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**CFM in Action**

Looking for action ideas for this fall? Here are some from CFM groups around the country:

- Participate in or organize a couples retreat or day of reflection.
- Host a multi-family yard sale to benefit a charity.
- Organize a parish -wide used children's clothing swap (free!).

Partner with an existing community organization to:

- Deliver meals to the homebound
- Provide Thanksgiving dinner for the needy

If your parish does not already have one:

- Organize a parish giving tree for those in need in your community
- Organize a children's liturgy ministry
- Plan a family friendly social (e.g. Parish Picnic, Family Square Dance, Chili Cook Off, etc.). Advertise and invite the whole parish!

*Thank you to the following CFM action groups for the above ideas:*

*St. John Fisher, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA*



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Please let us know if there's anything you'd like us to include in a future edition of ACT.

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**World Meeting of Families,  
Philadelphia**

**September 25 - 27, 2015**

Save the Date! All are invited. Archbishop Chaput recently announced that [Pope Francis will attend!](#)

From the Diocese of Raleigh website:

The Eighth World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia is an occasion for Catholics from around the world to reflect on family life, and the role that families can play in strengthening our society and our Catholic faith." The theme of this meeting, which is offered every three years is, *Love is Our Mission: The Family Fully Alive*.

In addition to educational sessions, there will be many attractions including a world market place, art, music and film festivals. It is anticipated that over 153 nations will be represented and hoped that Pope Francis will offer the Mass for the Festival of Families at the stairs of the Philadelphia Art Museum on Saturday, September 26, 2015.

"Meetings that bring together thousands of people from many different parts of the world with different experiences are a source of "tremendous joy" and grace and "have the power to transform, in deeply positive ways, the whole public community," said Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Philadelphia.

To follow details of this gathering as the develop, visit <http://www.worldmeeting2015.org/> and sign up to receive press releases as information becomes available [http://www.worldmeeting2015.org/?page=more\\_info](http://www.worldmeeting2015.org/?page=more_info)

Also, you can like the World Meeting Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/WorldMeeting2015>

### *CFM Summer Board Meeting, Chicago*



July 18-20th, St. Clement Parish offered hospitality to 12 families who traveled to Chicago from every corner of the United States as well as from Mexico. These families represent the national and international leadership of the Christian Family Movement (CFM). Four groups of CFM families thrive at St. Clement as "Clement Couples."



While their children joined host St. Clement family, the Lothrops, and several volunteers for a movie night, a perfect-weather trip to the zoo, games in the gym and crafts in the café, the parents came together to discuss how CFM can best implement the New Evangelization called for by Pope Francis.

They reviewed the new CFM program book, "For Happier Families," which will be available in August. This guide is directed toward helping families grow in wisdom and grace as they meet the challenges of contemporary living. On Saturday evening, the visiting families shared a potluck supper with several St. Clement families. After the meal, small group round table discussions were held so that St. Clement families could share with the national group their hopes for the future of CFM and the Domestic Church in the United States.



## *A Parenting Pointer*

by Susan Vogt

[10 Life Skills Your Teen Needs Before Leaving Home.](http://imom.com/10-life-skills-your-teen-needs-before-leaving-home/) #4 is Good Social Skills and Manners. #5 is Auto Maintenance. #6 is Essential Domestic Skills. Only Auto maintenance needs to wait till the teen years. Start at whatever age your child is. <http://imom.com/10-life-skills-your-teen-needs-before-leaving-home/>

[Subscribe](#) to receive weekly Parenting Pointers in your inbox.

## *Many CFM Programs to Choose From*

Is it time for your group to choose a new CFM program? One hardcopy annual program book is included in your annual membership. For 2014, we have a new 8-meeting program book available: *For Happier Families*. Additionally, we have a variety of titles available in digital form (free to members).

Volunteers from across the country have worked to create a variety

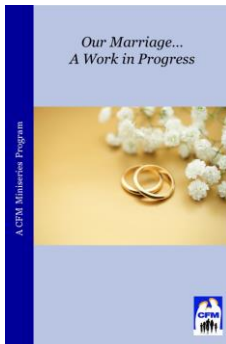
of programs to provide flexibility for your group. Perhaps you would like to host a new group as an introduction to CFM or adapt a CFM program for a day of reflection at your parish. CFM miniseries programs (3 to 5 meetings) allow couples to commit to CFM for a shorter time, and also allow established groups to mix and match program topics that appeal to them.

As always, your group can choose any CFM program. We have highlighted some below. See our [website](#) for all available programs. For more information about any of these programs, Molly would be happy to help you. 800-581-9824.



*For Happier Families* is the foundational book of the Christian Family Movement, a network of local action groups united in becoming missionary disciples of Jesus Christ in the context of their ordinary family lives. Participants consider, pray, discuss, and plan to take concrete action on ways that couples, families, and individuals can participate in bringing the light of faith to their families, parishes, and communities. *For Happier Families* includes 8 meetings for adults, optional activities to use if children attend, and

discussion questions to share with the whole family at home. Available now as a hardcopy book.



*Our Marriage...A Work in Progress*, is a four meeting marriage enrichment workshop including prayer, scripture, discussion and reflection on some of the areas of marriage that need ongoing time and effort. Couples will explore ways to Make Conversation a Priority, Take Time for Your Marriage, Evaluate Your Money Management, and Energize Your Relationship. Available now in pdf format. Contact the office to request this program.

FOR YOUR  
MARRIAGE

*The Bishops Find a Pulse on the State of the Family*  
by Emily Macke

In October 2013, the Vatican announced the convening of an Extraordinary Synod of Bishops on the "Pastoral Challenges of the Family in the Context of Evangelization" for October 2014. Shortly thereafter, the Secretary General of the Synod of Bishops, Cardinal Baldisseri, asked the world's bishops to submit feedback about the acceptance of Church teaching regarding marriage and the family and the state of pastoral care of marriages and families. Many bishops invited perspectives from lay men and women, in response to Baldisseri's request to share the questionnaire "as widely as possible" in order to obtain "input from local sources."

In advance of the meeting this October, which will consist of a limited number of bishops (with all of the bishops convening in the fall of 2015 on the same topic), the Vatican released a document known as the "[Instrumentum Laboris](#)," which summarizes the responses received from bishops throughout the world on topics regarding marriage and family that concern the Church hierarchy and laity.

[read more](#)

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### *What the Synod on the Family is, and how you can prepare!*

by Billy Kangas

...I believe that faithful and loving families are the key to having a robust church and a just world, and this is why I am very excited about the upcoming Synod on the Family...

Here are a few ways you and I can prepare:

- Pray and advocate for families
- Strengthen your family
- Open Your family

[read full article](#)

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### *A Gospel Meditation for the Home*

The Nazareth Page, by David M. Thomas, PhD

Matthew 15:21-28  
August 17, 2014

...

In today's gospel we are introduced to an "outsider" with a mission, who won't take "no" for an answer.

She was persistent almost to a fault. She was a Canaanite, a group that inhabited Israel for as long as anyone could remember. Their religious practice was partly focused on increasing fertility for themselves and for their fields. They worshipped on the hilltops. Good Jews stayed clear of them. Except in this story.

During the lifetime of Jesus, he enjoyed many colorful encounters with individuals whom some Jews would consider unclean and foreign. This particular woman had two strikes against her. She was a woman and a Canaanite. At first, Jesus appeared to want nothing to do with her. He tries to escape her request, almost pushing her aside. Given how the account eventually concludes, this is great theatrics. The Gospel of Matthew loves drama.

She wanted a healing from Jesus, not for herself, but for her daughter who was tormented by demons. Some commentators think this might be a reference to a mental illness of some kind. Whatever it was, her mother (like so many caring mothers) would do anything to make her well. She seemingly ignored the indifference of Jesus and his disciples. She was on a mission and would not be turned back.

Eventually she broke through the religious and cultural barriers of the time and connected with Jesus. What else could he do but respond with love and concern? This is a great gospel for families and individuals facing difficulties. Jesus has a special place in his heart for those struggling to survive. As does Pope Francis. Jesus opened his heart and power in his healing the daughter of the Canaanite mom. He continues to have that same care for challenged families and individuals today, no matter what their religious or social condition. Just ask.

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