFC USA has helped us with the Spanish translation. With Emilio, the main translator of the ICCFM website, and Dario, Spanish-speaking Andy has no problem maintaining both English and Spanish websites—if only we send in the material! E-mail contributions to both

webmaster@iccfm.org and to president@iccfm.org or mail to our postal address.

Please await our letters and visit the ICCFM website for more recent news. May God bless us all in both our daily lives and our work in the ICCFM!

With our love,
Nop and Elma Muangkroot

IX WORLD ASSEMBLY OF FAMILIES and XIII ICCFM GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ICCFM 13TH WORLD ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS (in summary form)

Resolution No. 1

We resolve to promote the vision, values and virtues of Christian Marriage and family through prayer: in the family (e.g. meal prayers, Bible study, at family rituals), in the Church (e.g. at liturgical celebrations, organizational meetings) and in society (e.g. at civil functions, public gatherings)

Resolution No. 2

We resolve to promote the vision, values and virtues of Christian marriage and family through action: in the family (e.g. family meals, family meetings, family outreach, family education) in the church (e.g. programs, liturgies, retreats, CFM) and in society (e.g. dialogue with government representatives on issues such as war and peace, housing, health care, domestic violence, and the dignity of life.

SUMMARY OF THE RESOLUTIONS BY WORKSHOP GROUPS

Group I: Emphasize family spirituality through personal relationship with Christ and through prayers. Start praying with the family. Share resolutions through the ICCFM website.

Group II: Pray as individuals and as couples. Witness to others. Trust God.

Group III: Learn more about Church teachings and be more responsive to communities, to become more effective, to initiate collaboration between clergy and laity

Group IV: Be authentic, faithful and in solidarity with the Church

Group V: Review the OJA Methodology, strengthen and update materials and explain to the whole community (CFM). Strengthen the education of children in the family

Group VI: Affirm the value of human life. Advocate against all violence, especially domestic violence.



Opening of the World Assembly of Families



Opening of the ICCFM General Assembly



Rev. Fr. Ken Weare led a special committee which summarized the resolutions from all the workshops.



World Assembly Coordinating Committee



Group Picture

IX WORLD ASSEMBLY OF FAMILIES and XIII ICCFM GENERAL ASSEMBLY

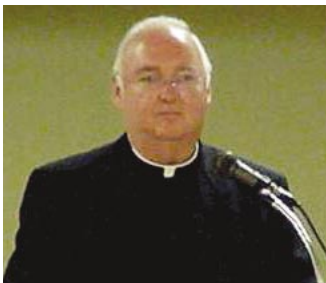
Cardinal Cardijn Awardees



As ICCFM Chaplain for two terms with Presidents Wayne and Sue Hamilton, Father Sam has always given first priority to the ICCFM mission, unstintingly devoting his time—working time as well as leisure time—whenever and wherever the ICCFM service calls.



WORDS OF APPRECIATION FROM TONY AND LILY: “We understand that the Cardinal Cardijn Award is the most prestigious Award of the ICCFM. As such of course we appreciate the award very much and it will remain very dear to us as long as we live. Our deep thanks and gratitude to all who have appreciated our works for ICCFM, which we have always done and will always do, out of deep love for families and great belief in the effective Methodology.”



Bishop Patrick McGrath



Gary and Kay Aitchison



Paul and Jane Leingang and Rev. Fr. Don Conroy



Dr. Julie Rubio



Dr. Frank Sicius



Peter and Jane Buchbauer



Richard McCord

IX WORLD ASSEMBLY OF FAMILIES and XIII ICCFM GENERAL ASSEMBLY



Holy Mass



Workshop



Lunch



Andy Pozdol, Dario Saenz, Andy Mauer



Appreciation: Emilio and Yolanda Wong



Awards for Exceptional Service to the Continents

Message from Helio and Selma Amorim

The Christian Family Movement is a light that illumines our way in the search for the humanization of families. In following Jesus, its members work with the assurance of those who know the plan of God for all people and families. We have been created in His image and likeness, and Jesus reveals to us a God who is our Father, Father of all and not just for some. Therefore, we are all brothers.

Nevertheless, social inequalities are tremendous; there is much hunger and misery in

the world. Serious diseases without necessary care removes the possibility of humanization for many brothers. This real and cruel situation is a challenge to the MFC so that its actions may be especially oriented towards the poorest families. Thus we may be recognized as brothers, children of the same Father, examples of life to those who still have not known God and embraced His plan.

We ask God that He continue to be present in the life of all MFC members, enlightening their minds

to find more humane solutions to the problems that affect families in our planet. This is the function of Faith (Gaudium et Spes, 11)

We thank you, moved by the affection you have shown us, and we reaffirm that we certainly do not deserve that brotherly tribute you offer. Thus, it pleases us to transfer this tribute instead to all our brothers and friends in MFC Latin America.

May God shower you with all blessings.



ICCFM ASIA

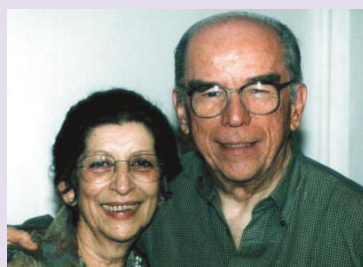
Sito and Sony Sison – First Presidents and FIRES Pioneers of CFM Asia

“Thanks a million for the award for Sito and me. I shall cherish it as a memento of our years of service to families and the camaraderie we enjoyed during ICCFM activities. I am presently active in the CFM SOLO PARENTS program—conducting orientations, organizing units, recollections and encounters for solos—and am also involved in our new Diocesan Family Ministry.”



ICCFM EUROPE

Jacinto and Pilar Gonzalez – Tireless CFM Missionaries Who Paved the CFM Way to East Europe



ICCFM LATIN AMERICA
Helio and Selma Amorim – CFM Champions of the Poor and Prolific Writer with a Social Conscience



ICCFM NORTH AMERICA
Pete and Carolyn Broeren – Astute Managers of CFM and ICCFM Finances and Exemplary CFM USA and CFM North America Leaders

IX WORLD ASSEMBLY OF FAMILIES and XIII ICCFM GENERAL ASSEMBLY



Carlos and Yolanda Jurado

ICCFM HYMN

by Yolanda Jurado and translated by Elma Muangkroot

CHORUS

Let us sing together joyfully
For the Church and for the family
Let us cast our nets into the sea
To gather all humanity

Verse I

To serve the world is our resolve
To be in homes a voice of hope
With open hands able to help
All families are in our scope

Verse II

To form in all a joyous power
Together seek a loving union
Tell the world our firm intention
And fulfill our social mission

CHORUS

Verse III

We come from different continents
Pledging a friendly harmony
Our goal to form communities
May soon become a reality

Verse IV

As in the home of Nazareth
All united in work and commitment
So we spread the Confederation
Of Christian Family Movements

CHORUS

**We are the Christian Family
Movements!**



From Croatia and Hungary



From El Salvador



From Malta



From Mexico



MFC Los Angeles and MFC Las Vegas



From Panama



MFC USA



From Portugal



From the Philippines

Father Pedro Richards

On the occasion of the visit of His Eminence Alfonso Cardinal Lopez Trujillo, President of the Pontifical Council for the Family, to Buenos Aires, Argentina, a Conference and Eucharistic Celebration in honor of the life and work of our Founding Father Pedro Richards was held on Tuesday, March 10, 2005, at the auditorium of the Catholic University.

Remembrance

by Lucy and Jorge Calvo

At 6.30 am, October 30, 2004, God called to His Kingdom our beloved Father Pedro Richards, founder of the Christian Family Movement in Latin America.

It has been 56 years since Father Pedro Richards, passionate visionary missionary, whose "passion" was the family, preached a return to Catholic Action in San Martin de Tours (Buenos Aires), that gave rise to the first meeting of a group of married couples. Father Pedro Richards was without a doubt a man of faith, faithful mirror of the marriage charism of Christ that the Holy Spirit inspired.

He believed in the possibility of the family apostolate, procuring to restore and to revalue such a thing so sacred as marriage. He presented himself to the world as an example of an indefatigable missionary, who traversed the



Fr. Pedro Richards

roads of Latin America, bearing the message of Jesus and, together with Him, the good news about marriage and the family.

Passionate about the family apostolate, he lived an intense life of commitment, generosity and service, obtaining a perfect synthesis of intelligence and heart.

Three components character-

ized his fruitful priestly and missionary life:

- Testimony of spirituality
- Communitarian life
- Action among families

Deeply Marian, one of his wishes was that families pray the rosary.

He manifested his concern for all the CFM and the present difficulties, advising that the stones that

such difficulties symbolize, we transform into steps to attain sanctity.

Finally he requested that we do not allow the torch of the Christian Family Movement to be extinguished. He has left his tracks but he will continue to be the "Sentry of the Family."

What shall remain for always, impressed in our memory and our heart, is the last picture we have of Father Pedro, in his room at the House of Nazareth, very weak, but still very conscious and able to communicate his anxiety for the future of the Christian Family Movement and his infinite love for the whole CFM family.

May he rest in the Peace of the Lord!



Lucy and Jorge Calvo



The Passing Away of Lucy Calvo

Dear friends and brothers:

The past 16th of July, the feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Lucy was called by God to His presence. I firmly believe that her soul is rejoicing in the

Glory of the Lord and intercedes for all of us, for me, for my children and my grandson, for all the Christian Family Movement.

Jorge Calvo

GOLDEN JUBILEE: MSGR. CHARLES VELLA

by Tony and Lily Gauci

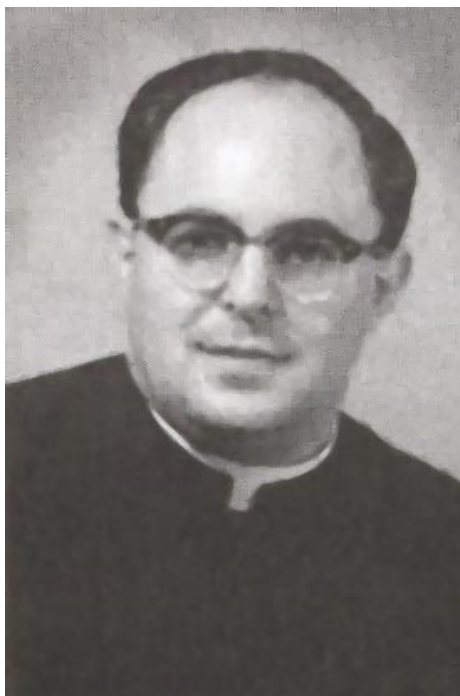
Ordained to the priesthood on the feast of the Immaculate Conception on December 8, 1954, in Rome, Monsignor Charles Vella celebrated the actual date of his Golden Jubilee in Malta, his first home.

On December 7, Rev. Fr. Joseph Mizzi, CFM Europe Continental Chaplain, conducted a Holy Hour at which he shared his vivid and interesting insights on "The Value of the Priestly Mission to Humanity."

A grand party at the Hotel Radisson followed, with prominent guests including the President of Malta, the Prime Minister of Malta, Cabinet Ministers, and Church dignitaries and, of course, CFM members and close friends.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of a special gift to Fr. Charles (he prefers "Fr." to "Msgr.") by his many friends: an impressive bronze bust of Fr. Charles himself, which he had the honor to unveil!

The December 8 grand celebration opened with a Solemn High Mass with 24 concelebrants and a choir which provided heavenly music. Well-wishers from both Italy and Malta gathered at the Church of St. Gregory, and various speeches by



As a newly ordained priest.

several dignitaries on Father Charles' life mission were the crowning glory of the celebration.

All participants received two souvenir books on the work of Fr. Charles: *From Milan to Malta* and *Fifty Years of Priesthood of Monsignor Charles G. Vella, Working for the Families and for the Sick*.



Homily at the 2004 World Assembly of Families.



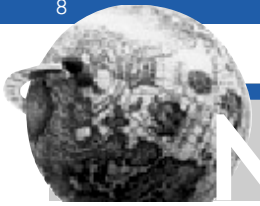
An audience with His Holiness Pope John Paul II



With CFM founder Patty Crowley

ITALIAN PRESIDENT HONORS MSGR. CHARLES VELLA

Italian President H.E. Carlo Azelio Ciampi awarded to Msgr. Charles Vella the decoration of 'Cavaliere della Repubblica Italiana per la Solidarieta' for Father Vella's 30 years of civic and pastoral service to Italy, particularly in the field of family social and bioethical work and for the sick, at the 'Istituto Scientifico Ospedale Universitario San Raffaele' in Milan. The Italian Ambassador to Malta, H.E. Dott Alvise Memmo, presented the award to Father Charles, who summed up his own great missionary accomplishments in the words of Mother Teresa, "All we do is a drop in an ocean of love for God and all his children."



News Around the World



Alfonso Cardinal Lopez Trujillo

ICCFM and the Vatican

ICCFM Representatives Tony and Lily Gauci

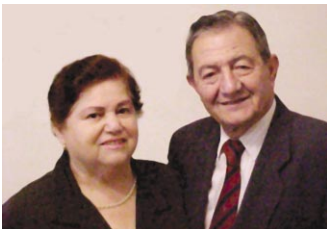
In a letter directed to Cardinal Alfonso Lopez Trujillo, president of the Pontifical Council for the Family, Pope Benedict XVI renews the call made by Pope John Paul II for the V World Meeting of Families that will be celebrated in Valencia, Spain, in July 2006, and restates that "the Church cannot fail to announce that, in accordance with the plans of God, marriage and the family are irreplaceable and do not admit other alternatives."

ICCFM and UN Vienna

ICCFM Representatives Tony and Lily Gauci

Board Members

We are pleased to inform you that we, as representatives of ICCFM, were reelected for another three years on the Board of the UN Vienna NGO Committee for the Family.



Tony and Lily Gauci

Intervention

The following are our direct interventions at the NGO Committee Meeting for the Family which were fully accepted:

- One speaker stated that children were better off with parents of free love than with married parents. We strongly rebutted that free love has neither commitment nor responsibility to either partners or children, while marriage is a bond, witnessed by society, involving legal and economic commitments.

- On parenting skills we held that parents are role models, educators,

disciplinarians and advocates. Furthermore, we insisted that parents have the unique and major responsibility for children while relatives are only a means of help.

May 2005 Board Meeting

We were at the NGO Committee for the Family in Vienna on May 2-3, 2005. On May 2, Doraja Eberla from Salzburg spoke to encourage us in our work for families. After 12 miscarriages she and her husband decided to help the poorest of the poor in Bosnia, Herzegovina and Serbia by providing them with food and shelter. Finance was hard but now big companies are sponsoring the project and the work is moving.

The next important item was giving our ICCFM report for *Families International* publication. Next, on May 3, we had the board meeting led by new Chairperson Dr Michael Schwarz. On this occasion we really appreciated how wise our ICCFM predecessors were to put ICCFM in Ecosoc, giving ICCFM a valuable chance of voting on issues representing its countries.

Special Invitation

On June 27-30, 2005, we were invited to Murcia, Spain, to speak at a Conference commemorating the 10th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family. Our panel addressed the issue of "Access to family-oriented healthcare and support services and impact of public policy on caregivers and the family-unit." We shared concrete and practical examples from our experiences in Malta and abroad. The conference participants included visitors from the UN in New York and Vienna, and representatives from Spain, Portugal, South Africa, West Africa, Caribbean Islands, Mexico and South America.

ICCFM and UN New York

ICCFM Representatives Wayne and Sue Hamilton

We are planning a trip to the United Nations in September 2005. We have a meeting with the Ecosoc office for



Wayne and Sue Hamilton

September 16. CFM USA National Chaplain Father Don Conroy, who has been involved with the UN for sometime, has agreed to meet us in New York and attend the meeting. We hope our visit is fruitful.

AFRICA

From Malawi

CFM Presidents John and Mary Sichali



John and Mary Sichali

Kindly send us a copy of LINK. We are completely out of touch of ICCFM news.

How time flies! We hope and trust that the Almighty is keeping you both. We send our best regards to you both, wishing you many more years of service to the ICCFM.

ASIA

Hongkong



Alice, Wai-wai, Elma and Anthony

Anthony and Alice Leung
CFM Presidents

You may wish to see a photo taken at our Family Movement Annual Gathering. We are happy to see the active participation of our junior members.

India

New National Presidents



Hongkong Family Movement

Francis and Carmel Colaso, CFM Asia Vice Presidents

We had a meeting of our National CFM Board in Goa at which Carmel and I stepped down as national presidents and Agnel and Anette D'Cruz were elected once again as presidents of CFM India.

Annapurna Sequel



Agnel and Anette D'Cruz

Agnel and Anette D'Cruz, National Presidents

Annapurna now sells her wares regularly at the Sunday Bazaar twice a month. She has a big banner proclaiming that hers is a CFM project. You see we use every opportunity to give ourselves a little publicity! She also sells her wares at her slum colony. When we visited her earlier this month, she was optimistic and hopes to improve her business opportunities.

Philippines

Rolly and Josie Mesa, National Presidents

CFM Philippines National Convention to launch Golden Jubilee

All are invited to the 28th National Convention of CFM Philippines on October 21-23, 2005 at Angeles City. Its theme, "CFM Going 50 and Looking Beyond," will appropriately launch the celebration of CFM Philippines' Golden Jubilee in 2006. The 50th Anniversary Celebration, officially starting on October 23, 2005 and lasting through October 22, 2006, will dwell on the theme, "CFM: 50 Years in the Service of Filipino Families."

All preparations are coordinated by Executive Vice-Presidents Roger and Nora Panlasigui. Other group leaders are

(CONTINUED TO NEXT PAGE)

Joe and Charito Hilario: CFM History; Annie Meily and Mon Jimenez: Public Relations and Publicity; Joey and Grace Marquez: Preparatory Events; Long and Reby Toledano: Memorabilia.



Rolly and Josie Mesa

CFM Formation

CFM has been called upon by the Church in Luzon, represented by Monsignor Bobbit Mallari, to set up an institute in which volunteer lay workers can take short courses to equip them to serve in the Family Life Ministry. A similar program already exists in Bacolod, the John Paul II Institute, initiated by Monsignor Vic Rivas. CFM members in Manila held a meeting last May to brainstorm ideas and develop a plan for this institute.

Translation of CFM Inquiry Books

Inquiry books in English have been a barrier to CFM's ability to evangelize poor and disadvantaged families who speak only the local dialect. CFM'ers Che and Tita de la Cruz, have already translated several formation books to the Philippine national language.

One CFM unit with a prison ministry will tap the talent of some prisoners to translate the books to a local Philippine language. CFM members discovered that some detainees are well educated and have the time to translate books. Participating translators will receive token material assistance.

From Family Mass to CFM

CFM Asia Past Presidents Joe and Charito Hilario



Joe and Charito Hilario

In his diocese Bishop Honesto Ongtioco excitingly launched the Family Mass, introduced by Father Omer Prieto, in which one family makes the offering and reads the Prayers of the Faithful on

Sunday. Earlier, the Family and Life Ministry team visits the family to make them realize that they are important part of the Church and to prepare them for a meaningful celebration. During the Mass, the participating family takes an active part in the Eucharistic Celebration, and the witnessing families gain a desire to participate also. These families are then invited to come to attend family evangelization programs, such as CFM, FIRES and Covenant Experience. This form of active participation at the Holy Mass greatly increases the dynamism of the Church.

Singapore

*Francis and Julia Mane
CFSM Presidents*

Warmest greetings from Singapore CFSM. Looking forward to meeting you with our leaders and members, to learn from you the direction we are taking as a family movement.

Sri Lanka

National Presidents Basil and Merine Wijeratne

We have completed six years as National Presidents. The new National Presidents are Gerard and Chitha Kitudasa. We are sorry there are no CFM'ers here who have access to e-mail facilities. We shall send some news for LINK. We also kindly request you to mail LINK to us.

- Bolivia – Mauricio and Eleanor Larrea
- Brazil – Mozar and Didi
- Colombia - Marlene and Rafael Rodríguez
- Costa Rica – Victor and Argerie Castro
- Chile – Augusto and Teresita Sepulveda
- Guatemala – Rafael and Mayra Calderon
- Mexico - Mario y Floriana Núñez,
- Peru – Enrique and Matilde Ottone
- Uruguay – Luis and Ofelia Palfi

El Salvador

On February 3-7, 2005, the First Latin American Encounter of the MFC Youth was held in El Salvador. The participation of 233 young people from Colombia, Panamá, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala and México was extraordinary. They worked with much joy, dynamism and responsibility. Many thanks to Tomás and Mabell Porras from Costa Rica, SPLA (Latin American Secretariat) Secretaries for the Youth.

Panama

The Secretariat for Latin America (SPLA) continued its working («pastoring») requested by some countries.

Peru

The XXII Latin American General Assembly (AGLA), will be held in the month of November in Lima, Peru. The



SPLA secretaries for the Youth, national chaplain, El Salvador national presidents, Bishop of El Salvador, SPLA vice presidents and secretaries for Formation, Latin American coordinator of Zone 1 and continental presidents.

LATIN AMERICA

NATW LATIN AMERICA

*William and Esilda Cheng
New National Presidents*

preparations for this event have started where the new Latin American presidents for the next four years will be chosen. The participation of 18 national presidents with their respective advisers are expected to attend.



A view of the participants at the First Youth Encounter.

Zonal Meetings

Next year, 2006, Zonal Meetings will be conducted (EZO), using as bases the materials of Pre-EZO which they have been studying since last year. The venue for these Events will be: Zone 1, El Salvador; Zone 2, Colombia and Zone 3, Brazil. These countries are already organizing themselves to welcome their CFM brothers and sisters. We've been very involved in the CFM activities. On March 6 and 7 there will be a regional meeting here in Salvador with representatives of the four states of northeast Brazil where the CFM exists, and we've been busy preparing for it.

EUROPE

European Congress

CFM Europe Presidents George and M'Louise Sammut

MFC Spain has kindly agreed to host the next European ICCFM Congress in the summer of 2006. The proposed theme is "The Family in Europe: 25 Years after *Familiaris Consortio*." This encyclical, considered to be the *magna carta* of the Church's teaching on the family, was published in 1981, so 2006 will mark its 25th anniversary.

CFM Europe Correspondence

*Tony and Lily Gauci
ICCFM Representatives, Vatican and UN Vienna*

Malta



George and M'Louise Sammut with Continental Chaplain Father Joseph Mizzi

The Malta CFM was involved in finding host families for some participants to the International Priests Encounter

(CONTINUED TO NEXT PAGE)

hosted by Malta in October 2004. There were about 1000 participants from 81 countries, including 15 cardinals and many bishops.

Slovakia

Vladimir and Maria Durikovikova report that the CFM in Slovakia is strong and vibrant, thanks to the full support of the clergy and the hierarchy, including that of His Eminence, Cardinal Jan Chryzostom Korec.

Czech Republic

Jiri and Ludmila Ludvik wrote that their CFM summer project is an exchange-homestay program with Poland for young people, aimed at strengthening their Catholic faith as they see it practiced in other families.

Croatia

Dr. Petar Hodzic of the Croatian Bishop's Conference Office for the Family had planned a busy CFM schedule for Tony and Lily Gauci on their scheduled visit in May 2005, but plans have changed and the Gaucis will go to Croatia in December 2005 instead.

Portugal

Antonio and Maria Celeste Moniz
MLC Presidents

We had a National Council of the MLC (our family movement) in Porta Alegre in the central countryside of Portugal recently (2005). We are happy the Muangkroots and the Gaucis are coming to Portugal to plan the 2007 ICCFM World Assembly. Time is passing and July will be an excellent opportunity to start having clear ideas about a lot of things, especially the main theme.

Spain

MFC National Presidents Enrique and Teresa Alonso-Guardia

Instead of Granada, the European Congress will be held in Valencia in early July 2006, around the time of the visit of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI. We hope to integrate the theme of the Pope's meeting, "The Transmission of Faith Through the Family," to the theme "The Family in Europe: 25 Years after *Familiaris Consortio*."

NORTH AMERICA

News and Letters
Continental Presidents Gary and Kay Aitchison

ICCFM Matters

On July 13 we will be attending the CFM USA Board of Directors Meeting and Convention in Chicago. Then we travel to Tucson to attend the MFC USA Convention being planned for July 15 through 17. We look forward to seeing and working with you on July 13 in Chicago. We still plan to visit Patty

Crowley and will check on her a week before we arrive to see if she is able to visit with us.



(L to R) Father Don Conroy, Lauri and John Przybyz, Kay and Gary Aitchison, Elma and Nop Muangkroot

We have recently completed a DVD project which will allow us to use a more sophisticated way to reach potential members. We have raised funds to upgrade our website to allow for usage of the DVD on the CFM website. We are

new president couple, John and Lauri Przybyz will be installed for a three-year term, succeeding Peter and Jane Buchbauer.

Next year's program, *Discovering Jesus*, is based on the Gospel of St. Mark and should prove effective for both long-established and as well as intermediate groups who are beyond initial formation. It will provide the scriptural basis for our actions. It will be available in July of this year.

MFC USA

For the past three years MFC USA has been led by Mario and Juanita Figueroa of Houston, Texas, who have been reelected to a second term. Rev. Fr. Rafael J. Davila is their Spiritual Assessor. They will hold their 13th National Convention July 15-17, 2005, in Tucson, Arizona. At that time, a new National President and



Nora and Erwin Lopez

MFC of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, succeeding Jose and Maria Elena Marin. Their Spiritual Assessors are Rev. Fr. Nelson Trinidad and Rev. Fr. Ramon Marti. MFC LA is active in 20 parishes, holds five Marriage Encounters and Pre-Cana courses every year and publishes a bi-monthly Bulletin.

MFC Las Vegas

MFC Las Vegas Presidents Claudio and



MFC Las Vegas Annual Retreat : Claudio and Ines Salas (5th and 6th R)

planning to develop other materials to support leaders in the same medium. We also serve as point of contact for the Canadian inquiries for CFM and send program materials to our northern brothers and sister when they are needed.

We will plan to attend the CFM Europe Continental Congress where we can hold a meeting to discuss the ICCFM 2007. If Peter and Carolyn Broeren could come, they have many suggestions regarding costs, funding and registration. Wayne and Sue Hamilton are very good at program planning.

CFM USA

During the past year, CFM USA worked on two projects related to the resolutions from the 2004 ICCFM World Assembly. They published an inquiry program entitled *Homemade Disciples* which focused on ways that marriage and family carry out the work of the Church. The weekend of July 15-17, 2005, they will host a Marriage and Family Life Conference in Chicago. At that time, a

Board of Directors will be elected. MFC USA has 35 active federations in eight regions and 21 dioceses. They hold national reunions, Regional Reunions,



Mario and Juanita Figueroa

National Directors Reunions, National Directors Meetings and various workshops throughout the country. They also publish a National Directory.

MFC LA

On June 12, 2005, Erwin and Nora Lopez of Van Nuys, California, will be installed to a three-year term as Presidents

Ines Salas

The MFC in Las Vegas continues to recruit families as the population continues to increase exponentially. With the help of the diocesan group and support from MFC Los Angeles, it continues to grow and help enrich the lives of the Hispanic families of the diocese.

MFC Las Vegas hosts Marriage Encounters throughout the year and an annual retreat which is broken down into three tracks: adults, youths and children. The most recent Marriage Encounter was held on April 2005, and this year's retreat on June 13, 2005.

On a final note, Samuel and Patricia Mata will take over the MFC Las Vegas Presidency at the June retreat. They will succeed Claudio and Ines Salas, who initiated the MFC in Las Vegas more than a decade ago. Prayers for the Mata's are appreciated as they take on their new role and for the Salas's as they retire from this role after many years of service.

OCEANIA

Australia

CFM Presidents Leslie and Carmen Sammut

One of our concrete plans of action for 2004 - 2007 is defending the Marriage Bill 2004 as a union between a man and a woman to the exclusion of others by sending letters and submissions to the Prime Minister, Members of Parliament and Senators all over Australia. Part of our letter states: "Since it is essential to have leaders not putting themselves above



CFM Australia members

God and realizing that their duty and obligation is to support and protect the stability of marriage and the institution of the family as willed by God, we are writing to you to support such a Bill and pass it before the forthcoming elections. Marriage was instituted by God and, therefore, can never be redefined by anyone, let alone the courts."

Attached are pictures of some of our activities.



Discussion



Holy Mass

Message from ICCFM Chaplain Msgr. Charles Vella



Our dear departed Holy Father Pope John Paul II had marked the opening of the Year of the Eucharist with the Apostolic Letter "Stay with us, Lord." The letter urges all local churches to promote liturgies, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and a deeper understanding of Christ's "real presence" in the Eucharist. The Pope wishes that "this invocation resound in every Christian community".

The first cell of every Christian Community is the "domestic church", the family centered in the Eucharist. The Eucharist is "a great school" of love and peace, which helps every couple and family to grow in Jesus Christ. He lives in every home and every family should live in Christ.

The Eucharistic Congress in Guadalajara, Mexico, presided over by Cardinal Tomko, the Papal Envoy, has awakened the Catholic World to treasure with filial love the Eucharist. "Devotion to the Eucharist" said the Cardinal, is needed in today's world "shaken by the dark shadows of wars ... and by the ideological attacks on marriage, on the family and on human life from its conception".

The Eucharist should be the source of daily life and grace to every family, especially those who are torn by conflicts, suffering and poverty.

Thus, in this Eucharistic Year, we should aim for the following:

- Every CFM/MFC family should strive to find a "new spiritual energy and plan for living. It is an ideal way for the faithful to identify with Christ's message and His saving sacrifice." Our Family Groups should read, study and act on the apostolic letter "Stay with us, Lord."
- Every CFM couple should seek to spend some time in adoration in front of the Eucharist to listen and pray to the Lord Jesus.
- In breaking the bread during meal time, the whole family should pray, mindful that the Eucharistic bread of the Body of Christ is broken daily for us to eat. Every Christian family lives from the Eucharist.

In October 2004 at the World Congress of the Clergy organized by the Holy See in Malta and Gozo, about 1000 priests from 80 countries were present, including 16 cardinals and several bishops. I was glad to meet several CFM/MFC chaplains and together we prayed for all our members.

I thank all those who, on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, 8th December, prayed for me and sent me messages on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of my Ordination to the Priesthood.

May the Lord bless me with His grace and strength to continue with the help of Mary, our Mother, to work in His vineyard for families.

FIRES HUNGARY: THE PROVEN PATH TO CFM

by Balazs and Krisztina Menesi



Aside from their spiritual fruits, we have found that the FIRES Encounters—the Original Marriage Encounter and especially the Engaged Encounter—are an excellent way to start CFM groups. Those who start this way, in our experience, are seeking for Christian togetherness: they come with joy, they cooperate, they desire to build and become part of a Christian community.

In this way the FIRES Encounters have played an important role in the increase of CFM in Hungary, especially with young, enthused couples. The same experience may be very useful for CFM in other countries as well. In 2004 we held 12 Encounters serving 400 participants.

We think that not only the Encounters but also the books by Fr. Gabriel Calvo are an excellent means of evangelizing and strengthening families. Therefore, after publishing the Hand in Hand guidebook for engaged couples in 2002, we published 3000 copies of the Face to Face guidebook for married couples in 2004. We hope to publish his Within and Beyond guidebook for self encounter in 2005.

Our good news is that the FIRES Hungary website (www.fires.hu) has been posted. Our website for CFM Hungary (www.cfm.org.hu) will be completed in June.

(CONTINUED TO NEXT PAGE)



Engaged Encounter



Engaged Encounter



Family Encounter



Engaged Encounter



Original Marriage Encounter



Self Encounter



Sons and daughters Encounter



Self Encounter

- 03. 5-7. Original Marriage Encounter in the Hungarian speaking part of the Ukraine
- 03. 12-14. Engaged Encounter near Budapest
- 03. 26-28. Original Marriage Encounter near Budapest
- 04. 23-25. Sons and Daughters Returno in the Hungarian speaking part of the Ukraine
- 05. 14-16. Sons and Daughters Encounter in Budapest
- 06. 18-20. Self Encounter in the Hungarian speaking part of the Ukraine
- 07. 23-25. Family Encounter in Budapest
- 09. 24-26. Self Encounter near Budapest
- 10. 1-3. Engaged Encounter in Budapest
- 11. 12-14. Original Marriage Encounter near Budapest
- 11. 26-28. Engaged Encounter in Budapest
- 12. 10-12. Engaged Encounter in the Hungarian speaking part of the Ukraine



**Father Gabriel Calvo,
FIRES Founder**

In 2005 we have had 7 Encounters:

- 01. 21-23. Self Encounter in the Hungarian speaking part of the Ukraine
- 02. 18-20. Sons and Daughters Encounter in Budapest
- 03. 4-6. Engaged Encounter in Budapest
- 04. 15-17. Sons and Daughters Encounter near Budapest
- 04. 22-24. Self Encounter near Budapest
- 04. 22-24. Engaged Encounter near Budapest
- 05. 27-29. Original Marriage Encounter near Budapest

The following Encounters are scheduled:

- 07.22-24 Engaged Encounter in Budapest, conducted in English for couples from European countries. Fr. Donnon Murray will present this very popular program with the hope that participating couples and priests will take it to their countries to enrich spiritual life and build CFM.
- 07.28-31 Sisters Encounter for Dominican Sisters in Budapest conducted by Fr. Donnon Murray.
- 08.8-11 Priests Encounter near Budapest presented by Bishop László Bíró.

Finally, let us share with you some Encounter feedback—taken from actual letters sent by Encounter graduates:

Engaged Encounter

The team couples' talks were excellent. Their lived experiences made a great impression on both of us. Their honesty was fantastic. I made it a point to thank them for it.

The Engaged Encounter meant a real lot to me. It touched me deeply. Perhaps that's why I find it difficult to speak about it. It was an intensive re-evaluation, a review of our relationship. It was an encounter with myself, with my girlfriend and with our God.

Original Marriage Encounter

Breaking free from the monotony of everyday life, the Original Marriage Encounter was a tremendous experience of looking at each other in new wonder... The dim feelings indicating that in some ways our marriage had not been working exactly as it should, mostly passed away. Whatever was left, we were able to express and share it with one another. We saw in wonder, just as if we had never been able to experience it before, how obviously the Lord Jesus is with us in our marriage. We were deeply touched by the freshness of the Holy Spirit shaking up our marriage as you give your pillow a good shake-up in the morning.

Self Encounter

The Self Encounter was a fantastic experience. It has meant an awful lot for me personally. It cleared up many things and showed me the right direction... Those kind people there, they each gave me something. By the way, we have been in contact ever since with the five people in my small group. Wonderful people. We have spent an evening together at a tea-house. Each one told the others how he/she proceeded in his/her life.

Sons and Daughters Encounter

I got a couple of new friends and the group sharings were fantastic.

I liked best that the topics were introduced by young people. I loved that they shared their own lived experiences ie. how they acted or what they felt in certain situations in their lives.

My relationship with my parents has improved since then. It had not been too bad before either, but it was not frequent enough. Also, I can look at unknown people with greater love now.

CFM OUTREACH—in unity with two great Pontiffs of the millennium

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

MFC Latin America
William and Esilda Cheng
Vice-Presidents, ICCFM and Presidents, MFC Latin America

The MFC of Latin America has a general objective which is "the evangelization and the promotion of the family, developing its human and Christian values, in order to enable it to fulfill its mission as trainer of people, educator in the

faith, promoter of the common good and defender of life." To fulfill this objective, FORMATION is a task of high priority of the Movement. As an organization, we do not promote charity understood as almsgiving, but we hope that in each formed person, the need and the urgency may arise to share everything that ought to be shared where it may be necessary and in a special manner—with the families, with the community, with those who most

in need.

In fact, in some of our countries, services have been provided to help the less fortunate. For example, in Guatemala and in Honduras, the MFC has medical centers with very reasonable costs for the poor. In several countries we have Centers for Family Orientation, Adoption Services and others.

It ought to be mentioned that

MFC Latin America, almost from its foundation for more than 50 years, has pledged two important services that are common in all the countries: Pre-Marriage or Marriage Preparation Courses and Conjugal Encounters. These services have been provided to thousands of people in our Continent, and the formation they have received allows them to make a difference, because they have become laymen committed to building the Kingdom of God.

CFM USA RESPONSE TO TSUNAMI DISASTER

Peter and Jane Buchbauer
Presidents, CFM/USA

On December 26, 2004, a 9.0 magnitude earthquake shook the earth and moved the waters in the Indian Ocean. Without warning, the massive wall of water inundated coastal and island communities, leaving in its wake the largest natural disaster known to modern history with the death toll above 150,000. Thousands more will likely die from hunger and disease in the wake of this massive destruction. Homes have been shattered.

CFM is often regarded as small groups of families in USA parishes. But CFM is greater than that. CFM exists over 40 countries and six



Nop and Elma Muangkroot, ICCFM presidents, presenting the \$2500 check on behalf of CFM USA to Dr. William Gerritz, head of the International School of Bangkok and leader of the ISB Tsunami Relief Project to build a new schoolhouse.

continents, including Thailand and Sri Lanka, areas hit hard by the tsunami.

CFM USA, consisting of English-speaking and Spanish-speaking groups (also known as MFC USA) has the means to reach out to tsunami-hit CFM Asia. CFM USA has established a fund through the International Confederation of Christian Family Movements (ICCFM) to aid in the disaster relief effort. The allocation of donations will be administered by the ICCFM Presidents Nop and Elma Muangkroot in consultation with the ICCFM leadership in the impacted countries. (CONTINUED TO NEXT PAGE)

Proposals for worldwide CFM projects completed

Initial ideas for the three CFM projects which ICCFM Presidents Nop and Elma Muangkroot intend to promote at the international level by 2005 have taken shape under the leadership of CFM Asia Presidents Mel and Emma Ricafente with the collaboration of CFM Philippines leaders. The projects and their corresponding project leaders are the following:

- ICCFM World Prayer Day – Tony and Tita Koska
- exchange home stay for CFM youths – Rene and Inday Pronstroller
- more conscious integration of CFM actions in the workplace – Loy and Trining Marquez and Pepe Lugay

According to Mel and Emma, the project objective of the ICCFM World Prayer Day is "for CFMers worldwide to be in solidarity through prayer,



Asia Continental Presidents Mel and Emma Ricafente

focusing on universal concerns but with local situations in mind." The goal of the exchange home stay is "to allow for closer interaction among CFM'ers of different countries in an informal home setting." One way to consciously integrate CFM actions in the workplace would be "to create a symbol that would serve to identify, remind and encourage, the wearer to think, say and act as Jesus Christ would."

Complete details of the proposals have been disseminated by e-mail, awaiting feedback from all CFM members for final decision by the CFM leadership. The proposals were translated into Spanish by Emilio and Yolanda Wong of Panama, members of the Latin American Executive Secretariat.

CFM INDIA: LAUNCHING ANNAPURNA

*Francis and Christine Fonseca, Osie and Catherine Pereira
Contributed by Agnel and Anette D'Silva
Presidents, CFM India*

Annapurna entered our lives through *Prayatna*, our parish community center, in response to our CFM group's desire to help a needy family. She is a young, visually-impaired mother of three children under ten years old, whose family had lived in their home. However, her husband sold the house to pay off debts and seldom came home to escape responsibility. Left on the streets, Annapurna was forced to stay with her in-laws, who found the family a burden and threatened to throw them out. With no source of income, they lived on monetary aid and rations given by the CFM.

After a while we CFM'ers realized this arrangement would only leave the family dependent on the CFM. We needed to make Annapurna self-sufficient, and more importantly, to restore her dignity and self-worth. Because of her impaired vision, the task of rehabilitation was difficult. Two separate consultations with ophthalmologists came to a conclusion that her eye condition would deteriorate and lead to complete blindness. Annapurna looked dejected when informed of the fact, but she definitely refused to despair.

Encouraged by her trust and hopefulness, *Prayatna* and the CFM approached the National Association for the Blind (NAB). God was definitely guiding our efforts because we came to the NAB at the commencement of a four-month, live-in rehabilitation course for women, and Annapurna was admitted for free. The students were taught how to make phenyl (a disinfectant), liquid soap, candles and josh sticks and how to operate a telephone booth. Annapurna was very

enthusiastic about her courses showed greater confidence in herself.

During this time the CFM'ers carried out timely checks on the children to see that they received proper care. Her husband also was also given regular counseling. He has made some attempts to change, but it will take time before he gives up his bad habits completely and takes responsibility for his family.

On her return home, Annapurna immediately started making phenyl and liquid soap to sell. Her first customers were the CFM'ers, and through CFM help she sold her products at the parish Sunday Bazaar. With her products labeled specially by a CFM member, Annapurna had the opportunity to sell them as well as to gain publicity when parishioners became aware of her tremendous spirit that, despite her misfortunes, she tried her best to be self-sufficient and independent.

All of Annapurna's savings are deposited in an account with the *Prayatna* Credit Society, which will entitle her to a loan. With this loan, Annapurna and her family hope to have a new home and, with God's help, a good livelihood. The CFM is also involved in helping her obtain a public telephone booth which will be sponsored by the NAB.

Surely, the story of Annapurna would move the hardest heart—a blind woman, illiterate and downtrodden, determined to make a success of her life.

CFM PHILIPPINES: OUTREACH PROJECTS

*Mel and Emma Ricafrente
Presidents, CFM Asia*

Dedicated and passionate CFM Philippines members are deeply involved in outreach projects and programs such as the following:

1. Cooperatives – Some successful cooperatives in the Philippines have been established and nurtured by the CFM, who taught members to save, develop discipline, loan with discretion, work for the common good and, most of all, be ready to help other needy and qualified members.

2. Shelter – Generous CFM'ers have bought lots and built affordable, quality homes for needy countrymen to own.

3. Livelihood – CFM members have organized and continuously sustained livelihood projects for both the poor and the handicapped.

4. Family Advocacy – A few outstanding CFM'ers are involved in advocacy programs concerning family rights, pro-life, anti-pornography, anti-abortion and anti-divorce.

5. Environmental Advocacy – A successful advocacy group co-founded by a CFM housewife has been able to convince the government to phase out lead in gasoline manufacture, pass the Clean Air Act and help educate Filipinos to achieve "zero waste" in their homes and workplaces.

ASSEMBLIES 2005

MFC Colombia National Convention July 1-3
MFC USA National Convention July 15-16
CFM USA National Convention July 15-17

MFC Argentina National Convention August 13-15
CFM Philippines National Convention October 21-23
XXII Latin American General Assembly November 3-5

NEW ICCFM VICE-PRESIDENTS



Past ICCFM Vice-Presidents Carlos and Magda Hita

"We have accompanied your effort for the ICCFM with a mixture of joy and remorse. Of joy, because you were extraordinary motivators of the union, communication and growth of the same. Of remorse because it was not possible for us to contribute in this period. But you may be sure that we have always accompanied you with our prayers and are questioning ourselves—late—that we must give you the freedom to replace us."

William and Esilda Cheng were elected at the General Assembly of Latin America (AGLA) in Asuncion, Paraguay, in November 2001, as Presidents of Latin America's Christian Family Movement for the years 2001 - 2005.

They live in Panama, Republic of Panama, present location of the Secretariat for Latin America (SPLA), which they coordinate.

Esilda is an educator and William, an accountant, both retired. They have five children and seven grandchildren. They were initiated into the Movement when they were married four years. They have been Coordinators of Base Teams, have worked in Pre-Nuptial Courses and in Marriage Encounter, and have been Archdiocesan Presidents, National and Zonal Coordinators.

They have been part of the Movement for 36 years and express that they feel grateful to and blessed by the Lord for allowing them to be His instruments in the building of his Kingdom, especially in the area of the Family.

They send a special greeting to all

the members of the Confederation (ICCFM) and exhort them to remain united and to redouble their efforts in their work with the family: basic cell of society and hope for a better world.



William and Esilda Cheng with Continental Chaplain Fr. Jose Majadas

"We asked for a lot of discernment from the Lord, and if you have not yet decided on another couple, we accept to accompany you as Vice-Presidents in this your second term as Presidents."

X WORLD ASSEMBLY OF FAMILIES AND XIV ICCFM GENERAL ASSEMBLY

July 25 - 29, 2007

The Legacy of Fatima to the Family: Spirituality and Sacrifice

IN MEMORIAM 2004-2005

Father Robert H. White, of FIRES USA.

Jesus Paras Garcia, father of Nop and Elma Muangkroot of CFM Thailand.

Judith Avila Cheng, mother of William and Esilda Cheng of MFC Panama.

Margarita Rivera de



Mirna and children

Guzmán, daughter of Alvaro and Margarita Rivera of MFC Costa Rica.

Father Pedro P. Richards, in Argentina, Founding Chaplain of MFC/CFM.

Mirna Noguera (and her three children) wife of Gustavo Noguera and

daughter of Francisca and Zacarias of MFC Paraguay.

Father of Mario Figueroa of MFC USA.

Jun Lagapa of CFM Philippines.

Eduardo Santander Ortiz of MFC Chile.

Beatriz Reis of MFC Brazil.

Lucy Calvo, wife of Jorge Calvo, of MFC Argentina.

www.iccfm.org

Visit the ICCFM website!