



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!