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# LINK LAZO

*Bulletin of International Confederation of  
Christian Family Movements*



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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENTS OF THE ICCFM

Greetings of peace and joy to you and your family!



We are still in the midst of the pandemic with all the restrictions imposed by the civil authorities. We continue to pray for our families and communities that they be spared from the virus as we heed the advice of the medical doctors to take the necessary precautions like the wearing of masks and face shields, maintaining physical distances, etc. We pray for the repose of the souls of those who died of the virus. We continue to pray for the end of the pandemic.

On the positive side, this pandemic has brought a new dimension into our evangelization in terms of how we treat social media and the internet. Whereas before we basically use it in work and in communicating with friends but now, we have come to realize that this can be a powerful tool too in our evangelization work. Communications have become fast and easy. Literally, everybody is just one click away. We recall the lament of a past continental president-couple of Asia that during their time, it took one month for the mails to reach the recipients, say in Sri Lanka, and another month to receive the reply. Today, with modern technology, we can communicate with our vice president or any MFC-CFM officer or member instantly. Everybody is within reach 24/7.

Formation talks/reflections and unit meetings can be done virtually via zoom with our brothers and sisters across continents in attendance. Amazingly due to the pandemic, we came up and launched the ICCFM formation program called "An Hour Together in the Mission" with our international chaplain, Bishop Gerry Alminaza, as the first resource person. He talked on the Covid-19



Pandemic: Challenges and Opportunities in Family Evangelization. This was followed by the talk of the past international chaplain, Fr. Saul who talked on Building a Better World in light of the Principles of the Social Teaching of the Church.

Through the social media, we were able to hold meetings with the continental presidents as well as the members of the three secretariats: communications, formation and co-responsibility and finance. We often get invitations to attend the meetings and/or formation talks hosted by the continental/national presidents especially from Latin America. Congratulations to Marcos and Alicia who are so tireless in pushing the work of evangelization in the continent. Indeed, the words of Pope Francis on the use of the social media in evangelization cannot truer today than yesterday. Addressing the youth in Vatican, he urged them to evangelize through the digital world. The digital world--the social networks that are so pervasive and readily available--dissolves borders, eliminates distances, and reduces differences." He said that "sharing the Gospel with the people at the peripheries might not even require stepping outside the

door."

This is not to say that in-person evangelization is a thing of the past. Both approaches can enhance and complement each other bearing in mind that technology or any inventions for that matter are God's gifts to humanity.

We urge our leaders and members to make full and responsible use of the social media in our family evangelization.

**Pip & Wilma Cua**

ICCFM President-Couple

2019-2022

P.S

On a personal note, it gives us great joy every time we remember our ICCFM 2020 Christmas party which we did virtually. We can still hear the Christmas songs and see the beautiful costumes and cultural dances of our members from around the globe. By the way, you can still access the video in the ICCFM Facebook.



**MESSAGE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL  
CHAPLAIN OF THE ICCFM**



Peace to all of you! While we are still in the pandemic let us continue to extend a helping hand to our brothers and sisters especially those who are adversely affected

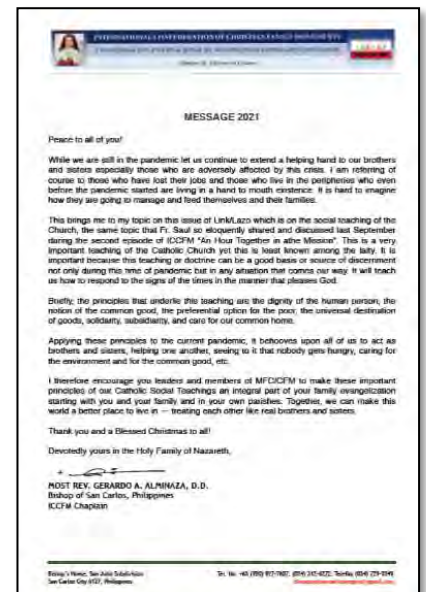
by this crisis. I am referring of course to those who have lost their jobs and those who live in the peripheries who even before the pandemic started are living in a hand to mouth existence. It is hard to imagine how they are going to manage and feed themselves and their families. This brings me to my topic on this issue of Link/Lazo which is on the social teaching of the Church, the same topic that Fr. Saul so eloquently shared and discussed last September during the second episode of ICCFM “An Hour Together in the Mission”. This is a very important teaching of the Catholic Church yet this is least known among the laity. It is important because this teaching or doctrine can be a good basis or source of discernment not only during this time of pandemic but in any situation that comes our way. It will teach us how to respond to the signs of the times in the manner that pleases God. Briefly, the principles that underlie this teaching are the dignity of the human person, the notion of the common good, the preferential option for the poor, the

universal destination of goods, solidarity, subsidiarity, and care for our common home. Applying these principles to the current pandemic, it behooves upon all of us to act as brothers and sisters, helping one another, seeing to it that nobody gets hungry, caring for the environment and for the common good, etc. I therefore encourage you leaders and members of MFC/CFM to make these important principles of our Catholic Social Teachings an integral part of your family evangelization starting with you and your family and in your own parishes.

Together, we can make this world a better place to live in — treating each other like real brothers and sisters. Thank you and a Blessed Christmas to all!

Devotedly yours in the Holy Family of Nazareth,

**MOST REV. GERARDO A. ALMINAZA, D.D.**  
**Bishop of San Carlos, Philippines**  
**ICCFM Chaplain**



## "I did not see you Lord"

### OUR EXPERIENCE IN THE COVID 19 CONFINEMENT

**Rosalinda Campos and Jorge Carrillo**

The confinement began on February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020, in Queretaro.



"Stay at home." Our daughter Ana María, her

husband and their baby, who was born on February 25<sup>th</sup>, and the two of us, were already in the process of confinement.

This is the way our quarantine began. The panorama outside was turning out very fast. We thought we were supposed to prepare ourselves with all kinds of products; We went to the supermarket, where we saw that the panic purchases had already left the supermarkets empty in some basic products; information in all media, speaking about people over 65 were the most vulnerable and it was going to be difficult for them to survive, so we assumed it personally. At the beginning of the Pandemic we listened to a lot of news, realities or distorted information that made us feel stressed, so we decided to filter and limit them. This experience has been a whole process of community growth for us:

**In the Human Aspect:** Staying at home did not represent any conflict, we organized a schedule: 7:00 am, we did an hour of physical exercise, we listened to some talks on different topics of our own interest; Dr. Mario Alonso Puig (Spanish), "You build or destroy yourself", "Emotions and their impact on health", among others; Fray Raniero Cantalamessa OFM Cap (Italian) "The Mystery of the Eucharist", "The Holy Spirit and the Resurrection of Christ"; we also heard some others or we listened to diverse music. Confinement gave us the opportunity of reviewing the memory chest in general; we kept what was only meaningful to us and selected the things that could be donated. In the same way, we had the opportunity to debug the didactic material or the participations in the CFM and other organizations of the Civil Society that we are keeping and that eventually became obsolete. This also allowed us to sort things out of the house, and make better use of existing resources; Our son Marco Eugenio or Carlos, Ana María's husband supported us by supplying our pantry with the necessary care; communication with the children was daily and on weekends, we had video meetings by Zoom, where each of the grandchildren presented a game, riddles, and we talked about what it had been for them to stay at home. We found the 17-year-old daily agendas, so we decided to prepare a summary of





experiences which contained: activities and experiences placed in sequence according to the agendas, complementing them with information since we entered the CFM up to date.

**In the spiritual:** in our domestic Church; we elaborated a family prayer program and our altar, we changed the setting according to the liturgy of the day; 8:00 hrs., all family members prayed Lauds; 12:00 Angelus / Regina Coeli; 15:00 crown of Mercy; 17:00 p.m. Holy Rosary; 19:30 Eucharist and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, presided by Father Saul Ragoitia in his parish of "La Divina Pastora", on Wednesdays Holy Hour. We sought the opportunity of SS Pope Francis celebrations. This pandemic taught us to ask our Lord not only for our family, but for the CFM in Mexico, or for the ICCFM worldwide; We felt our prayers were incomplete if we didn't include the whole humanity worldwide, whether they were believers or not, to pray to Our Father with meaning, we are all children of the same Father, therefore, we are all brothers. As Pope Francis well says "we are in the same

boat" all this allowed us to make a self-evaluation of our relationship with God and our Christian life.

**Living the Church's Social Doctrine / Creative Solidarity:** The panorama is discouraging for some brothers in the faith; companies laying off staff without any payment, domestic workers, likewise, are generally single mothers; Some families of the CFM without employment, faced with this reality, we were presented with a question to which we can give two answers: See our Lord in our employees or not recognize him as the disciples of Emmaus; not recognizing him in the lady who supports us in housework, and saying "see you when this is over", **and the family ?**, we have two properties a commercial premises is a GYM (where we thought we were not going to be able to have income for three months) and a house room , (they will have low incomes) **"I did not see you Lord"** our response was: pay wages to the workers who accompany us in our ordinary life; and tenants 50% deduction of the rent three months while the economic situation improved. The economic problem did not end there, nor our Christian responsibility, we contacted directors of Caritas diocesan, to find out about the programs that they had and in which we could collaborate, we supported by contributing with basic food pantries; With the diocesan presidents of the CFM, Juan Luis and Ale,



we found out how the families of the CFM were, six families were affected by Covid 19, and many families had been left without work, so we planned to bring them pantries, and like this, we were able to join their project; the priests in parish when closing the temples and offices were not going to have the supports they used to receive, but they will continue having expenses; Our religious neighbors required support.

"I did not see you, Lord." Upon reviewing our reality, we found that being confined allowed us some savings on daily expenses: gasoline, travel to other cities and others, we selected that money and we spent it on those supports, then we gave to the task of talking on the phone to some party friends, which we had not known about them for a long time, we asked them how they were doing, one of them told us very well and very well, however there were families who were having a terrible time, I was able to speak to him about Caritas, an organization of the Catholic Church, and tell him about their projects, which gave us the opportunity to help the families that needed them the most; I told him about the asylum, San Sebastián, they asked me for information to make a deposit; This is a way of supporting giving the opportunity for this friendly family to do their work of Mercy.



# MyGreatestFearIsNotToRecognizeYouLord

#TakeCareOfthePlanetOurCommonHouse

#OurVulnerability

DemandsUsToAlwaysBePrepared

Human values are still present in health personnel and other services, our Christian values are present in priests, nuns and religious, Catholic Social Action is present in Caritas, Movements, groups and lay associations: ***Christ lives!***

**Rosalinda Campos & Jorge Carrillo**

**Past Presidents Of ICCFM**





# NORTH AMERICA CONTINENT

## MFC LOS ÁNGELES RETREAT OF PROMOTION July 2020

We have the participation of our guest speaker Dr. Medina; the membership was very happy and was very motivated to start the new 2020-2021 cycle.



### Nuestro Ministerio con las familias

- No sólo por la crisis, sino porque la familia es una realidad social y eclesial que cumple una misión.
- El MFC entiende su misión desde la importancia de la familia en la sociedad y en la Iglesia.
- Los miembros de MFC sirven en un ministerio que atiende a las familias de las parroquias y de la Arquidiócesis, pero también se enriquecen a sí mismos, para mejorar su propia vida familiar.
- Es un servicio hacia fuera y hacia adentro
- Nos vuelve discípulos misioneros en el área de la familia.



## ZONAL TEAM GATHERING

August 2020

We shared among brothers in Christ and knowing that we are a single movement helps us to grow in community.



This time, Dr. Cesar Lozano was our guest speaker.



## 1ST. INTERNAL APOSTOLATE AND FINANCE

September 2020

Every month we have an event where we grow in formation, faith and sharing evangelization, Thanks to Father Modesto Lule.



## BASIC TRAINING COURSE

August 2020



As servers we are always in constant growth and training and training for a better service.



**November 2020**

**2<sup>ND</sup>. INTERNAL APOSTOLATE AND FINANCE**

**September 2020**

Despite the Pandemic, we continue with evangelization Together with David Montalvo

Due to the Pandemic, we were not able to do the Homecoming dance but Thank God and the membership it was done via Virtual Zoom.



**WELCOME NIGHT AND FUN**



### 3<sup>RD</sup> . INTERNAL APOSTOLATE AND FINANCE

November 2020



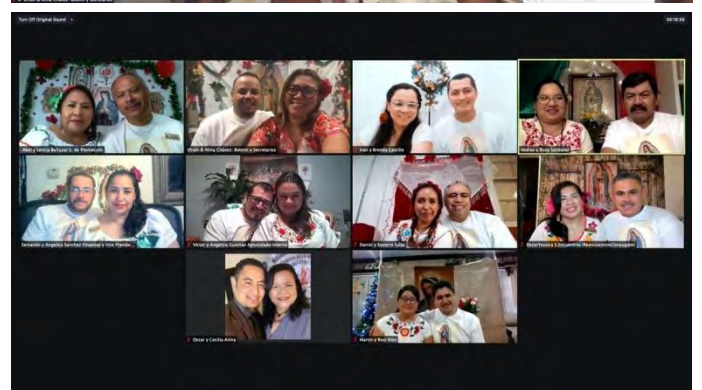
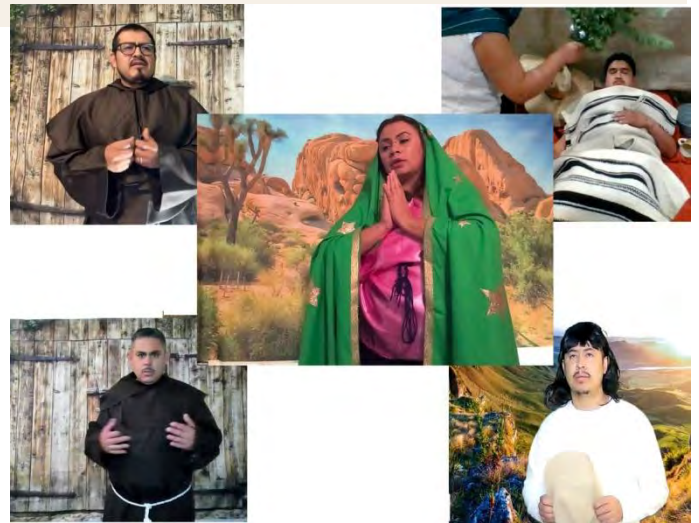
We thank Rafa for sharing such a beautiful conference.



### THE FAMILY UNDER THE BLANKET OF MARY

December 2020

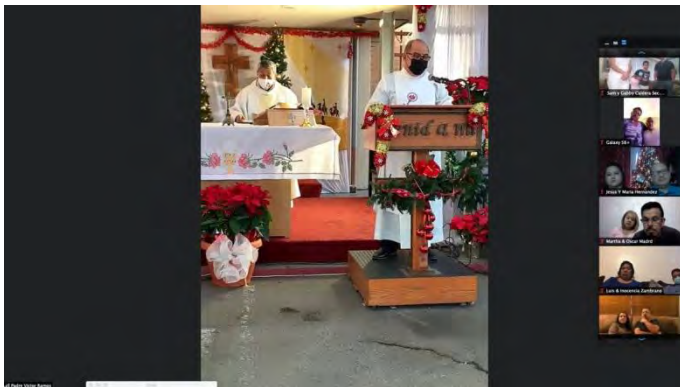
Celebrating Our Mother Mary of Guadalupe



## HOLY FAMILY MASS

DECEMBER 2020

Every year as a Family we celebrate in the community and with the entire membership of the Los Angeles Christian Family Movement in honor of our role model The Holy Family of Nazareth.



## CHRISTIAN FAMILY MOVEMENT –

### CANADA.

We thank the Lord infinitely for this

Such a great gift that he gives us to be able to serve him through families.

It has been a very blessed year during this Pandemic.

We want to tell you that for approximately three years the Lord has been preparing us for this confinement. How? Well, working with the Team Coordinators, preparing every 15 days the topics that they would take to their Teams via Skype. Well, for different family reasons we had to do it like this, so as not to stop serving the Lord by accompanying our marriages. And so it was that when the confinement came we were able to continue meeting, not only to prepare the topics with the coordinators, but also to have their meetings with each team, but this time it was already via WhatsApp or Zoom.

We have taken full advantage of the technology, as other families in Canada, but in another province (Alberta) have managed to join our CFM. And it was for this reason that we asked Wilbur and Juanita Hooker for help, to see how we could get the material digitally. Thanks to them who immediately requested the required help and organized meetings with different representatives in charge of the different resources, we were able to obtain the help of Mexico with the digital agendas in Spanish. And this is how we are now working here in Canada.



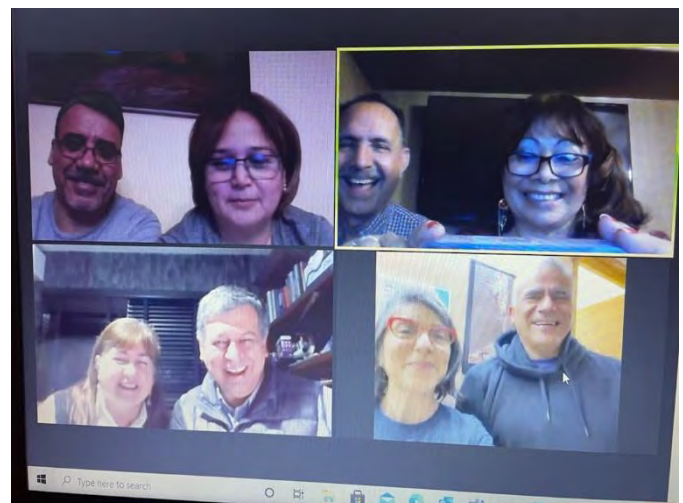
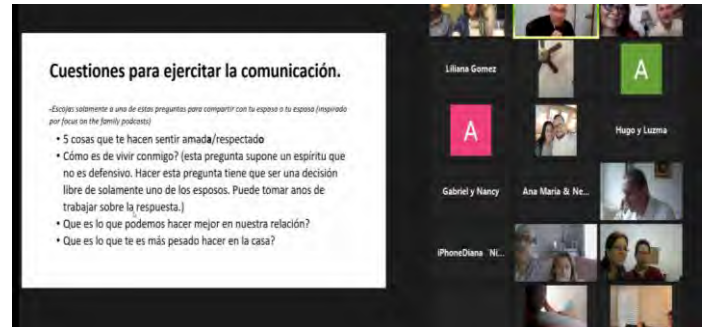
We have also organized a General Assembly, Advent Retreat and Lenten Retreat via Zoom, where not only couples from Canada but also from Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador and the United States have been United with us. We thank Father Louis De Vaugelas, LC who has

very kindly accompanied us in this spiritual growth. This Sunday, June 27, we will have a General Assembly, also via Zoom; with which we will close our 2020/2021 school year.

We have had the opportunity to continue growing spiritually through the different workshops that the MFCC-USA has offered, as well as the Amoris Laetitia Forum, etc.

Our membership is not very large at the moment, but we continue to work for the Glory of God.

Each and every one of your families receive our prayers and a big brotherly hug from Canada. God bless you.



## CHRISTIAN FAMILY MOVEMENT - USA

### Praying and Advocating for Recovery from the Covid Pandemic

#### - Taking Action for Vaccine Acceptance



CFM-USA joined more than 50 Catholic organizations in a coalition to spread Information about Catholic teaching and to promote education about the vaccine on social media. We shared information on our social media and ACT Newsletter. Some possible actions: Identify local agencies that are helping and volunteer. Give a ride to someone who wants to be vaccinated. Support efforts of groups like the Jesuit Relief Corps for equitable access to vaccines for migrants and refugees. Learn more about the Catholic Cares Coalition here <https://www.catholiccares.org/>

#### Leaders Join Online to Pray and Share Ideas for Staying Connected During Covid



CFM-USA held a virtual Town Hall Meeting, Wednesday, September 9, to encourage leaders at the beginning of a new and very different CFM year. Members shared ideas for meeting safely in person and best practices for Zoom meetings.

#### Prayer Holds CFM Groups Together in Challenging Times



Around the US, the CFM families found ways to stay connected and support one another during the pandemic. The two CFM groups at Queen of the Holy Rosary Parish in Bucyrus, Kansas kept in touch during the health emergency, although they had not been having their regular meetings since the pandemic began.

The group members learned how to use Zoom and prayed together online weekly. They also met in the parking lot at church to pray the rosary together outside.

With social distancing in mind, the group decided to make a field trip to the Shrine of St. Rose Philippine Duchesne, in Mound City, Kansas, about an hour's drive away. They toured the shrine and learned



about St. Rose, a sister of the Society of the Sacred Heart. Sr. Rose's work at the Sugar Creek Mission near Centerville, Kansas, in the early 1800's endeared her to the native Potawatomi people, who gave her the name of "Kwah-kah-kum-ad," the Woman Who Prays Always. She is a relatively new saint, canonized in 1988 by Pope John Paul II.



**Evening Prayer Service Streamed Online**  
Another example of staying connected during the pandemic: Evening Prayer was live-streamed on the CFM Facebook page from National Chaplain Fr. Louis Golamari's St. Jude Parish in Oshkosh, WI, during January 2021 semi-annual board meeting, which was virtual this year.

**Covid Claimed Father of Our National Chaplain in India**



*Father Louis, at his ordination, giving communion to his father.*

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Sleeva R. Golamari, father of CFM's National Chaplain, Father Louis Golamari. Mr. Golamari passed away in India on May 26 at the age of 78. Fr. Louis and mother and siblings were not be able to attend the funeral due to Covid travel restrictions.

**Formation for Leaders Moves Online to Reach More Parishes**

The strategic planning committee is working with a Catholic marketing company to produce eye-catching promotional flyers and Facebook ads to attract more young couples to join the Movement.



CFM-USA has an Organizer's Manual containing all the procedures, forms, and notes for leaders. They are organizing Ambassadors who will offer introductory sessions with parish leaders and priests. A Chaplain's Handbook has also been developed.



**Introducing CFM to new parishes in the Diocese of Lansing, Michigan**





Presidents Brian and Mary Ann Thelen presented CFM to leaders from four pilot parishes. The new parish groups will have experienced CFM mentors to help them begin their CFM sections.

### New Four-Part Leader Training on Video

CFM leaders recorded four 30-minute sessions to prepare new leaders to succeed with CFM.

Part One – What is CFM?

Part Two – Planning Your CFM Group

Part Three – Hosting Your First CFM Meeting

Part Four – Planning for Success

**CFM's Method Guides Your Leadership Style**

**OBSERVE** your group: dynamics and individuals.

**JUDGE** the meeting environment and the value you perceive in each meeting.

**ACT** to make each meeting a positive experience. Make necessary adjustments for future meetings.

The training series will be shared with new group leaders by their mentor couples.

**Family Ministry**

How does CFM include children?

Children are included in the group's social, service, and spiritual activities.

**Action Group Meetings**

- ☆ Adults Only
- ☆ With Children
  - Larger space needed
  - Arrange for childcare
  - Children's activities

### CFM National Board United to Grow and Promote the Movement

The National CFM Officers and Board held their Semi-Annual meetings by Zoom, June 13-14, 2020 and January 23-24, 2021. At each meeting, they covered a packed agenda, and even had some on-line fun. Bishop George Rassas of Chicago, who has represented CFM



nationally, joined the members to pray and reflect on the current social challenges.

### New Social Inquiry Book Focuses on Catholic Social Teaching

Each year, CFM-USA writes and publishes a book of social inquiries. This year's book, *Love in Action*, includes eight meetings for reflection on the Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching. This program is available as a hard copy and as an e-book and a Leader's Edition is also available for members to download. The program includes many action ideas written with Covid restrictions in mind.



### Love in Action: Families Share Care Packages

The *Love in Action* program inspired families in three CFM groups at St. Thomas the Apostle in Ann Arbor, Michigan, to participate in Cross Catholic Outreach Box of Joy project. Families in the groups filled "Boxes of Joy" for children in Guatemala, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, and more.





**“Each one of us is called to be an artisan of peace, by uniting and not dividing, by extinguishing hatred and not holding on to it, by opening paths of dialogue and not by constructing new walls” (Holy Father Francis, Encyclical Letter Fratelli Tutti 284)**

For the Church, the person is too important, he is the essence of our mission. The Church of Jesus Christ wants the salvation of its people in every way. We the leaders, through our spiritual and solidarity actions, advocate for everyone without condition.

However, in these conditions, the greatest responsibility for the situation falls on our authorities and their State institutions, which must ensure the health of the population. The health emergency does not allow us to missteps: every mistake, every minute that is lost, every shortcoming and lack represents the risk of a life.



In this sense, on March 21, 2021, the Latin American Christian Family Movement through the Secretariat for Latin America - SPLA held the IX Extraordinary Latin American General Assembly - AGLA, after an exhaustive analysis of the health situation in all member countries, caused by Covid 19, and that the scheduled vaccination period, in some countries, would only start in August 2021, and others that do not have a clear calendar; with the aggravating factor that the situation, in general, has not yet improved, causing uncertainty in the population, all this not without first conducting a survey with the national presidents of the CFM in each country of the viability of the aforementioned assembly.



Thus it was that that Sunday, March 21, the Lord's Day and for his greater glory, at 19:00



(nineteen) hours in Paraguay, current headquarters of the Latin American Presidency, under the virtual modality, through the ZOOM platform, they met unanimously the 18 member countries, through their representatives, (presiding couples and their ecclesial adviser by country); Likewise, we were accompanied by the members of the full SPLA Team and as representatives of the ICCFM, the dear Vice Presidents Dora and Sergio Treviño-Cruz.

The items to deliberate within the Agenda were:

- 1- Reschedule the date of the Ordinary General Assembly, scheduled for November 22, 23 and 24, 2021, to a new date to be agreed upon.
- 2- Reschedule the preemptory deadlines established in article 16 of the statutes of the Christian Family Movement in Latin America, in accordance with the approval of the rescheduling of the date of the Ordinary General Assembly.

Finally, it was agreed with approval the postponement of the Assembly of change of authorities for 1 more year, to ensure the

possibility of the presence of the representatives to it, as well as to be able to deliver the presidency of the SPLA in a safer and better time pastoral possibilities.

What a joyous day we have lived, that although in a virtual way, we were able to interact, dialogue, looking at each other, and the union of spirits made us feel the closeness of the hearts of brothers praying for life, humanity, family. This assembly refreshed us that catechesis which is the very communication of an experience and the testimony of a faith that ignites hearts, not a class or a lesson as Pope Francis tells us, but sharing life itself because it introduces the desire to find to Christ. This announcement in various ways and with different languages is always the "first" that we are called to give our own testimony of life, trying to live our day to day with joy, that although it is routine or ordinary, we with Christ, live it and return extraordinary.

We ask that the Lord protect us and help us to see the light that all human beings need to have at this time, that our Lord Jesus Christ, with his spiritual breath, give us strength and help us overcome this moment of pandemic and the consequences that we are facing Living room



Alicia y Marcos Alvarez-Quiñonez  
Presidentes SPLA 2017-2022  
Movimiento Familiar Cristiano



## ROAD TO ELAJO

Fr. Luis Alberto Chávez Guerrero OSJ



Starting from the motto "Young people committed to the evangelization of the Latin American family" corresponding to the VI Latin American Youth Encounter, by its acronym ELAJO, to be held in the city of Cartago, Costa Rica, the project of the Latin American Area VI, called "Camino to ELAJO", with the invitation to twelve countries with a youth presence belonging to the MFC-LATIN AMERICAN family. It had the purpose of continuing to build bridges of brotherhood between Latin American countries along a path of unity, love and harmony.

CAMINO AL ELAJO, was a valuable opportunity for the young coordinators, advisory couples, national ecclesial assistants and the national youth team that accompany them, as representatives of the youth membership of their countries, to contribute

with their ideas and proposals, directing actions for all the Latin American cfmers' community.

In total, CAMINO AL ELAJO had fourteen chapters, twelve of them corresponding to the Latin American countries: Costa Rica, Honduras, El Salvador, Bolivia, Colombia, Paraguay, Peru, Mexico, Panama, Brazil, Guatemala and Argentina. Likewise, the start and end of the project was in charge of the Latin American Presidents: Alicia & Marcos Álvarez, the Area VI Coordinator Couple: Eliana & Moisés Ortiz, and the Young Latin American Coordinator: Juanchi Sosa.

Undoubtedly, it was a valuable tool for the young women to be the true participants and architects of each chapter that was being developed according to the proposed schedule. Each country was responsible for organizing a chapter. Thus unforgettable moments such as Holy Hour, youth rosaries, Christian concerts, conferences, workshops and endless dynamic games were experienced. Each chapter was broadcast through the official page of the country organizing the chapter, and the MFC-LA page of the Facebook platform.





On October 11, 2020, a SPECIAL EDITION was experienced, of the CAMINO AL ELAJO, a program full of emotions, since a tour was made through testimonial videos through the previous ELAJOS, from the first one carried out in El Salvador, passing through Panama and Colombia, and ending with the experiences of Mexico and Paraguay. Then the different Young National Coordinators of the Christian Family Movement were as special guests. And as a finishing touch, the official video quarantine version of the theme song of VI ELAJO was launched, which had the participation of the 12 countries with a youth presence in Latin America.

The organization of the video quarantine version of the VI ELAJO was a project born of the group of Young National Coordinators, under the direction of Alex Molina (Representative of the Servidei-El Salvador Group), Byron Koying (Young Coordinator of the VI ELAJO-Costa Rica) and Juanchi Sosa (Young Latin American-Paraguay Coordinator).

What began as a dream, became a reality with a duration of ten months of work and a lot of love, from that June 2020, ending on April 11, 2021, where the curtain on the ROAD TO ELAJO closed, with the FINAL



CHAPTER .

This last chapter was lived intensely. First of all, they thanked all the people who made possible the realization of the CAMINO AL ELAJO, as well as the winning countries of the Motto, Logo and Theme Song of the VI ELAJO, which were chosen through contests carried out by the SPLA. Likewise, a documentary of all the chapters experienced during this beautiful project was presented, carried out by all countries and the video of the Acoustic version theme song was also released. Finally, the final date of the VI ELAJO Costa Rica was announced, to be held next year (2022), where from the SPLA we await all the leaders of the world with open arms.

**("The future of humanity is forged in the family" –Secretariat for Latin America 2017-2022)**



Dear brothers, it is a joy for us to greet you.

We tell you that it is a tradition of our CFM in Argentina to celebrate in the month of October of each year the National Meeting of Secretariats and Services, a meeting that brings together efmecest brothers from every corner of our country to share different themes that make up the services and secretariat that we have in each of the CDDs of our MFC.

This is a meeting eagerly awaited by all, in which we seek shared hugs, endless talks with a coffee in between, the memory of moments lived throughout all the years.



In this particular year that we have to live, we could not do it, although it was not an impediment to find ourselves in a different way.

With this idea in mind, since the month of May, we began to think about a Virtual Meeting of Secretariats and Services, a meeting that would allow us, from a distance, to see each other face to face.

Thus, together with the National Directive Commission and each one of the National Coordinators of Secretariats and Services, we began the planning process for each of the workshops.

“Ephcests, let us follow Jesus along the Path of the Cross” was the motto that accompanied the meeting, a phrase taken from the thoughts of

Father Pedro Richards, we think about it from a vertical axis: “God's will” and a horizontal axis: “The thought of Father Richards in relation to the will of God.”

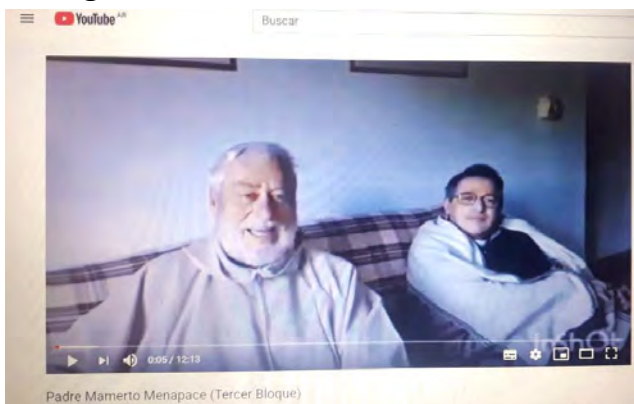
With everyone's commitment and making use of virtual meetings, we were coordinating efforts and proposing ideas. With the help of the Youth Secretariat, we provided training on the platforms that were proposed to be used and tutorials were developed that facilitated the preparation of the workshops. It was very interesting how our young people taught us to use “zoom” or how to upload a video to the “driver” , a whole learning! Who would have told us back in March that we would work this way.

The meeting was broadcast on the Zoom platform and on the MFC YouTube channel, with which we were able to reach many efmecest brothers who were connected for three days, enjoying the talks, workshops and recreational activities, emotional moments were shared. How nice it was to see the participants greet each other from a distance, or share jokes and experiences.

We started on Friday the 9th with the Pastoral Update Day, whose theme revolved around the "way of linking Priests and Consecrated persons with families in times of pandemic". Martha Iglesias accompanied us in the workshop on Saturday. The day began with the blessing of the Blessed Sacrament directly, touring the different Stations of the Cross in the parish of Father Adrián, vice advisor of the MFC was spreading his blessing and presence in each of our houses.



The central talk included the participation of Father Mamerto Menapace, who illustrated us on how to listen to God's call and respond to the will of the Father. On Saturday night, in the workshop presented by the Marriage Encounter Service, the Mexican Consecrated Theologian Rebeca Barba spoke on "The Theology of the Body" of Saint John Paul II, this topic generated a lot of expectation, to the point that there were more than 250 people watching the talk.



All the workshops had their particularity, approached with special and captivating dynamics, such as the "Emefecitos" workshop, which had the invaluable participation of "them" the favorites of Our Lord. CHILDREN of the CFM. With great joy they performed with clowns, mimes and songs. They made all of us who were sharing from home dance and move.

A separate paragraph for the YOUNG PEOPLE of the Youth Secretariat !!, the commitment and enthusiasm they put into organizing the meeting filled us with pride.

As it should not be otherwise, we ended the meeting with the sending Mass broadcast live, in it we were able to share the Readings and the Gospel read by priests from different parts of the country.



We ended the MFC 2020 Virtual National Encounter with a live show that an epheclist from Rosario gave us, we enjoyed songs of his own authorship and that speak of the MFC and its founder.



Really as national presidents and on behalf of the National Board of Directors, we want to tell you that it was a pride to have carried out this national meeting, we believe we have exceeded expectations and we thank God for allowing us to carry out this "crazy Idea".

A big thank you to all who made it possible, mainly to the families who participated and accompanied us during the three days that we shared virtually.

"The MFC of Argentina continues to move, continues to evangelize"

**Margarita y Héctor Lana**

Presidentes Nacionales MFC en la Argentina



## **CFM EUROPE**

### **MÉCS (CFM/FIRES) HUNGARY**

#### **Report on the activities of MÉCS (CFM/FIRES) HUNGARY from July 2020 to June 2021**

The last significant event before the second wave of the pandemic, started in the autumn of 2020, was a FIRES Priest Encounter held in Budapest in August 2020. Bishop Laszlo Biro, who had presented the previous Priest Encounters every second (or third) year since 2001, was still in hospital, so the program was presented by Bishop Antal Majnek, the Hungarian Bishop serving as Bishop for the Family in the Ukrainian Catholic Bishops Conference. 10 priests and 3 team couples attended, contributing to the program with their testimonies. It was a blessed, encouraging, fraternal experience for all.



**Priest Encounter August 2020**

Bishop Laszlo Biro, our Continental Chaplain, who was hospitalized in 2018, resigned as Bishop for the Family and the Military. The Bishop of the Diocese of Vác, Msgr. Zsolt Marton was appointed as the new Bishop for the Family in Hungary in September 2020.

With the second wave of the pandemic starting in September 2020, CFM group meetings continued very carefully, partly or fully online, or in alternative ways (e.g. open air meetings or hiking). Unfortunately, for some couples the situation proved to be too difficult, and some groups seem to have discontinued their meetings. Hopefully it is only temporary; but any permanent effects of the pandemic on our groups remains to be seen after Covid has been eliminated by vaccination. At the same time, pleasingly, each one of the planned FIRES Encounter programs (for married couples, engaged couples and singles) was realized in the 2nd semester of 2020, even if social distancing allowed for less participants than usual.



**Meeting of regional leaders, Nov. 2020**

The covid situation was a challenge which had to be faced with creativity. In fact, some new initiatives have proved to be quite successful.

- The traditional CFM/MÉCS Lenten Day in March was held online: a blessed spiritual experience attended by CFM couples from all over the country. The topic – the mystery of

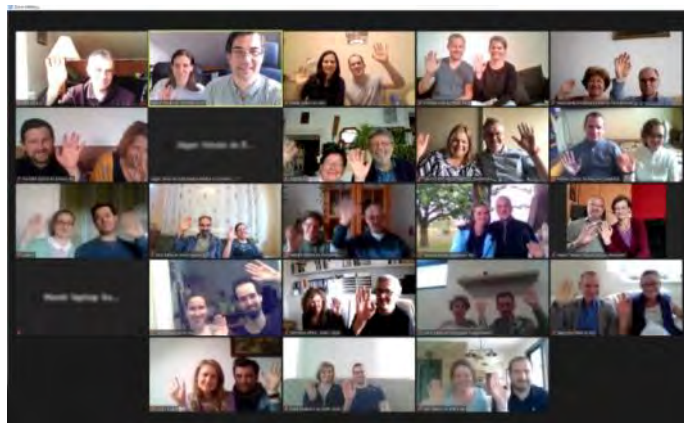




fatherhood - followed the theme of the year of St. Joseph.

- On 19-20 March, our traditional gathering and spiritual program with the responsible couples of MÉCS (organizers of Encounters and regional leaders) was also held online – a long-awaited meeting in the atmosphere of unity and fraternity.

- Acknowledging the fact that nearly all FIRES Encounters planned for the first semester of 2021 had to be cancelled, an online one-day program was designed and offered to married couples in May. Their feedback was quite encouraging.



**One-day MÉCS online program for married couples, May 2021**

- Finally, one more new online project was started for the benefit of married couples: parts of chapters from Fr. Gabriel Calvo's workbook, *Face to Face*, have been sent electronically to couples each month, offering them valuable material for deep sharing with their spouses in their homes. Over 250 couples have registered and participated in this project.

## CFM ITALY

### Report on activities of the CFM ITALY from July 2020 to June 2021

Also this year, as already happened in 2020, the pandemic that is afflicting the whole world has greatly affected the activities of our teams of the Christian Family Movement.

The technology at our disposal has certainly helped us not to lose contact between the members of the CFM, among all our families; thanks to the internet, in fact, we have occasionally organized prayer meetings, organizational meetings for various activities, or even simple chats with friends.

When the restrictions due to the containment of the contagion eased, we immediately summoned the teams for our routine meetings: sometimes we met in the parish, in large rooms to maintain the prescribed interpersonal distance, others, on the other hand, according to the principle of 'hospitality, we were able to meet at home, with some of our families.

A Lenten retreat was also celebrated in the parish, with the presence of our new parish priest who, little by little and more and more, is getting to know the reality of the CFM and appreciating it very much. Since his arrival among us, Father Dario, has asked for the involvement and collaboration of the Movement for various parish activities, for example some particular Eucharistic Celebrations, the Holy Mass of the Holy Family, with the renewal of marriage vows, various Eucharistic Adorations, and, last but



not least, the great initiative of the Blessing of families, in the time of Lent and Easter, which involved more than 500 families of our area.

Ultimately, this 2021 was also a year of transition, marked by the difficulty of organizing the common activities of the Christian Family Movement, but, with the help of the Lord, we went ahead as far as we could, trying not to ever lack the human relationship between our families. A relationship that has cemented our friendship more and more and has allowed us not to lose enthusiasm and the enthusiasm for the wonderful work that the Lord is doing in each of us.

### **CFM SPAIN**

#### **“THE JOY OF PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL TO FAMILIES”**

##### **CFM National Presidency Team**

CHRISTIAN FAMILY MOVEMENT OF SPAIN

[www.movimientofamiliarcristiano.es](http://www.movimientofamiliarcristiano.es) -

[www.quieroamifamilia.es](http://www.quieroamifamilia.es)

WhatsApp 644 42 41 50

#### **Report on the activities of the CFM Spain from July 2020 to June 2021**

Due to the pandemic situation we are going through, and taking advantage of the recent launching of the "Social Media Commission", which opened up a wide field of action for us with the use of computer media, such as: "ZOOM", "SKYPE", "Google Meet", "YouTube", "WhatsApp", "Facebook", "Twitter", "Instagram", "Messenger", "Email", "Web pages, etc..., we have been

able to replace the meetings and activities that were being held in person, for others in a virtual way, in most of the occasions adding the "online" tag.

Thus we can relate activities such as:

- Team meetings, through video-conference, or video-call.
- "Prayer by WhatsApp", daily or weekly.
- "Chain of Families", by telephone each family is interested in another family of another team.
- "Online prayer-training" with a monthly session, throughout the course.
- The "Family Rosary, by YouTube", monthly, with the participation of all the family members and from of all the dioceses, zones and services.
- "Online retreats", on the diocesan and zone levels.
- "Online Family Mass".
- "Themed evenings".
- "Semi-annual newsletter sent by email."
- "Wellness talks, online" for seniors.
- "Christmas greetings and drawing contests, online and subsequent online collage."
- "Course for promoters, online".
- "Video newscast, via WhatsApp".

- MFC en Salida": "Project 1x1", in which each couple of the CFM is in charge of taking another couple to the presentation of our Movement, convinced that we offer them something good.

- Launching of the CFM online", with several groups in Promotion, courses for promoters, with the participation of members from various countries, among others, residents of Norway.



- Twinning with convents of nuns", to promote the theme of prayer. They will pray for the CFM, for our projects and activities.
- "Participation in press, radio and television".
- Publicity campaigns of the activities of the CFM, through social networks.
- To resume contact from the EPN with MODEFAC (Movimiento de Familias Cristianas en Tenerife / Christian Families in Tenerife. Association with similar ideology to the MFC of Spain).

Taking advantage of the facilities provided by the online meetings, we increase the contact between both Movements to have a closer communion, join efforts, share advantages and learn from each other.

- A "New system of election of National Presidents" has been elaborated, approved on 12-Sep-2020.
  - Since the National Presidential Team had detected a deterioration in the transmission of information from the National Presidency Team to the grassroots and vice versa, the "Improvement of communication" was discussed so that the communications (documents, surveys, forms, applications, opinions, requests for help or any other message) reach the real recipients, so that they do not get lost, so the information is not lost along the way, and it is clear to all those involved and affected.
- To this end, a "structure for communication" was established. E-mail communication will be done through the "corporate e-mail addresses", which have been set up so that in the future, they can be used for the new

positions that will replace the current ones, when the time comes for them to be relieved of their duties.

- A new video with the "MFC Hymn" is also available.
- Participation in the Forum of the Laity of Spain, and in the Congress of the Laity and its subsequent meetings.
- Collaboration in the preparation of the IX European Congress.
- Finally, we have collaborated in the production of the film "LET'S HAVE THE FIESTA IN PEACE", carried out by the Foundation "Infinito+1", of the film producer Juan Manuel Cotelo, with an important economic contribution, which will help to publicize the MFC wherever the film is screened.

## **CFM SWEDEN**

### **Report on activities of CFM SWEDEN from July 2020 to June 2021**

## **M.E.C. GROUP**

Support to the Marriage Encounter Movement in its activities with Married Couples and Couples. Annual Marriage Encounter - Monthly talks for Married Couples and Marriage and Family Social activities. Participation in Mission activities where necessary. Currently participating in Catechesis - Lectors - Collection - Sunday Coffee.



## **WOMEN'S GROUP.**

Accompaniment in their activities. Reflection on the themes of the "Jesus Group" program. Monthly meeting on the 4th Friday of the month, talks - moments of reflection - artistic - cultural.

## **MONSEÑOR ROMERO COMMUNITY (ARBOGA)**

Accompaniment in their monthly meetings with talks, family reflection and sharing with the program "The Happy Family". Mass and meeting on the 1st Saturday of the month. Spiritual Guide, Father Benjamin Paz, Rector of the Spanishspeaking Catholic Mission.

## **COMMUNITY OF TYRESÖ.**

Accompaniment to this group of couples and families. The book "TheHappy Family" is used to reflect on the themes and work on family and/or couple relationships.

## **TALKS TO THE HISPANIC COMMUNITY IN STOCKHOLM.**

Monthly talks will be given to the community with different current topics. The day and time will be programmed when we receive a response of the free dates to carry out the activity.

## **READING GROUP.**

We read books of interest for analysis and comments. Due to the current health problem, we start with virtual meetings via Zoom.

It is important to let you know that the members of the MFCC/Sweden have participation in the different Pastoral

activities of the Hispanic Catholic Mission in Stockholm, e.g., Catechists, Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist.

**Ana Maria Silva – Sergio Trincado**  
**Coordinators, MFCC/Suecia.**

**Talk for married couples, by Fr. Benjamín Paz, October 2020**



**CFM ASIA**  
**2nd Semester 2020 Activities**

**CFM MUMBAI, INDIA**  
**(July – Dec. 2020 Activities)**

**Feb. 2020 - Mass for the sick and housebound**

The annual Mass for the sick, aged and housebound parishioners was held on 13th Feb. this year. Each of the 260 housebound parishioners were visited by members and invited to the Mass. Transport to the church and back was provided to those who required this service. Volunteers with their vehicles and assistance have been increasing every year.



A doctor was present at the venue. The special worshippers are helped or carried into the church and seated. The first few pews in the church were adjusted to make space for wheelchairs. The priests moved up and down the aisles anointing the sick.

This time with the Lord in his House is precious to all of them. Many of them will not make it to the Mass next year.



The liturgy and hymns were specially selected for the occasion. Fr. Clifton Lobo, our spiritual director celebrated this Mass. Each of them were presented with a shawl.



This year after Mass, coffee and sandwiches were served. The choir headed by Rhonda, our CFMer, played lively songs and provided entertainment. Most of them were tapping their toes and some even got up to dance and did not want to leave.

Special requests were made to organize this Mass bi-annually. They were returned home safely and contented.



**Dec. 2020 - Christmas Carol singing for the housebound.**

Every year we visit the home-bound and sing carols with the aged, and the sick along with their families. This year because of the circumstances, we still wanted to bring the JOY of the Jesus into their lives - so we decided to send a video instead. Carols were sung by members along with the Family Cell of our Parish.

**CFM BANGALORE, INDIA**  
**Annual Report (July 2020–June 2021)**

**OBJECTIVES OF CFM**

1. To actively foster holistic growth of CFM families and make them Christ-centric.
2. To promote interaction among groups as one family
3. Social outreach
4. Expansion of CFM

**Regional Team-CFM Bangalore Office Bearers**

- President Couple  
Sandhya Menezes & Roshan Menezes
- Vice-President Couple  
Sharon Lopez & Gerald Manoharan
- Secretary Couple  
Neeth D’Souza & Anoop Fernandis
- Treasurer Couple  
Pino & Amelia Uppal

**STRENGTH OF CFM BANGALORE 2020-21**

Grp#	Group Leader	Couple	Single	Ttl
1	Francis & Carmel	3	6	12

	Colaso			
2	Myrna & Christopher Rego	7	2	16
3	Celine & Jennifer		7	7
4	Araveena & Caroline Rosario	2	4	8
5	Ruby & Dinakar	1	1	3
6	Mabel & Ronie Palat	9	1	19
8	Charmaine Saldanha	11	3	25
9	Pino & Amelia Uppal	5	7	17
10	Vrinda & Nirmal Raj	5	-	10
11	Jackson & Pramila Dias	8	-	16
13	Meera & Jude	5	-	10
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>143</b>

- Leader Couples who form an INTEGRAL part of the executive committee
- Have ensured monthly conducting of meetings
- Co-ordinate with Office bearers

**Our Chaplains**

Grp#	Name
1	Fr. Sidney Mascarenhas
2	Fr. Lawrence
3	Fr. Eric Rodrigues
4	Fr Shiju
5	Fr. Sidney Mascarenhas
6	Fr. Sidney Mascarenhas



8	
9	Fr. Shane Varghese
10	Fr. Joseph Royan
11	Fr. Regan D'Souza
13	Fr. Sandeep Menezes

### CFM OB Meetings

- The Office bearers meet once in 2 months to plan the programs/ activities
- The members also connect on Con-call and discuss matters
- OB keeps in contact with Group Leader couples quarterly

### CFM Executive Committee Meeting

Date	Highlights
Feb. 3, 2020	Discuss on Social Outreach & Expansion
Jul. 5, 2020	Annual subscription, revival of IPG
Oct. 12, 2020	Plan on Regional Meet, Webinar, Christmas
Jan. 15, 2021	Family Day, Lenten Day

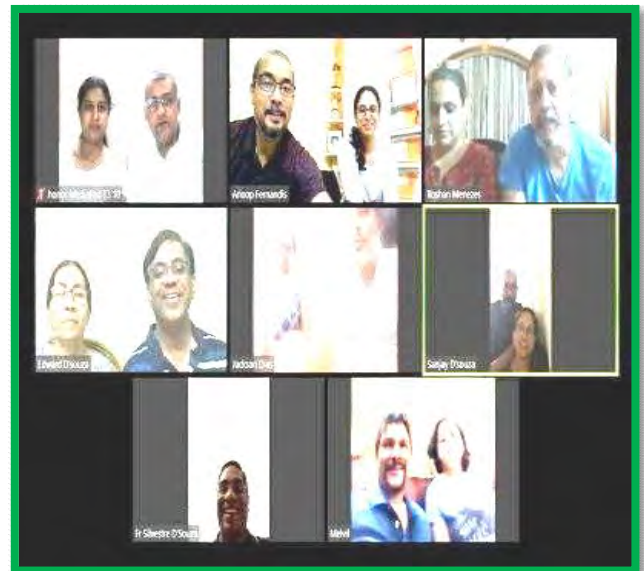
The office bearers organize Execom Meetings once in three months to discuss matters



relating to status of inquiry meetings and CFM activities at the regional level.

### Inquiry Booklets & Monthly Meetings

- Most of the groups have conducted their monthly CFM inquiry meeting online.
- Groups meet once a month to discuss on various topics
- E-Copy of the Inquiry booklets were circulated



### Outreach Programme

- CFM Bangalore has chosen to reach out to the children of Sathgamayaan orphanage run by the Holy Cross Sisters.





- The first activity was conducted by our youth on Personality Development in the month of February 2020.

### Intercessory Prayer Group Sessions

- Every month each group takes the initiative to organize a prayer session. Specific Prayer intentions from members are requested for are raised in prayer.



### Archdiocese Pastoral Council

- We are happy to report that the Archdiocese of Bangalore has invited the Christian Family Movement to be a member of the newly constituted Archdiocese Pastoral Council.
- The first meeting was chaired by the Archbishop of Bangalore His Grace Rev.

Peter Machado. The role and responsibility of the Family Movement was discussed.

- 3 volunteers, Mabel Palat, Celene Elias and Araveena participated in the Amoris Letitia Training session organised by the family commission, Bangalore on 26<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021.



- Youth volunteers would participate in the Pro life day on March 25<sup>th</sup> at St Francis Xavier Cathedral

### CFM Bangalore Activities (July – Dec. 2020)

### Bangalore Regional Meet

**CHRISTIAN FAMILY MOVEMENT BANGALORE**  
Presents a Webinar on **zoom**

**RESPONDING IN FAITH TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

**30 th OCT, 2020 FRIDAY 5 PM -6:30 PM**

- **STRENGTHENING FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS** Respecting the dignity, needs and rights of all members.
- **DEEPDIVE INTO ISOLATION** in families during this pandemic.

**Be a part of this Webinar . A time to come together**

**TO REGISTER , CLICK ON THE LINK BELOW**  
[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_kwdZuc9rTJu0V08QnGj1Q](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_kwdZuc9rTJu0V08QnGj1Q)

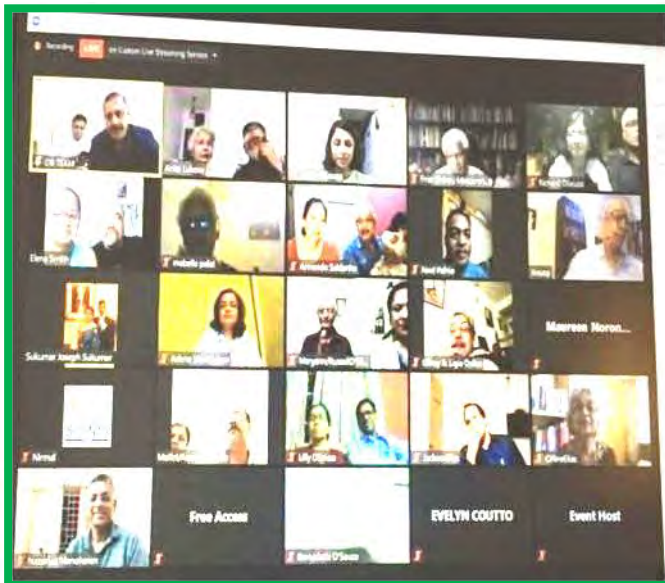




On 30-10-2020, a **webinar** was hosted on the theme **“Responding in faith to the covid-19 pandemic”**. It was overwhelming to see a good response from Cfmers across the nation.



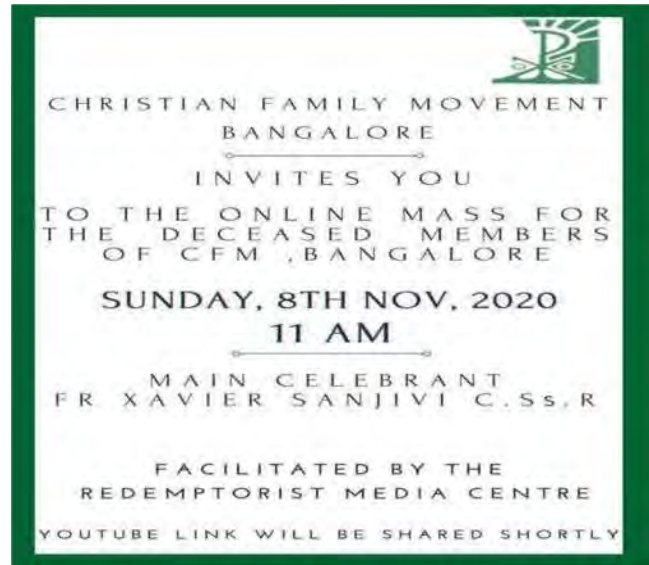
The webinar focused on **Strengthening family relationships- Respecting the dignity, needs and rights of all members**. This session



was conducted by Arlene Manoharan, a second generation Cfmer of Group-6. All present appreciated the content and the presentation shared by the speaker.

### **Eucharistic Celebration for Deceased Members (November 2020)**

An online mass for the deceased members of CFM Bangalore was facilitated by the Redemptorist Media Centre on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at 11:00am. Our National Chaplain, Rev Fr. Xavier Sanjivi, C.Ss.R, was the main celebrant.



### **Family Bible Quiz (November 2020)**

A fun family Bible Quiz event was conducted online on 15-11-2020. It was encouraging to



see that our CFMers were able to answer the questions in a short time. The winners were



presented with gifted vouchers from Amazon as appreciation.

### A December To Remember- Caroling Event

Every year members would go Carol singing to homes of senior CFMers. Considering the present Covid situation, CFM Bangalore organized a Caroling event – **A December to Remember.**

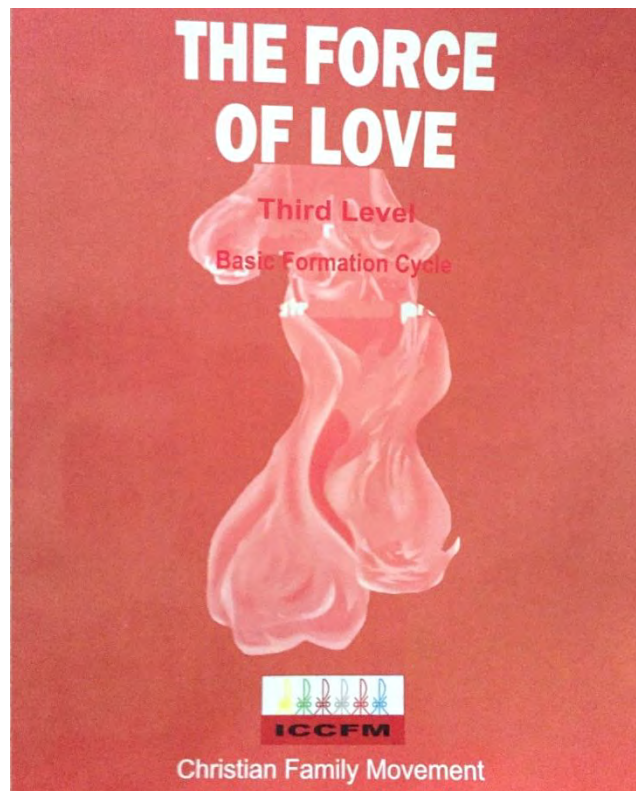


The online carolling event was conducted in 3 categories as family, as a CFM group & solo (forkids exclusively). The members came forward and enthusiastically took part and made this truly a December to Remember.



## CFM Thailand Activities (July – Dec. 2020)

### ARRIVAL AND ADAPTATION OF *THE FORCE OF LOVE*



On July 13, 2020, a Word Document on Chapter 1 of *The Force of Love* (Basic Formation Cycle, Third Level) was e-mailed by ICCFM Vice-Presidents Sergio and Dora Treviño to Nop and Elma Muangkroot, and the rest of the chapters soon followed. In fact, Sergio and Dora had previously mailed a hard copy of the book, but CFM Thailand lacks secretarial services to type the whole book for adaptation, so the request for the digital file. Praise and thanks be to God, *The Force of Love* is now being adapted for CFM Asia.

The First Level, *I Believe in the Family* (adapted as *We Are the Family of God*), and



the Second Level, *The Family, Hope of*



*Humanity*, are very successfully and gratefully used by CFM India, CFM Sri Lanka and CFM Thailand for their basic formation groups, in both English and translated forms. These books comprise the *Evangelical Solidarity* sequence developed by CFM Mexico, a formation program endorsed by ICCFM Presidents Jorge and Rosalinda Carrillo, for its value and effectiveness in fostering spiritual growth, enriching marriage and family relationships, promoting family evangelization and instilling social responsibility, based on the Bible teachings and the Church Magisterium. The themes incorporate extensive research work by knowledgeable professionals on the social sciences and other human disciplines. Being a huge.

Catholic country, CFM Mexico has a vast resource of highly qualified professional expertise to consult and to ask for support in its noble mission.



In a June 2015 letter from the **CFM National Coordinating Team 2013-2015**,"signed by



then MFC Mexico Presidents Rafael Vivian and Raquel Hernandez, entitled **Office No. 29/2012:Authorization for Edit and Print**, we quote in part:

“By means of this document, we firstly wish to ask God’s blessings, peace and wellbeing for you and your families; and secondly, to inform you that we, as National Presidents of the Christian Family Movement (CFM) in Mexico, **grant our full permission to Nop & Elma Muangkroot**, Country Representative Couple of **Bangkok** [Thailand], of the International Confederation of Christian Family Movements (ICCFM), to make any changes they deem necessary, on the understanding that any changes will be based on cultural, national idiosyncrasies and other local conditions of the countries, also the printing.”

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH, CFM MEXICO!**

#### **CFM THAILAND INTERNATIONAL UNIT**

The CFM Thailand International Unit is based at the Holy Redeemer Church, the only international parish in Bangkok where foreigners and some Thai Catholics go. Because the parishioners live all over Bangkok, the meetings are held every third Sunday at a Church conference room, big enough to provide space for waiting children. Sometimes quiet children’s activities are organized with supervision.

#### **July to December 2020 Activities**

Because ours is an international CFM group, some members inevitably leave when their

tour of duty in Thailand ends. During this period, we said good-bye to Gabriel and Christine, a couple from Australia, and to Amavi and Mikael, mother and son from Switzerland, who were members since we began in late 2018. Because Thailand was on lockdown for most of the year, meetings started again only during the last 3 months of 2020.

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# LINK LAZO



*Bulletin of International Confederation of  
Christian Family Movements*



## MESSAGE PRESIDENTS OF THE CIMFC

### Message for Link/Lazo for 1<sup>st</sup> semester 2021



A Blessed and Hopeful 2021 be to all of you!

We were hoping that the start of 2021 would be the end of the pandemic and thus we could already resume our "normal" way of life particularly in the work

of evangelization. This is turning out to be wishful thinking. At the rate the virus is spreading and mutating, we cannot expect the end of the pandemic any time soon. We are in for a long haul! Let us therefore continue to pray to our Heavenly Father for protection for our families and loved ones, and trust in the words of Jesus: "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:20).

On the brighter side of all these things, some significant realizations have emerged and continue to emerge in our life. One is that it is entirely possible to simplify our life and come out of it better and happier. After being in isolation for more than a year because of the lockdowns and quarantine, we realize that the myriad of things that we do in the past are turning out to be unnecessary; that these unnecessary things which we thought would make us happy are the very same things that bring us unhappiness, adding an extra burden on our shoulders that unduly prevent us from doing what we ought to do as Christians.

We have more time with our family. Time and the lack of it is the common complaint of children to their parents. Because of work and

other social commitments, parents often ignore the fact that children would rather welcome their "presence" more than their "presents". And as we spend time with our family, we invariably find more time with God. How many times do we find ourselves in a day participating (online) in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist or the recitation of the Holy Rosary? Not once but maybe twice or thrice. Now we find time to read the Holy Scriptures, to do spiritual meditation exercises, to attend retreats/reflection talks, etc., which strengthens our relationship with God.

In 2017 the Pope was asked by a father of three, "How do I transmit the beauty of the faith to my children?" This was his answer and it includes just this: wasting time with your children, leading by example and loving them the way that Jesus does. By spending time with them you are showing them that they are adored and worthy of your attention and time.

We have become generous to our brothers and sisters especially to those affected by the pandemic because the pandemic has awakened and opened our eyes (and ears) to their pleas and cries for help. There is so much hunger and suffering around us and in our own little way or collectively we could do something for them.

Yes, our work of evangelization including our response to the cry of our brothers and sisters for help will continue to move forward amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

God bless us and our families!

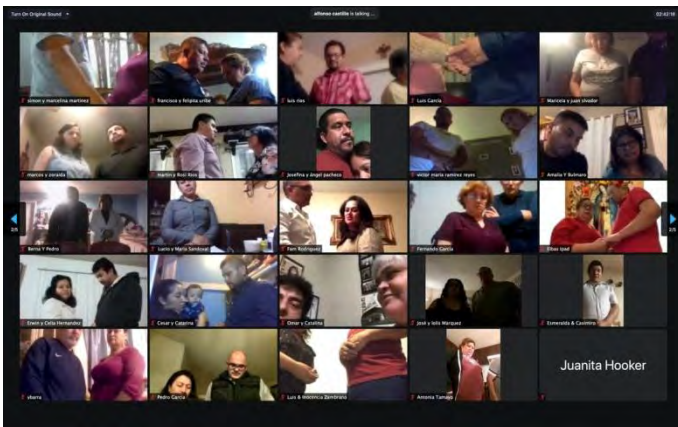
Pip & Wilma  
ICCFM Presidents



## NORTH AMERICAN CONTINENT MFC LOS ÁNGELES

### 4<sup>TH</sup> . Internal Apostolate and Finance January 2021

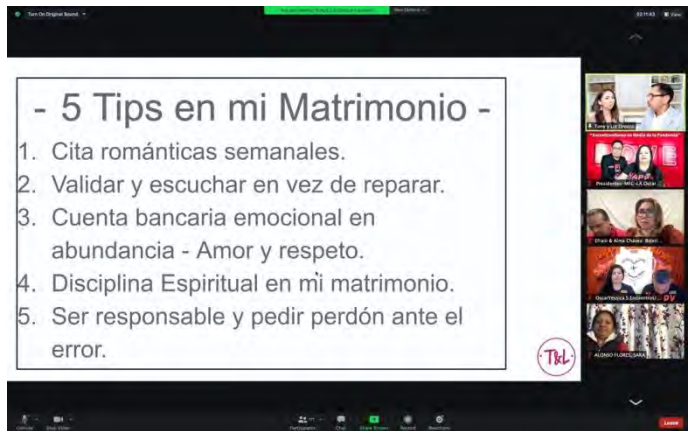
Monthly Training event of formation, very happy to be with membership and Dr. Grover Bravo as a guest speaker.



## ENCOUNTER IN THE MIDDLE OF THE PANDEMIC

February 2021

A beautiful event where we find tools to continue loving each other in the middle of the pandemic.



## SPECIAL NIGHT OF SPIRITUAL ADVISORS FEBRUARY 2021

Aware of the Importance of Spiritual Advisors, we celebrated a special night for them.





## 5TH INTERNAL APOSTOLATE AND FINANCE

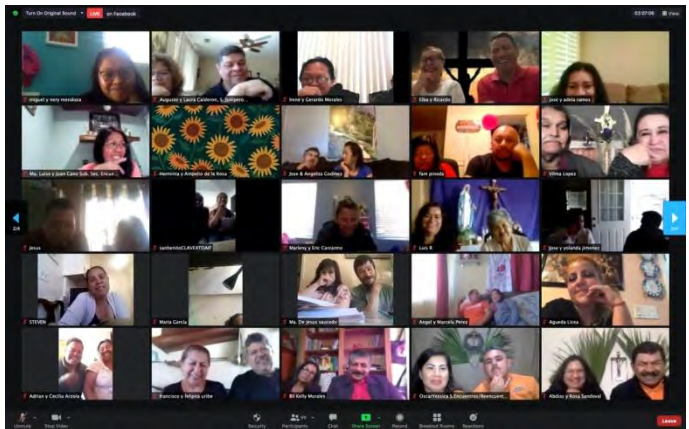
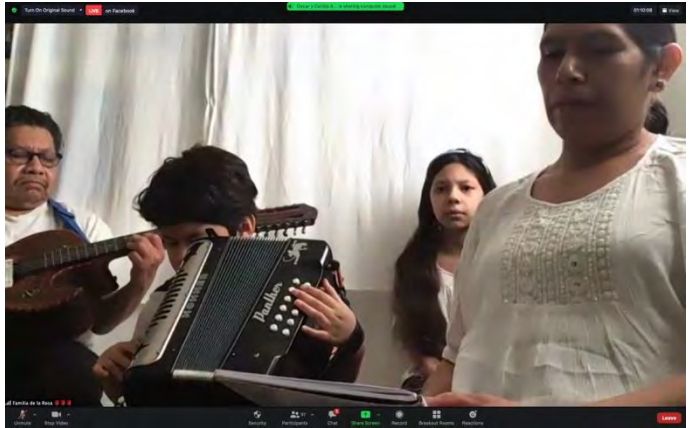
FEBRUARY 2021

Monthly Training and Information Event



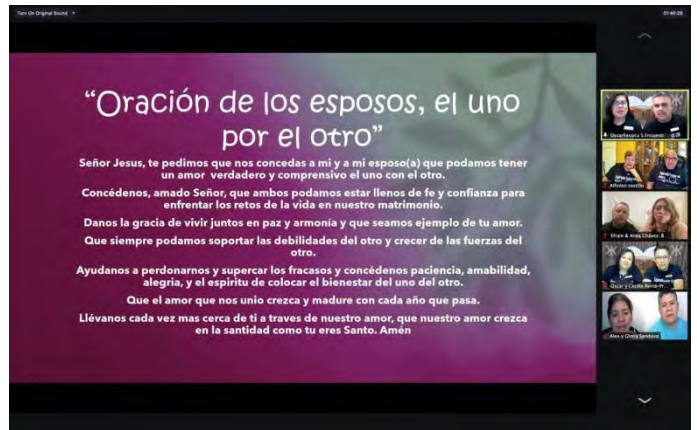
## RETREAT OF MOTIVATION FOR SERVERS

MARCH 2021



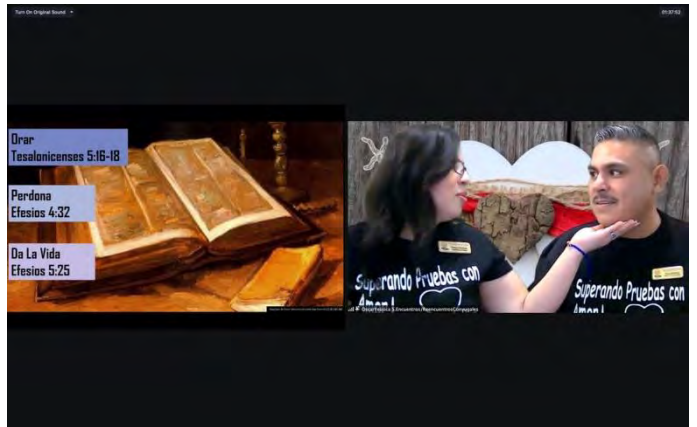


Thanks to Noel Diaz and Raúl Navarro JR, for motivating us to serve with Love and for Love!



**6<sup>TH</sup> INTERNAL APOSTOLATE AND FINANCE**  
**March 2021**

Sharing Formation, Information and Evangelization!



**OVERCOMING PROOFS WITH LOVE**

April 2021



Beautiful event and happy to have the guidance of our couple Diaconal Spiritual Advisors ECA.

## 7<sup>TH</sup> INTERNAL APOSTOLATE AND FINANCE

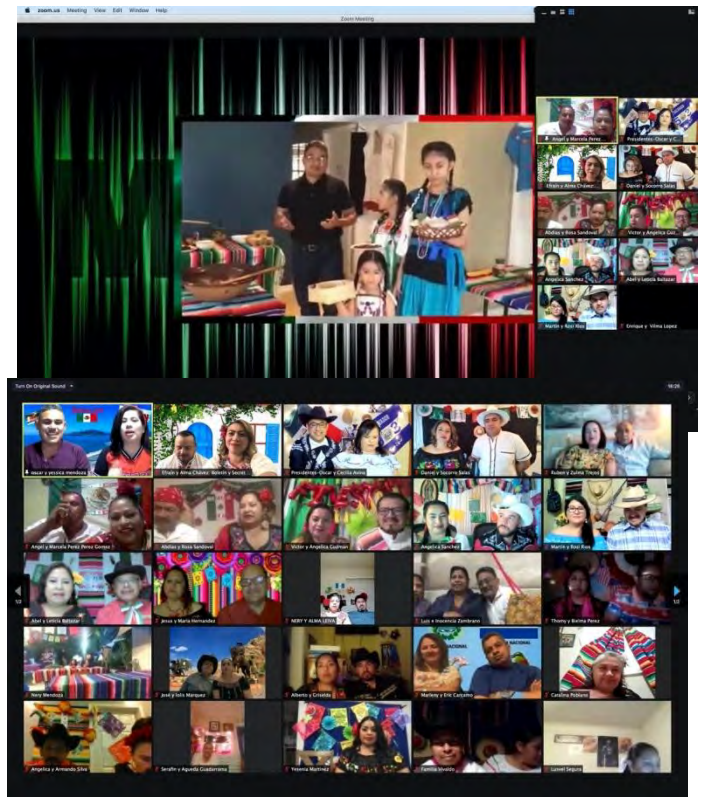
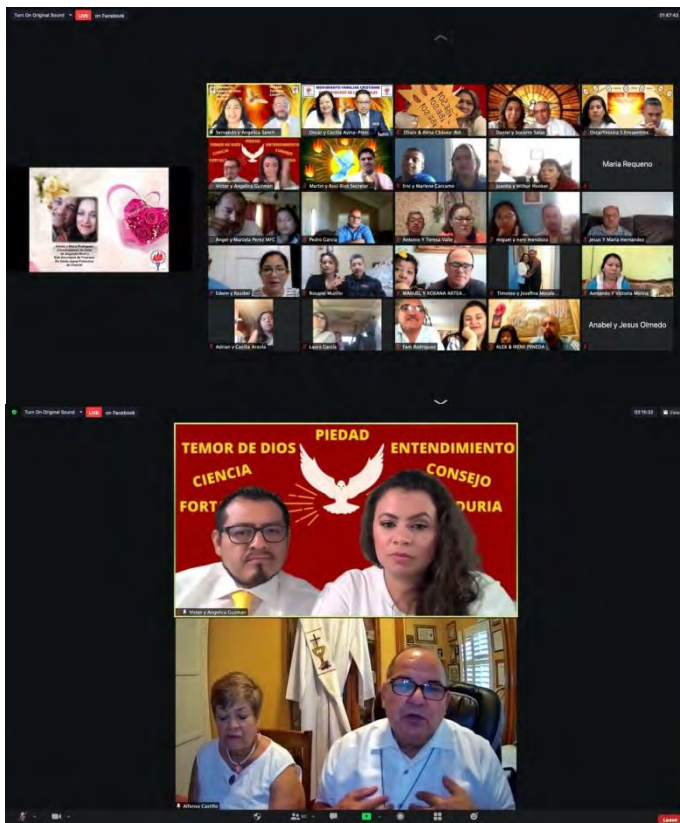
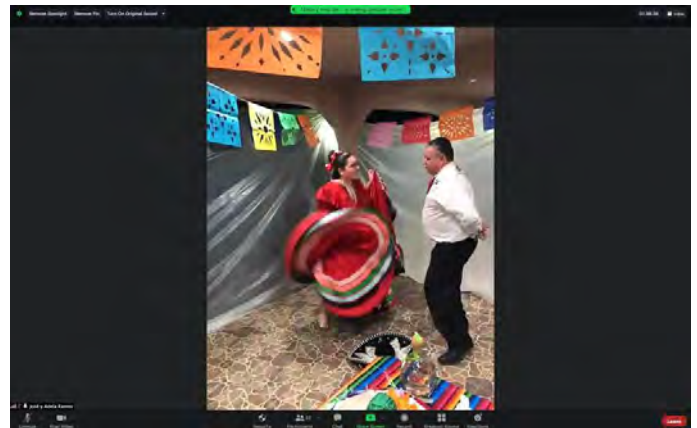
April 2021

Evangelizing and Preparing for Pentecost.

## MULTICULTURAL NIGHT AND DANCE

APRIL 2021

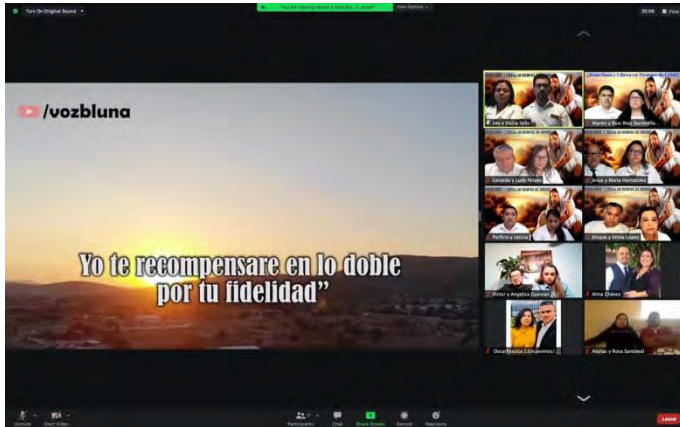
Celebrating the Multicultural night of Los Angeles Christian Family Movement



# RETREAT FOR THIRD LEVELS

MAY 2021

Thanking, Recognizing and Celebrating the membership for Completing their third level and motivating to continue in the service.



# JESUS HEALS AND SETS FREE IN TIME OF CRISIS



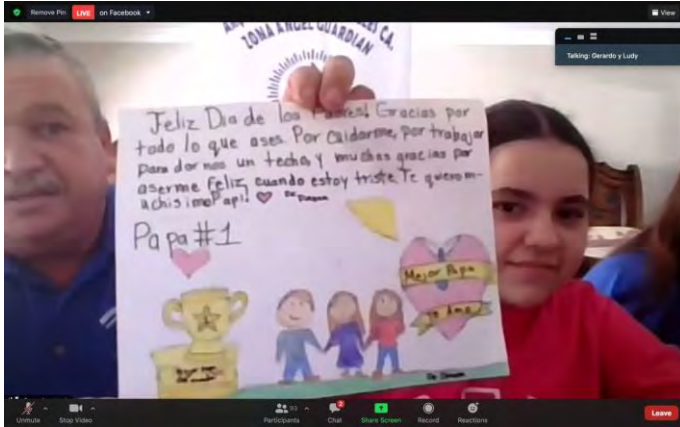
MAY 2021

Living the Presence of God in our lives.



# 8<sup>TH</sup> INTERNAL APOSTOLATE AND FINANCE MAY 2021

Completed the 2020-2021 Cycle in the middle of the Pandemic "We did it"

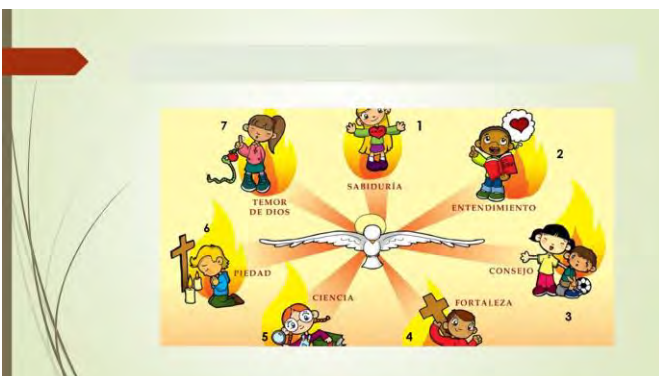


## FAMILY ENCOUNTER – BILINGUAL MAY 2021

Grace to God we were able to live our bilingual family retreat where parents and children were able to share together.



## GENERAL MEETINGS PENTECOST MAY 2021



## LATIN AMERICAN CONTINENT

### Lecture Knowing the Encyclical Fratelli Tutti

*"There is an episode of his life that shows us his heart without limits, capable of going beyond the distances of origin, nationality, color or religion." Pope Francis – Encyclical Fratelli Tutti 3*

current year, organized the **"International Conference Knowing the Fratelli Tutti Encyclical of Pope Francis."**

It was given by Dr. Rodrigo Guerra, ordinary member of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences of the Holy See. Research Professor of the Philosophy Division, member of the Governing Board of the Center for Advanced



DEL PAPA FRANCISCO SOBRE LA FRATERNIDAD Y LA AMISTAD SOCIAL

El objetivo es "uno desterrar en su dimensión universal, en su apertura a todos".  
"Fratelli tutti" es una encíclica social y un aporte a la reflexión para que, frente a diversas y actuales formas de exclusión y de ignorancia, seamos capaces de reconocer que un mundo de fraternidad y de amistad social que no se quede en las palabras.

Conociendo la Encíclica:

## "Fratelli Tutti"

del Papa Francisco

Conferencia impartida por el:

### Dr. Rodrigo Guerra López

Miembro ordinario de la Pontificia Academia de las Ciencias Sociales de la Santa Sede

Desarrollo: una hora de exposición y media hora de preguntas y respuestas.

El Secretariado para Latinoamérica del Movimiento Familiar Cristiano SPLA en coordinación con la Dimensión de Laicos de la Diócesis de Querétaro, México los invitan a participar en esta Conferencia el día domingo 30 de mayo a las 18:00 hora centro de México por Zoom.

Zona I	
PAIS	HORA
Costa Rica	18:00
Cuba	19:00
El Salvador	18:00
Honduras	18:00
Guatemala	18:00
México	18:00

Zona II	
PAIS	HORA
Colombia	18:00
Ecuador	18:00
Panamá	18:00
Perú	18:00
R. Dominicana	19:00
Venezuela	19:00

Zona III	
PAIS	HORA
Argentina	20:00
Bolivia	19:00
Brasil	20:00
Chile	19:00
Paraguay	19:00
Uruguay	20:00

**Zoom ID: 970 3751 3169**

Clave de acceso: Fr4T3tUt1

The Latin American Christian Family Movement in coordination with the Laity The speaker began his dissertation recalling the great pain that is experienced, a period of great fractures in the Society. He recalls that family movements like the MFC have a direct contact with the origin of the different types of violence and with the realities of families and conjugal love. Dimension of the Diocese of Queretaro-Mexico, on May 30 of the

Social Research Santiago de Queretaro, Mexico.

Approximately 450 people from the membership participated, made up of the leaders and members of the 18 countries that are part of the Latin American Christian Family Movement, members of the Diocese of Querétaro, Mexico and the International Confederation of Christian Movements Christian Family Members – ICCFM;





highlighting the participation of 15 National Presidents of the MFC in Latin America, former PRELA of the MFCLA, from different periods and the presidents as the World Vice Presidents of the ICCFM, as well as ex-Presidents.

The speaker began his dissertation recalling the great pain that is experienced, a period of great fractures in the Society. He recalls that family movements like the MFC have a direct contact with the origin of the different types of violence and with the realities of families and conjugal love.

He expresses that in chapter one, the Pope reminds us and asks us to open our eyes very wide and not get used to the panorama but open them with surprise to act with intelligence.

We are in a culturally and socially special time, and Fratteli tutti is an answer.

Continuing in the second chapter on how to face this new reality and the new challenges, he presents us with the parable of the "Good Samaritan", to enlighten us so that we can distinguish from who is the true brother, who should we attend to? ;and show us that many times we ignore our peers, playing the uninformed, looking the other way.



Faced with so much pain, the only way out is to be like the Samaritan, any other option is to side with the robbers or side with the indifferent, many times our attitudes can make us complicit, or indifferent. We must build the Society based on the recognition of the fragility of the other and of being aware of our own fragility. We are just as fragile.

Jesus invites us to be cautious in our judgments of others and rather seek to embrace, welcome, rebuild and help the other to get up, aware that we are not better than the one who has fallen.

No one has superiority over the one who has fallen. We all have part of the wounded, the thief, those who pass by and we all also have the "Good Samaritan." The parable does not discover this or that but it discovers me in my truth.

It is good that responsibilities are refreshed, but not so that the one who comes out of responsibility throws in the towel, but the type of life that Jesus invites us to permanently discover is that there is only fullness and salvation in love, in charity, in tenderness.

Another great lesson of mercy does not occur in the story of the Adulterous Woman, where the first thing Jesus does is defend her, from whom they will judge and condemn. Jesus teaches us that He is for life and not for the death penalty. Rather, he invites a change of life.

The greatest truth is that Jesus forgives, he does not condemn, he defends the sinner,

protects him and invites him to change his life.

The unique value of love. People can develop some attitudes that they present as moral values: strength, sobriety, industriousness and other virtues. But in order to properly guide the acts of the different moral virtues, it is also necessary to consider to what extent they carry out a dynamism of openness and union towards other people. That dynamism is the charity that God infuses.

In number 92 he tells us: The spiritual height of a human life is marked by love, which is **"the criterion for the final decision on the positive or negative assessment of a human life."** However, there are believers who think that their greatness lies in the imposition of their ideologies on the rest, or in the violent defense of the truth, or in great demonstrations of strength. **All believers need to recognize this: the first thing is love, what should never be at risk is love, the greatest danger is not loving.**

Catholics cannot give in to violence, dialogue must be promoted. The best policy is built from tenderness.

(194) There is also a place in politics to love tenderly. **"What is tenderness? Is he love that becomes close and concrete. It is a movement that comes from the heart and reaches the eyes, the ears, the hands. [...] Tenderness is the path traveled by the bravest and strongest men and women»[191].** In the midst of political activity, **"the smallest, the weakest, the poorest must touch us: they have the "right"**

**to fill our hearts and souls. Yes, they are our brothers and as such we have to love and treat them»**



A constitutive dimension of Christians is the preferential option for the poor. The poverty is on our side. They are the vast majority in the countries. Let's learn to live together and get to know the poor and get out of my bourgeois comfort.

Only in giving is possession justified. It is to build community. It is to share with others. It is by sharing that we build the church.

The Pope insists that we overcome the worldly mentality based on success. Let our minds not be focused on success or the good



meeting, but taking the example of Jesus who mixed with questionable people such as lepers, tax collector, an adulteress, a stubborn fisherman, his disciples who had difficult character and temperaments and different.

The Christian life is not to cultivate success or good fame or the complacency of others, but above all to serve our brothers, especially those who have fallen, those who are farthest from the most mistaken, with truth and charity; with a missionary attitude going to the ends of the world.

You have to go to the peripheries, that is, to the ultimate limits and sometimes they are not physical or geographical limits but of my own mentality.

It leaves us with the final message that: ***"The true Church is missionary."***

The speaker closes his participation with the Prayer to the Creator.

Lord and Father of humanity,  
that you created all human beings with the  
same dignity,  
instill in our hearts a fraternal spirit.  
Inspire us a dream of reunion, dialogue,  
justice and peace.  
Encourage us to create healthier societies  
and a more dignified world,  
without hunger, without poverty, without  
violence, without wars.  
Let our hearts open  
to all the peoples and nations of the earth,

to recognize the good and the beautiful  
that you sowed in each one,  
to strengthen ties of unity, of common  
projects,  
of shared hopes. Amen.

In conclusion, we can affirm that the conference aroused our interest in continuing to deepen the content and message that Pope Francis presents to us regarding fraternity and brotherhood.  
God bless you



your servers

**Alicia y Marcos Álvarez  
PRELA 2017-2022**





**CFM ASIA**  
**1st Semester 2021 Activities**

**CFM MUMBAI, INDIA**  
**(Jan. – June 2021 Activities)**

**Feb. 2021 - Virtual Mass for the sick and Housebound**

Due to the pandemic we were unable to organise the annual Mass for the Sick and housebound. However a special online mass was conducted with a special liturgy and homily.



**Bible Classes**

Bible classes were conducted regularly, preceding our monthly meetings. However all through the lockdown it was held via zoom for the CFM and also extended to others.

The topics were as follows:-

ACTS: June-Oct 2020

REVELATIONS: Nov-Dec 2020

TOBIT: Feb 2021

LENTEN CAPSULE: March 2021

**Fun Day**

To beat the blues away....A few members of CFM Mumbai met online via Zoom, for a

“Fun Day” on Sunday, 30th May, 2021. The most exciting part was the preparation that went in to make this day enjoyable and lively.

We began with a game of housie followed by “Treasure Hunt” with a twist (organised by Herschelle) that tickled the brain cells and had everyone scrambling to decipher the riddles and search for the objects in their respective homes.

We ended with a sing-song quiz session prepared by Rhonda.

The prizes for the activities were special hand-painted Tote bags (@murasakinosora) and T-light candles (@hanaacraftstore) which were personally delivered to each winner later.

This recreational activity, which went on for almost 3 hours was a “stress-buster” for all of us.

**Sharon and Francis D’Souza**  
**Mumbai President couple**

**CFM Bangalore Activities**  
**(Jan. – June 2021)**

**Outreach Programme Happy Girl Child Day**



We joined hands with sisters of Sathgamaya, an orphanage to celebrate the day on 24th



Jan2021. Neeth, Anne and Nikita of G-11 volunteered to spend time with the kids by presenting a movie and reflecting on the same.



A big thank you to all CFMers of Bangalore for the generous contribution.



**Memorial Mass for the soul of Rev. Fr. Xavier Sanjivi– Feb 2021**

A memorial mass for the soul of Rev. Fr. Xavier Sanjivi was celebrated on 21.02.2021 at Holy Ghost Church. Members participated and prayed for the great soul. A tribute in the form of video was shared after the mass.

Lukose, Continental Asia President

expressed his thoughts.

Roshan

Menezes,

President, CFM

Bangalore also

resented his eulogy on the occasion. Mass was also live streamed for those who could not make it for the mass.



**Outreach Programme 2021**

The CFMers came together to support the request of the sisters of Sathgamaya and donated a State of the Art Sound System worth RS53,000/-





### Stations of the Cross

During Lent on February 26<sup>th</sup>, Group – 6 members of conducted a stations of the cross with meaningful reflections from each family. Members from other groups joined in the online programme.



### Lenten Recollection

A Lenten Recollection was held for members on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021 by Fr. Regan to reflect upon being better Christians. The Recollection was held at NBCLC. There was a good response and members participated

whole heartedly. Norms of Covid-19 was followed strictly. Lunch was served.

### CFM Tambola Game Night

A fun evening was planned for the members of CFM Bangalore on June 26<sup>th</sup> 2021. To overcome the gloom of Pandemic, a Housie or Tambola night was planned on Zoom. There was a good response to the online Tambola game which saw lucky members win exciting cash prizes. The event was conducted by the Housie master Anoop Fernandis, Secretary and Co-ordinated by Gerald Manoharan, Vice-President of CFM Bangalore.



### OUR COVID EXPERIENCES 2021

The Second Wave of the worldwide Pandemic has been much more severe and tragic than the first one. Every family has stories of surviving the virus or losing someone dear or near. In India at its peak in May 2021, there were over 400,000 new cases a day. Over 31 million people have been affected since the beginning of the pandemic. The total number of accounted deaths caused by COVID 19 is over 419,000,



as of 18th July 2021. In April-May 2021 alone 48 relatives and acquaintances died. In India over 300 priests and Religious sisters have gone to their maker in the last few months.

The highest single day toll of deaths was on 18<sup>th</sup> May when 4,529 people succumbed. Since crematoriums and burial grounds were full, pyres were lit in car parking lots and river beds were mass burial grounds. There are a number of reported cases of patients dying for want of a hospital bed, for want of oxygen or ICU bed. Many have died all alone in the COVID ward of hospitals hooked up to numerous machines with no caring family member around – utterly alone and scared. The family has many times not seen their loved one for weeks and gets a glimpse of the corpse of their loved one just before cremation or burial.



COVID 19 has resulted in the casualisation of death or declining dignity for the dead: keeping a safe distance for fear of infection, accepting cremation and not burial for want of graveyard space, and quick disposal of the body without performing the usual last rites. Even the opportunity for family and friends to gather and grieve and say good bye to the loved one is denied.

We have had to face this situation when our eldest sister and later a very close friend died. We were surprised and relieved to have a group called Mercy Mission (mainly Muslim youth) help us by collecting the dead body from the mortuary, preparing the grave and the coffin, (wearing full COVID protective gear) while the online funeral service was arranged. We couldn't see our sister and make our final farewells.



The different state governments (India has 29 states and 7 union territories) imposed Lockdown independently depending on the spread and severity in each area. This Lockdown coming close on the heels of the previous one didn't give time for businesses, especially small ones, and the self-employed, to revive. Many families are reeling under the problems of job losses (no income) or cut in income, death of the breadwinner, huge hospital bills. Among the poorer sections of society, this has led to an increase in child labour compelled by the economic needs of the family; and an almost two-fold increase in child marriages because a single surviving parent wants to safeguard the future of



young daughters. The school dropout rate is on the surge among the economically weaker section because many cannot afford a mobile phone for the child to access online classes.

Families are feeling the stress of being closed in at home, no opportunity to go out and meet other people, to get a change of scene – couples are separating and families are struggling with the various stresses manifesting in irrational anger, shouting, and domestic violence. Without the regular attendance at Sunday mass, catechism classes for children, getting together for weddings and funerals, etc, family spirituality is suffering greatly.

Children are chained to their computer/mobile phones for on-line classes and recreational activities throughout the day. Physical exercise and activity is rare. Face to face interaction with their peer group is missing. Toddlers who haven't interacted with anyone but their family members are fearful of meeting new people or going out of their comfort zone.

With the new variants which are showing up every day, and with the vast majority of the world population still not vaccinated, a Third Wave is inevitable...which has already started in a few countries. We fear for the mental and physical well-being of families the world over if we have to go through another year of COVID infection and isolation.

Even nature seems to be against humankind ... abnormal heat waves, massive forest fires, torrential rains and floods ... are decimating populations as much as the pandemic.

Unrest, upheaval, anarchy, injustice, intolerance, self-obsession - seem to be the order of the day. It's as if the whole world has gone mad! Things are going beyond our control. We can only place our hope in the Lord, that we will be saved. We have to implicitly trust Him Who makes the impossible possible.

“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” (Is 41:10)

**Anita and Lukose Vallatharai  
Asia Continental Christian Family  
Movement Presidents**

**Evangelical Solidarity Project: Relevance  
and Adoptability to CFM Asia**

### **Overview**

In July 2016 we attended the World Assembly of Families and the International Confederation of Christian Family Movements at San Antonio, Texas. After this, we were invited by the ICCFM Presidents Rosalinda and Jorge Carillo to their hometown Querataro along with Continental Asia Presidents & Chaplain, Pip and Wilma



Cua, and Bishop Gerry Alminaza; Malawi Presidents and Chaplain, Elisha & Patricia Lazaro and Fr Vincent Mwachawawa; and Continental Europe President Robert Kimball for a one-week study tour of MFC Mexico.



The number of members in the MFC (many youth also), their organization at different levels, the commitment to MFC was truly a wonderful surprise for us! This was our first exposure to the Evangelical Solidarity Project.

On 20<sup>th</sup> February 2021, Pip and Wilma organised a Zoom meeting to look closely at the ESP with a view to introducing it in the Asian countries. Maria Elena and Guillermo made a detailed presentation. We, in turn, presented it to the CFM Asia Presidents and a few others from each country.



The ESP is a well structured program, and most of its elements be it the pre-registration module or the basic training cycle using books 1,2, and 3, are well researched and have disciplines of theology, papal encyclicals, catechism, psychology, sociology and much more built into it. Even the reflections are more intense -being divided into personal reflection, couple reflection, family reflection, and group reflection- as compared to the enquiry booklets used in Asia. Undoubtedly, the approach, methods, tools and techniques of ESP are so well integrated harmoniously, it would appear simple and powerful to administer, provided a set of master trainers and trainers are there to prepare the pitch for introducing ESP and there is large enrolment year on year to sustain it.

The moot point is – Is CFM Asia prepared to make the effort to move from their comfort zone of permanent groups and overcome the constraint of poor enrolment growth rate, to adopt the ESP structure?

## Our Findings:

1. Since 50 years, CFM in Asia has functioned as small groups of singles/couples/families, which come under the umbrella of a Regional Team and in turn the National Team. Typically these units / cells/ groups are parish-based, but some regions like Bangalore in India and Singapore are non parish based.

In the Philippines, a typical unit is composed of 5-7 couples and solo parents. The units are parish-based and under a parish coordinator-couple.

2. All the units / groups and their Regional Teams function within a diocese. The Regional Team/ExCom, comprising representatives from each unit, is the equivalent of a Zonal Team of ESP in many aspects.

However, in Singapore there is only one such coordinating body for regional and national level activities called the Excom. Sri Lanka too follows a similar pattern but with the CFM in Sri Lanka recently coming under the Family Apostolate, it has spread to two more Dioceses. Hence many other diocesan level Excoms may come up. Thus it would appear that all the regional committees/excoms are on par with the Zonal Teams of the ESP structure.

In the Philippines, 2-3 units will create a Parish Board, 2 or more parishes will be under a Diocesan Director, and dioceses report to an Area Vice President.

3. The next level of Coordinating Team in the hierarchy is the National coordination team comprising of the regional representatives.

In the Philippines, the 10 Area Vice Presidents are members of the Board of Directors of CFM Philippines, besides the elected National President, Executive VP (also known as President-Elect), Secretary and Treasurer.

4. The basic teams (units / cells /groups) of Asia are permanent groups, unless someone wants to migrate to another group. Most members are with the same group for over 20 years.

In instances when the membership in the unit has been reduced to less than 5 couples, the unit is, either, merged with another unit who lacks membership too or additional couples are invited to join in after undergoing one of the CFM programs like Marriage Encounter, Marriage Enrichment or Self-Encounter.

5. Due to constraints of availability of chaplains and low number of enrolments, it would be a challenge to enlist couples in sufficient number for pre-registration/ pre-enrolment programme.

In the Philippines, the following programs are used as entry point for a CFM unit: Tipanan or Marriage Enrichment ( a one whole day live out program for married couples or those living-in but not yet married) and Marriage Encounter or Self-Encounter (a weekend live-in program for married couples and solo parents). If a priest or deacon or seminarian is not available to chaplain the unit, a lay chaplain or “Gabay” (an elder CFMer) serves as a mentor/facilitator to the unit.



6. Our effort at enrolling new members is an on-going programme and whoever shows interest is invited to join one of the units /groups. In Bangalore, presentations are made after Sunday mass to publicize CFM.

In the Philippines and Sri Lanka, in coordination with the National Committees on Family & Life, Youth, Formation and Solo Parents, each parish and/or diocese conducts a regular membership enrollment campaign. In the Philippines, each CFM diocese has a Spiritual Director appointed by the bishop of the diocese. The Diocesan Spiritual Director helps in identifying parishes where there is no CFM unit yet. With his assistance, a team makes an Orientation to the parish priest and to the Parish Pastoral Council with the end view of establishing a unit in the parish.

7. For want of sufficient numbers / annual enrolment, it would be very difficult to create or replicate the 6 Area Task Groups each having its own charism and each being represented at the parish, zonal, sector, diocesan and national levels as found in Mexico.

8. Book 1 of BTC / ESP is being used by Thailand, Sri Lanka and India in an abridged, modified form, in lieu of the discussion papers or inquiry booklets, written locally, for the monthly meetings.

9. Each unit / cell goes through the discussion papers or the Book 1 of the BTC at their own pace (usually once a month meeting). So it will be difficult to follow the ESP methodology such as (i) the 10-month program of BTC for completing 17 chapter

based ESP Book and (ii) the starting date and ending date for BTC / for each book being the same across Zonal (Regional) and National levels.

10. Besides the monthly meetings, various programs are organised at the regional or zonal level – workshops/discourses, retreats, reflections, family get-togethers– to enrich and strengthen the bond among members.

### **Conclusion:**

Though the ESP is a very laudable model, it might be challenging for CFM Asia to adopt and implement the ESP methodology and structure in full as envisaged for the reasons given above. However, many elements of the ESP could be adapted to local specific needs. Therefore, it has been left to each country to discuss with their regional office bearers and see how far the ESP model can be incorporated in their regions.

**Anita & Lukose Vallatharai,  
President couple,  
Asia Continental Christian Family  
Movement**

**18<sup>th</sup> July 2021**



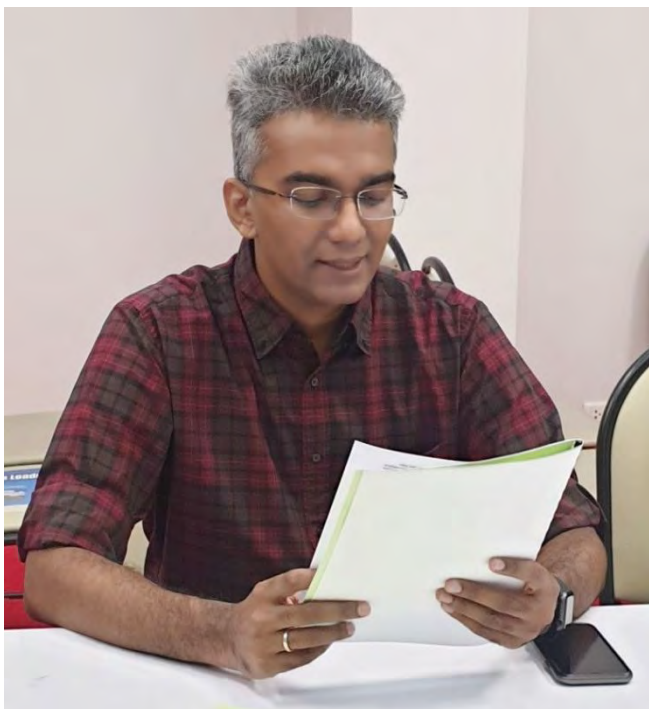


## CFM Thailand Activities (Jan. – June 2021)

Here is a picture of our chaplain, Fr. Andrew Prasert Lohaviriyasiri, CSsR.



We met for two months in 2021, until Bangkok was on lockdown again in March. At this time our unit elected a president couple, Alex and Shubha Joseph from India. Shubha had been home-bound because of her risky pregnancy since late 2020, so she is not in the pictures.



Our last in-person meeting in February before the second lockdown had the greatest attendance and we had three new



nationalities—Myanmar, Hongkong-Chinese and Maltese in addition to Thais, Indians and Filipinos. Some members invited friends who came to Church; some children were present.

Our succeeding meetings were online, and the attendance was lower despite the phone and e-mail announcements. No new members attended.

However, those who attend regularly have truly appreciated the value of the meetings for their spiritual growth and social awareness.



We very highly, strongly and sincerely recommend the *Evangelical Solidarity*, Basic Formation Cycle books!



## CFM THAILAND AND ITS PART ON NATIONAL DESK FOR FAMILY

As a member of CBCT (Catholic Bishop's Conference of Thailand) desk of family, we attended 2 board meetings.



One part is as a member of management committee, the other as a member of



administration committee. Our main goal is to invite the committee to embrace or implement our See Judge Act procedure to BECs. In addition, we offered our booklet as a monthly meeting resource for BECs.

## Mixed-Marriage Encounter (program preparation team)

Desk of Family is arranging new program for mixed-marriage couples. This type of marriage accounts for 90% in the catholic church of Thailand. We interview people of this type of marriage to see how they manage their family and co-exist their beliefs. This program is intended to finish the first draft within December 2021.

## Designing the poster for Family Year promotion

Fully participated in designing, photoshopping, and editing the poster to promote the year of family. This poster is to display in all the churches in Thailand.



**CFM Philippines Articles**  
**(Jan. –June 2021)**

**Lifting Up the Spirit Webinars**

by Jose Luis Clemente

The *Lifting Up the Spirit* online stewardship seminar is like a Russian nesting doll, a set of wooden, colorfully painted figurines of decreasing size encased inside each other. One cannot appreciate the charms of this knickknack by taking a particular doll out of its rightful context. It is only in the light of the poppet's relationship with other figurines in the set that we can truly get the point of the Babushka doll and take its full meaning.

Accordingly, to give you a coherent description of what the *Lifting Up the Spirit* video cast is about, I should situate it inside two overall circumstances that begot, informed, and shaped it--the Stewardship Team's instigation to rejuvenate the family movement, and the corona virus pandemic.

CFM Philippines' Stewardship Team, started to meet regularly around the last quarter of 2019 at the residence of its chair, Ben and Linda Famador. (*The virus was still conspiratorially under wraps in Wuhan, so it was not yet on the group's radar screen.*) The team racked brains and hammered away to find how to revivify CFM so that it achieves its loftiest ambition of making disciples. The consensus was that stewardship was an excellent pathway to revitalize the movement. That was clear from the start. The rub was how to promote and implement

stewardship so that it becomes a persistent and defining feature of CFM.

In other words, the grand ambition is to give birth to a "transformative change," not a superficial, slapdash, frivolous change that is here today but gone tomorrow.

To achieve this deep renewal, CFM must wage war on four fronts: (1) redefine the priorities of the movement; (2) change the habits and behaviors of the leaders and members of the movement; (3) create or strengthen organizational mechanisms, programs, and policies so that the movement can realize its priorities; and (4) promote a culture that solidifies the transformations.

The Team's ploy is to see all these through by using stewardship as the cornerstone of its striving for change. It is a tough grind because to lose in even one of the four battlegrounds is to lose the war. That is why many sponsors of transformative institutional change often come to grief, despite their efforts and best intentions.

And then, the virus came to our shore and ran amok.

Whilst devising a strategy to set stewardship in motion, the SARS-CoV-2 altered and refitted reality as we know it. The Team had two ponderous options available to them.

They could give up and put evangelization on the back burner, rivet everything in abeyance, and patiently wait for the pandemic to blow over. Or they could seek



new ways of making disciples that could skirt the restraints of physical and social distancing.

It is in this deliberating, diagnostic, experimental pot that *Lifting Up the Spirit* was conceived and brewed. That is its context. That is its origin story.

So, what is *Lifting Up the Spirit*?



It is a series of webcasts designed to clarify the basic concepts and ideas of stewardship. Its main intent is to help CFM members take the abounding meaning of stewardship so they get the point and make sense of it. This series is posted on CFM's YouTube and Facebook channels (*YouTube@CFM Philippines and Facebook@CFM Philippines.*) As the learning process does not require physical contact between teachers and learners, it is appropriate to this era marked by contagion.

Fresh stewardship content is presented every month with the typical episode running for about an hour and a half long. The webcast is chockful of prayers and exhortation, stewardship input, personal testimonials, and space for questions and answers. Notably, it is facilitated by Joey and Grace

Marquez in a way that stimulates personal reflection, understanding, and engagement.

To make it clear, this undertaking was conceived by the CFM's Stewardship Team, but it would not have taken off the ground without the support of the Technical Working Group (TWG) and the sponsorship of the movement's leaders.

As this is one of CFM's initial bound and determined forays in online education, the Technical Working Group is the bulwark, the linchpin that holds the whole caboodle together. They are in the frontlines of the struggle to deal with the perplexing workings of social media platforms, the techy bugbears of webcasting, the frustrating hindrances of slow internet connections, the elliptic hurdles of gathering online feedback, and so on. Without their able accompaniment, we would have stumbled on the first high-tech hurdle and fallen to our knees.

That this series can make significant headway is also a testament to the backing, encouragement, and assistance of the national leadership. They provide wise counsel, advice, suggestions, and exhortations that help make this undertaking better and give it ascendancy. The hands-on participation of CFM National Chaplain Bishop Gerry Alminaza, for example, not only makes the series more excellent because of his perspicacity and wisdom, but it is also a clear-cut signal, an armwave to the movement that this series is important, and that the rest of the members should, therefore, pay attention.



Laid on the line, the four episodes of Season 1 are about a “new way of life” of a disciple marked by prayer, service, and giving. While the four episodes of Season 2 are about a “new way of being” according to the core values of identity, gratitude, trust, and love.

The game plan is to roll out the stewardship program in stages.

*Stage 1* is to rig out and release the *Lifting Up the Spirit* webcasts.



Formation is the name of the game for Stages 1 and 2. Stage 1 is teaching stewardship over the internet.

*Stage 2* is to publish *Lifting Up the Spirit* in a guidebook format.

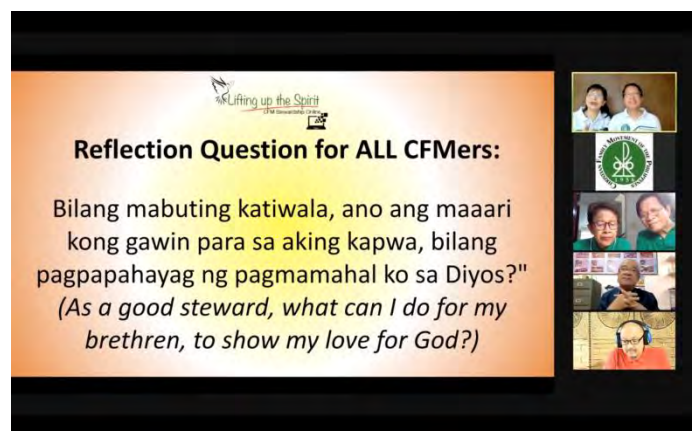
CFM’s Formation Committee is now in the thick of producing hard copies of *Lifting Up the Spirit* webcasts so families who are not able to go online can mug up on stewardship amid the protocol of social distancing. When small gatherings are unprohibited again, or while online meetings are doable, the units will be encouraged to use this material for their “observe-judge-act” meetings.



*Stage 3* is to turn out the pledges.

After the formation phases, members are encouraged to adopt a new way of life. The plan is to persuade all families in the movement to adopt the habits of a disciple by committing to a life filled with prayer, service and giving.

*Stage 4* is to release the stewardship resources to help the poor.



At the end of the day, it is what we do to care for humankind and the natural world that counts and matters. In this stage, CFM upgrades its social services and social action. It gathers all the newfound resources (*prayers, talents, and treasures*) from the stewardship pledges and releases them for the mission.



This is truly a big task that demands the best from its proponents and sponsors. I hope it is not something that proves more than they can shake a stick at. I pray that they overcome all odds and walk away with a big win for CFM.

Let me end by shifting our gaze into the future because any conversation which does not include the context of the forward journey is imposturous and underhanded.

As we turn to what is ahead, let us acknowledge the possibility that it may take a long time for stewardship to take root in CFM. That is a fair bet. But so what? Rarely are things worth doing completed in our lifetimes. Let us also acknowledge that there is a possibility that further on down the road, all of this will come to wreck and ruin. Again, that may be on the cards. Who knows? But should we be led by fears of failure or by the dreams in our hearts?

Let us do what we can, the best way we can, guided by our best light. And let us always commend the results and outcomes of our actions to God.

What we must fulfill to mind the store, is to acknowledge that nothing we do, however praiseworthy, can be accomplished alone, or by our own effort. It takes a village, basketfuls of love and talents, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit to be victorious in our endeavors. For stewardship to flourish in CFM, for it to reinvigorate and breathe new life to the movement, it needs the great-hearted support of all and sundry.

As *Lifting Up the Spirit* is but a doll (*formation and pledging*) within a larger doll (*transformational change*), there is a ragbag of things left to do. The highest policy-making body of CFM, the CFM Board of Directors, must make up its mind and call the shot that stewardship is CFM's highest priority for the next 5 to 10 years. A substantial amount of human and financial resources must be utilized for the elevation of CFM's stewardship, social action, formation, and communication programs to ensure that the movement makes inroads in making disciples and caring for the least, the last, and the lost (*organizational development*). The Area Vice-Presidents, Diocesan Directors, and Parish Coordinators must do their level best to help the families under their custodianship adopt this "new way of life" that is pleasing to the Lord (*personal renewal*). And all CFM leaders must be exemplars and models of this new spirituality. They must live stewardship, speak stewardship, think stewardship, and teach stewardship (*cultural renewal*).

The capper here is if you do not carry the day in all the four battlegrounds, you fall on your sword and lose. So, it is indeed an uphill battle. The payoff if you win, on the other hand, is that you put in place a CFM that is devoted to making disciples; you institute a praying, serving, and giving CFM that loves and serves the poor; you ring in a CFM that is in the coal face of the renewal of families, churches and communities.

Is that cause worth taking the field for? Is it worth the trouble? That is for all of you to decide.



On the occasion of your 65th Anniversary, as you try to come to grips with CFM's role in this fast-changing world, as you decide on whether to sit on your praiseworthy laurels or push the envelope, I leave you with this-- May you choose an ambition that does not creep, but instead soars!

*"Forward, forward let us range." (Alfred, Lord Tennyson)*

### About the Author

Jose Luis Clemente is a long-time Executive Director of the Socio-Pastoral Institute, a faith-inspired organization that promotes stewardship as a pathway for the renewal of persons, communities, and churches in the Philippines.



### The Family Pandemic Encounter

by Dexter and Jessica Yu

CFM Philippines National Chair-Couple for Family and Life

We have been married for over 26 years and have been through a lot of challenges as a family. Despite all the ups and downs that we have experienced, we can ascertain our belief that God's presence in our life is real. Just recently, in March 2021, our entire family and household tested positive for Covid. Aside from all the discomfort, it was not easy for us to be isolated from one another. We were overwhelmed with fear, distress and worries, knowing that all the

other family and household members were sick too.

In the midst of all the anxieties and uncertainties, God came to comfort us through prayers, uplifting words from peers and loving messages from families and friends. People sent us food, supplements, and medicines. It really gave us a greater appreciation for the community that we belonged to and the relationships we had built through the years. Even while we were sick, God gave us great strength to continue conducting and facilitating an ongoing 6-nights virtual CFM Self-Encounter program then. We were able to refrain from telling our fellow team members and participants so as not to make them worry. In sickness or in health, there is truly joy in service.

**Our 3 children have the following to share:**

**Philip Yu, 19 years old:**

*"Compared to the rest of my family, I think I had the most peaceful Covid experience. I did not really have any symptoms so, to me it was more of a one-month isolation break. I also got to spend a lot more time with my mom since we were the only ones in the same room. I even set up a routine of video calling my dad every night to see how he was doing. Despite how sick the rest of my family felt, I think we managed to stick together and get through it all."*

**Martin Yu, 23 years old:**

*"When we got Covid, we were apart, but we were so much closer to one another. Despite the isolation, the love and care were always*



*there as we checked in on each other every day. It made me realize how truly blessed I am to have such an amazing relationship with my family."*

**Kyra Yu, 25 years old:**

*"Covid was an eye-opening experience for me. I have always been a busy person and being sick left me with a lot of time to reflect.*



*I became more aware of what was happening around me because I physically could not do anything in isolation. My body was too weak, but my mind was very active.*

*Covid helped me see that my mom was really the rock of the family. She tried to keep the household going even when she was sick herself. She spearheaded the sanitation of the entire condominium by hand, encouraged us to order healthy food, made sure everyone was taking their medicines on time, and even scolded us from a distance when we were not checking our oxygen levels. She created social distancing measures and did her best to push forward government protocols at home. Throughout the duration of our sickness, she did not make us feel like she was having difficulty, when in reality she was. She made us feel that all will be well, and God is in control.*

*My dad, on the other hand, displayed much care by calling us day and night even when he was the sickest out of everyone in the household. This allowed us to have a sense of normalcy because of seeing each other regularly. Covid was tough, but it was a good reminder of how much our parents loved us and how much we all loved each other."*

Apart from the love and warmth experienced during Covid, it allowed our family to encounter a spiritual union and different forms of healing -- the kind of healing that the Lord also wants us to share with other individuals and families who are sick, rejected, struggling, suffering, in darkness, helpless and hopeless. The healing called LOVE and MERCY. We see such family experience as a grace from God for us to better understand the many realities of family life and for our family to be evangelized so that we can be more empathetic and compassionate in our Family and Life service, beyond ourselves and beyond circumstances.



***"The Lord your God, is in your midst, a WARRIOR who gives victory; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will renew you in his love; He will exult you with loud singing."***  
– ZEPHANIAH 3:17





**PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEPH  
POPE FRANCIS**

## Prayer to St. Joseph

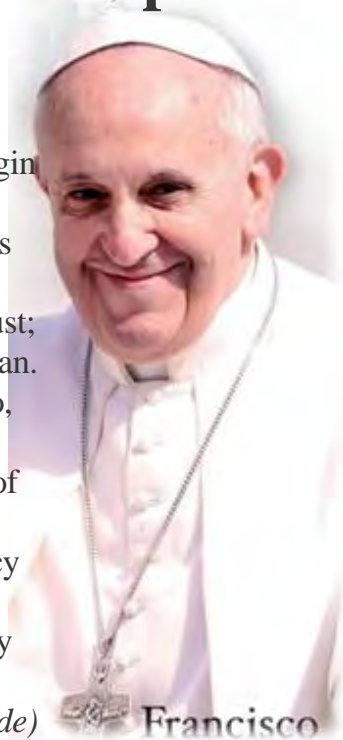
Hail, Guardian of the  
Redeemer,  
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin  
Mary.

To you God entrusted his  
only Son;  
in you Mary placed her trust;  
with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too,  
show yourself a father  
and guide us in the path of  
life.

Obtain for us grace, mercy  
and courage,  
and defend us from every  
evil. Amen.

*(Pope Francis, Patris Corde)*



Francisco

