

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.

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Engaged Encounter



Engaged Encounter



Family Encounter



Engaged Encounter