

GOLDEN JUBILEE: MSGR. CHARLES VELLA

by Tony and Lily Gauci

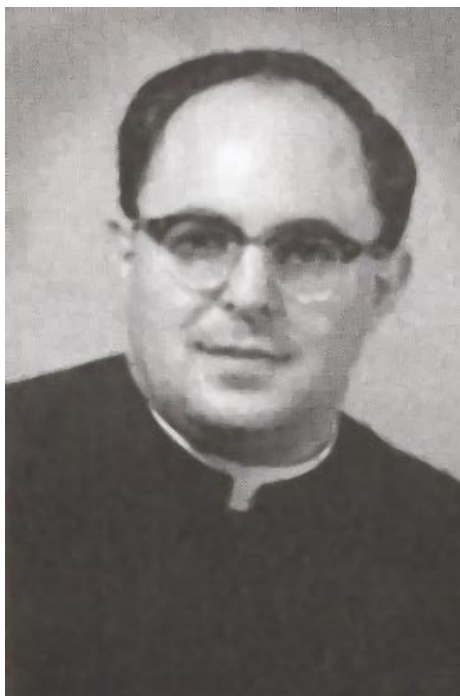
Ordained to the priesthood on the feast of the Immaculate Conception on December 8, 1954, in Rome, Monsignor Charles Vella celebrated the actual date of his Golden Jubilee in Malta, his first home.

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

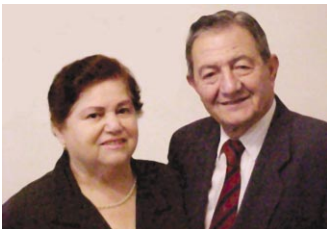
In a letter directed to Cardinal Alfonso Lopez Trujillo, president of the Pontifical Council for the Family, Pope Benedict XVI renews the call made by Pope John Paul II for the V World Meeting of Families that will be celebrated in Valencia, Spain, in July 2006, and restates that "the Church cannot fail 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

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