

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.



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*

- 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

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

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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.