

## inside

- 2 Visits
- 3 Preparing for a Happy Married Life
- 3 Learning is Fun
- 4 Boomerang Throwers Wanted
- 5 Summertime, America: a season for CFM reunions
- 6 CFM in pictures
- 8 News Around the World
- 11 Newest Members
- 12 News from Spain

# CFM Commitment to Service and Solidarity Mark Worldwide Assembly Preparations

(L-R) front:  
Carolyn Broeren,  
Elma Muangkroot,  
Kay Aitchison, Sue  
Hamilton



back:  
Wayne Hamilton,  
Gary Aitchison,  
Rev. Dr. Ken  
Weare, Nop  
Muangkroot

On the national, continental and international levels, 2002 has been a fruitful year for CFM assemblies realized and being planned in all six ICCFM continents. The meetings achieve closer communication and interaction recommended in Resolution 4 of the **2001 ICCFM World Assembly of Families in Brazil**: "That the International Confederation of Christian Family Movements promote unity in the CFM and help restore and activate its internal and external solidarity."

Aside from the spiritual enrichment and new action plans gained during the conference process, the meetings heighten unity and foster solidarity among CFM members through loving personal contact and mutual encouragement. In turn, this togetherness generates a transcendent power for greater fervor in the service, as promised by Jesus Himself when groups gather together in His name.

The international assemblies now being focused on and

undergoing preparations through the concerted efforts of the ICCFM are the **World Assembly of Families and ICCFM General Assembly** in 2004, and in 2003 the **Latin American Encounter and Latin American General Assembly**, the **CFM European Congress** and the **CFM Asia Continental Convention**.

World Assembly of Families and ICCFM General Assembly, San Jose, California, USA

The World Assembly with the proposed theme, "Family: Artisans of an Evolving Society," will be held in July 2004, with the priority dates tentatively set as follows:

Priority 1, July 21-25; Priority 2, July 14-18; and Priority 3, July 28-August 1.

The World Assembly of Families will be conducted Tuesday to Friday while the ICCFM General Assembly will be from Saturday to Sunday noon. The Assembly program will begin at 8:30 a.m. and end by 9 p.m.

The conference will use the Cardijn methodology of OBSERVE-JUDGE-ACT to discern the role of married couples as authentic partners and co-creators with God in a constantly evolving society. It will focus on the true meaning of the marriage relationship and its responsibility for addressing the challenges of a contemporary society being transformed in a post-modern age. Specifically, the assembly will reaffirm the value of marriage and the family in the critical examination and redirection of society's shift in a technological era.

At most 200 persons are expected participate fully in the convention process. There may be larger numbers for the Opening Ceremony and on the weekend due to local members participating. To accommodate special participants, a day rate for the assembly will be established.

Assembly participants will reside in a hotel or be on homestay with local MFC and CFM families. In the marketing plan for the Assembly, continental couples and country presidents are exhorted to set attendance goals of one couple and one clergy from each country. All delegates are urged to utilize the World Assembly website for information, registration, forms and procedures.

These proposals and decisions were taken up during two planning meetings last July 6-7, 2001, at the CFM USA National Convention in Miami, Florida, and on July 20-21 at the MFC USA National Convention in San Jose, California.

# VISITS

**W**arm welcome from CFM families of Orlem, Mumbai. We were delighted when ICCFM president Elma Muangkroot, who was to attend a Teachers' Conference in our city, expressed a wish to meet the CFMers. We are a small band - 21 couples - belonging to Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Orlem. The movement has been active in the parish for the past 27 years. The three groups meet regularly and the meetings generate a lot of enthusiasm and action.



**O**n the evening of March 21, we picked Elma from "The Retreat" where she was staying with her teacher colleagues. Her good friend, Hala, came along too. We brought them to Orlem, a few kilometres from the hotel.

Our first stop was at the Lourdes Tamil School where one of our CFM'ers, Gwen de Penha, is a teacher. Elma and Hala were impressed by the neatness and enthusiasm of the students who hail from nearby slum areas.

The children were thrilled to have visitors from abroad and happily sang for them. Elma chatted with the teachers when school was out, admiring their commitment and generosity.

From the school, we walked up to the church and parochial house. The evening Mass was just over. We pointed out to Elma the Family Reading Rack set up by the CFM in the Church compound which has a plentiful supply of religious books and magazines for children and adults who desire to read. Parishioners themselves keep the shelves supplied with reading matter.

Our chaplain, Fr. Vincent D'Souza, was happy to meet Elma and invited us to the refectory for a cup of tea. While we were chatting, Fr. Alex Carvallho, one of the assistants, joined us. In her inimitable and charming manner, Elma

talked to the two priests about the CFM and its mission to strengthen and support good family life. She did her best to get Fr. Alex involved, and Fr. Vincent more involved with the Movement, asking them to encourage couples to join.

After a short stop at our home, we went across to "Xavirene", the residence of CFMers, Xav and Irene Sequeira, where the Orlem CFMers had gathered to meet and dine with Elma. Everyone felt at home with our honoured guest, as she spoke warmly with each CFMer and took dozens of pictures. Her warmth and goodwill make her an excellent ambassador for the CFM.

The next day, after a hurried shopping spree, Elma and her friends returned to Bangkok. It was a short, but happy interlude for CFM, Orlem. After all, it is uncommon for an international official to visit and spend time with us. It made us CFMers feel that we were a valued branch of the international family. It gave us a sense of belonging. It made us feel good about our movement.

*( Agnel and Anette D'Cruz, CFM-Orlem, Mumbai)*

## Singapore stopover

On the way back to Bangkok, Elma stopped over Singapore on March 23 - 24 to visit CFM

Asian President Couple Dennis and Fanny Chua. They decided on a date for the Bangalore visit, went to evening Mass, and spent a lovely evening over dinner discussing plans for the next CFM Asia Continental Convention.

## Bangalore reunion

With Dennis Chua, CFM Asia President, Nop and Elma visited Bangalore last April 6 - 9, with the main purpose of asking India to host the next CFM Asia Continental Convention in 2003. Despite the unholy hour of their midnight arrival, Nop and Elma were met at the airport by long-time CFM leaders and international representatives David and Aloma Lobo, who took them to their sprawling, ivy-covered home set in a lush garden with ancient trees, colorful flowers in bloom and a fishpond created from a small waterfall.

On Sunday morning Bangalore CFM'ers gathered for a Holy Mass concelebrated by CFM chaplains, among them founding Chaplain Rev. Fr. Oswald Dijkstra and present National Chaplain Rev. Fr. Joseph Fonseca. It was a beautiful Mass with both lively and solemn music provided by CFM couples and children, ending with special blessings for CFM members, both guests and hosts. An assembly followed at which Nop and Elma reported on recent ICCFM activities and answered questions about CFM Thailand. They also imparted the purpose of their visit, to ask Bangalore to host the next Asian Convention. Dennis reiterated the request and entertained the assembly with his amusing yet thought-provoking sharing of his vision for CFM Asia. In return, both Chaplains as well as CFM India Presidents Francis and Carmel Colaso and CFM Bangalore Presidents Albert and Rosalind Selvanayagam addressed the meeting, assuring the guests that CFM India accepts in principle to host the 2003 Asia Convention, pending confirmation after a CFM India national meeting.

A meeting to discuss details about the proposed Convention was held at David and Aloma's residence on Monday morning, followed by an afternoon to the Silicon Valley of Bangalore, considered the technological center of Asia. In



**Hand in Hand by Gabriel Calvo:**  
Questions and Answers for Young People

# Preparing for a Happy Married Life



**W**e found Father Calvo's book: Hand in Hand very good for young couples as well as for marriage preparation. Therefore Krisztina translated it into Hungarian and we succeeded in publishing it in 3000 copies.

*We believe that this book can be used both as a marriage preparation guidebook for young couples as well as an efficient means for reaching out or for missions.*

According to the publishers this book has been written for young couples, for every young person who longs for deeper communication; for everybody who wants to really get to know and fully accept themselves as well as their partner. For those who wonder: - What is the partner really suitable for me like? Have I really found the real One? - Is it true love that I feel or is it a temporary feeling of infatuation? - What do I have to pay attention to during the engagement period; what is really important? - Am I mature for marriage? - Can we be happy as a couple in 10, 20, 30 years time? How? What or who is the guarantee that we will be able to love each other in times of difficulty? This book is not a theoretical work but rather a workbook, a guideline which

offers the reader lots of wise thoughts, questions, ideas to think about, practical advice and topics to talk about. A sincere sharing on these is an extremely valuable and serious preparation for a healthy, good marriage and a happy, spiraling out family life.

### Bishop Biro says:

I warmly recommend Hand in Hand to Hungarian readers. On the one hand because the author, Father Calvo - whom I have had the chance to meet several times - is a clear, true person; on the other hand, because he is a priest who has been working and praying for marriage and family for half a century, travelling without rest all around the world, and speaking to lots and lots of people and listening perhaps to even more. He is familiar not only with the marriage of Spain or America but also with the marriage of different continents including the marriage of Central Eastern Europe. He uses not the language of a scholar but speaks in a direct way, like an elderly brother to his younger brother. He does not only teach but also he asks questions, makes the readers think and gets

them to act.

We have now one more good Catholic book, a book worthy of the weight of marriage. Marriage can only be spoken about seriously. This book tells deep truths in a form that is easily understood by everybody. It helps young readers to prepare in a worthy way for marriage, but it can be used with advantage by married couples, too. It also presents valuable help for priests in the pastoral care primarily for engaged couples but also for married couples.

The author is a Spanish Catholic priest, founder of Marriage Encounter and author of the Fires (in Hungarian: Mecs) programs. Through his service of almost half a century the lives of millions of engaged and married couples and young people have been made more beautiful, more joyful, and closer to God. His book is the summary of this extremely rich experience in family pastoral work; that is, it is a real treasure not only for engaged couples but also for young married couples and for priests and lay Christians who work for engaged couples.

*Krisztina and Balazs Menesi*

## LEARNING IS FUN!

**T**he CFM children enjoyed a great party on Sunday, May 5.

Twelve little faces lit up in anticipation as we introduced

them to a play-way lesson in becoming peacemakers. Rhonda organized the session, using her varied skills as a teacher and her natural talent with children. Jocelyn and Violet looked after the refreshments and Cynthia offered her living room for the rather noisy and exciting evening.

The children introduced themselves, saying what they liked to do best and which was their favorite animal and why. Each of them was given a colorful badge with one of their names on it. They had to add something

**//** These games were designed to teach them valuable lessons in co-operation, politeness, helping and not hurting one another and affirming each other... **//**

they liked about that child and present the badge to him/her. They excelled in affirming each other, even the youngest.

Another team game was a jig-saw puzzle "Mending the Hearts". These games were designed to teach them valuable lessons in co-operation, politeness, helping and not hurting one another and affirming each other, so that all felt good about themselves.

The children were taught the importance of controlling their anger in simple ways like counting to ten, taking deep breaths, and

saying sorry through a beautiful and meaningful action song. One of the funnier games was "Monkey Business" wherein even the elders participated

and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

During snacks and drinks they displayed their talents, telling jokes and stories. At the end, the adult members, felt a great sense of contentment, that their children too had benefited from being a part of our big CFM family.

Rhonda is planning more sessions for the children. These will take place simultaneously with the adults' monthly meetings.

*(Angelo & Cynthia Pinto, Group III, CFM -Orlem Mumba)*

# Boomerang throwers wanted or how to expand CFM

By Bob and Irene Tomonto *Miami, FL*

**boomerang**, *n.* [*native Australian name*] A bent or curved piece of hard wood used as a missile by the native Australians, which can be thrown as to return to the thrower.

Over the years, we tried every possible way to expand CFM. We even wrote a booklet for the National Board called "Share the Good News..." which was used as the national expansion plan for many years. All of this was met with mixed results. Finally after many years of service to CFM we retired to devote ourselves to ministry to families on the parish level.

Shortly after that we were invited by Bishop Agustin A. Roman of Miami to develop a program to bring young married couples back to the church after the wedding. After a number of false starts, we developed the Covenant Experience, as a parish based, low-cost, marriage enrichment program. While we initially targeted the program for newly married couples we found that couples of all ages profited equally from the program. We found that couples improved their marriages and their commitment to the Lord who is the third person in each marriage. Couples began to be "turned on" to parish activities and to each other. What we did not expect was that at the end of the four follow-up meetings couples wanted to continue in the small group meetings. **Of course the answer was the Christian Family Movement.**

We have found that one of more new CFM groups were formed at the end of each COVENANT EXPERIENCE weekend. Moreover,



the couples in these groups continued in CFM and social action longer than couples recruited by other means.

We found that by concentrating on ministry to married couples rather than expansion of CFM we actually performed a valid ministry to many couples and in the process also started more CFM groups than before. We found that by throwing away organizational goals and concentrating on ministry the results

came back in the form of requests for something more. That is why we are looking for boomerang throwers.

People are not turned-on by a request to join an organization. They are interested in improving their marriage and if that process produces results then they want to continue with it. People are too busy today to join just another organization. They want to satisfy more basic needs of intimacy, companionship and finding friends in the Lord and in the community.

Soon our friends were asking how the COVENANT EXPERIENCE could be used in the Spanish speaking part of our community. The participant materials were translated into Spanish and the program has been highly successful in our multicultural city.

For more information on how the COVENANT EXPERIENCE can help you minister to married couples and expand CFM see our website at: [www.TheCovenantExperience.com](http://www.TheCovenantExperience.com), then go out and throw your own boomerangs.

← Visits from page 2

the evening, Francis and Carmel hosted a dinner at their spacious, attractive home, at which Nop, Elma and Dennis had another chance to meet the CFM officers who will form the Asian Convention organizing committee. Tuesday morning before departure, Francis showed Nop, Elma and Dennis the proposed Convention venue, which immediately met with everyone's approval. The final date selected for the Convention is October 24 - 26, 2003.

## Panama sojourn

Nop and Elma visited Panama on July 25 to 29, in the hope fostering a closer communication with MFC Latin America, which has the largest and the most vigorous ICCFM membership in terms of number, programs and services. They wanted to have firsthand information about the MFC and to learn what makes it succeed so the strategies could be shared with the rest of the world. The visit was also an opportunity to meet the new Latin American Continental Presidents William and Esilda Cheng, who were elected only last November 2001, and to campaign for Latin American participation in the 2004 ICCFM World Assembly of Families in San Jose, California, USA.

Here are the highlights of the visit as lifted from the diary of Nop and Elma:

**July 25** - We were met by Presidents William and Esilda and taken to their beautiful new home for a rest. In the evening we attended Mass at their parish, which turned out to be a special Mass for children. Once a month there is a weekday Mass especially for children, carrying out Jesus' words, "Let the little ones come to me." After Mass, the priest called the children, told them how special they are to Jesus, gave them holy pictures. Later the parish ladies gave chocolates to the children.

**July 26** - By chance we were able to attend Mass in one of the Panama City Churches, and there was a special Mass for grandparents. It was quite a pleasant surprise as just the day before we had attended a special Mass for children! At the end of the Mass the priest honored the grandparents, calling them to the front and giving out special awards. Nop got a special award, too!

In the afternoon we made a courtesy call on Panama Archbishop Mons. Jose Dimas Cedeno. He was very gracious and welcoming, spoke proudly of the MFC, a very active group in family evangelization, family services, as well as services to the poor. He expressed his total support for the MFC and his admiration for the Movement.

page 11 →

[www.iccfm.org](http://www.iccfm.org)

Visit the ICCFM website!

# Summertime, America: a season for CFM reunions

**S**ummer 2002 was a propitious period for CFM in both North America and Latin America as it saw the convention of three eagerly anticipated national gatherings.

## ARGENTINA

A grand assembly of MFC families was held in Cosquin on the weekend of June 29, consisting of a full agenda of important MFC Argentina matters:

National MFC Elections, Reunion of MFC Diocesan Presidents, National Encounter of Past Directors and National Forum on Responsible Parenthood.

The theme of the National Encounter was "Towards a Spirituality of the Family for the Twenty-first Century." Developed by National Chaplain Rev. Fr. Juan Carlos Meinvielle, it is based on the famous text from the Confessions of St. Augustine, "Late I loved you." Three basic aspects of spirituality were examined:

1. The SOURCES are the sacramental life, the Word of God, the inner life, solidarity, the daily search for God and the vital connection with God not based on form or order but on the sacrament of the Word.
2. The WAY is to row out to sea, to evangelize the culture of society, discerning it and reaching to it through the exercise of virtue. Factors to be considered are God's time, history, the world and the town. To give testimony means not only to catechize but also to evangelize.
3. The VOCATION for those called to sanctity is to live in hope.

Representatives from all the eight zones of MFC Argentina elected the new National Directors to lead the MFC in the new millennium, whose primary goal is to promote the MFC in all the dioceses. Past Presidents Arnold and Esther Witzel were elected Vice-Presidents, and the new Presidents are Jorge and Lucy Calvo, who have dedicated 35 years to the MFC. Jorge and Lucy write, "We assume with responsibility the delicate mission that God assigns to us at this moment of our lives. We renew our commitment to the MFC based on three aspects we request you to

consider: to be witnesses of hope, healers of wounds, and pillars of unity. Our aspiration is that end of the triennium, our chosen motto will be realized, "The MFC missionary: good news for the third millennium."

The Forum on Responsible Parenthood on the theme "New Life" was developed by Messuti and Maurizi Delfino with the collaboration of Dr. Marina Curria. Fifty participants from all the zones were involved in this forum.

## UNITED STATES

### CFM USA National Convention

The CFM USA National Convention held on July 4-7 in Miami, Florida was enlightening, inspiring, and very successful, and the participants left with a strong conviction of the power of the family to change the world.

The theme was "God is in Our House," a weekend celebrating family spirituality. Convention chairpersons were CFM USA Vice-Presidents Bob and Anne Tomonto.

Keynote speaker David Thomas in his talk on "The Road Never Traveled" pointed out that the challenge of an incarnational Christianity is to connect God's loving Spirit with the unique and very concrete realities of each era.

Joe Holland, another keynote speaker, took up "The Social Spirituality of the Family." He said that the 500-year era of the "modern world" is now ending, leaving disintegration. A new postmodern multicultural global period of social history is now beginning and a postmodern Catholic spirituality of family can become a strategic contribution to healing that disintegration, he hopefully concluded.

Special CFM presentations during the event were "The Covenant Experience" by Bob and Irene Tomonto; "Creating Dynamic Groups" by Gary and Kay Aitchison; "The Legacy of Cardijn" by Paul and Jane Leingang and "The ICCFM" by Nop and Elma Muangkroot.

The delegates also went through an Exposure Program, visiting disadvantaged communities and holding discussions on the social dimensions in the Mexican farmworkers',

Haitian and Cuban immigrants' communities.

Other features were teens' and children's program. A concert, a CFM picnic, a theme party and dance "Miami Style" perked up the evenings of the Convention while in a creative project, families "built a house" with their posters and commitments as a part of the Concluding Liturgy.

The CFM/USA has a membership of 1600 families. National Presidents are Peter and Jane Buchbauer; National Chaplain is Rev. DoConroy and Executive Directors are Paul and Jane Leingang.

### MFC USA National Convention

The MFC USA National Convention was held last July 19-21 at San Jose, California. The event with the theme, "MFC/USA Families Constructing a Better Society," had inspiring lay speakers, practical and relevant workshops led by both experts and MFC couples and a big participation of 800 delegates, all providing strong evidence that MFC USA is a vibrant and dynamic Movement with committed leaders and members.

The convention was organized by the Past MFC National Secretariat composed of National Presidents Mario and Margarita Gavidia, Chaplain Rev. Clemente Barron, Vice-Presidents Baldomero and Mavi Torres, Secretaries Dario and Maria Saenz and Treasurers Hector and Mercedes Mira. The Convention also elected a National Board. The incoming National Presidents are Mario and Juanita Figueroa and National Chaplain is Rev. Rafael J. Davila.

Keynote speakers on the topic, "MFC/USA Families Constructing a Better Society" were Dr. Ricardo and Mrs. Beatriz Riojas. "The Holy Family, Model for MFC/USA" was taken up by Dr. Gabriel and Mrs. Marina Martinez.

Religious dignitaries present were Monsignor Patricio Flores, Archbishop of San Antonio; Monsignor Patrick McGrath, Bishop of San Jose and Monsignor Richard Garcia, Auxiliary Bishop of Sacramento. Special guests were ICCFM Presidents Nop and Elma Muangkroot, North American Presidents Gary and Kay Aitchison, CFM USA guests Wayne and Sue Hamilton, Carolyn Broeren, Rev. Fr. Ken Weare.

MFC USA, which has a membership of 2,000 families, is made up of federations in seven regions of the United States. It is a Spanish-speaking Movement.

# CFM in pictures



**TOP**  
*Francis and Carmel Colasco*  
CFM INDIA National President Couple



**BOTTOM**  
*Albert and Rosalind Selvanayagam*  
CFM Bangalore President Couple



**FAR LEFT**  
The CFM Choir

**LEFT**  
*Rev. Fr. Joseph Fonseca* (main celebrant) and CFM Founding Chaplain *Rev. Fr. Oswald Dijkstra* (right)

**RIGHT**  
**(L-R)** *Nop, CFM USA Director Jane Leingang, Elma CFM USA National Chaplain Rev. Donald Conroy, Past ICCFM Chaplain Rev. Sam Palmer*



**(L-R)** *Bob Tomonto, Father Don, Elma, Nop, CFM USA President Couple Jane and Peter Buchbauer, Convention Chaircouple Bob and Anne Tomonto, Father Sam.*



A chance to enjoy a Panama Arts Festival



SPLA Secretariat presenting a Panama souvenir to *Nop and Elma*



Nop and Elma with SPLA Secretariat in Panama planning the AGLA meeting  
**(L-R)** *Emilio and Yolanda Wong, Alberto and Yabel Hernandez, Nop and Elma Muangkroot, Marcela De Arco (seated) William and Esilda Cheng*



ICCFM President *Elma Muangkroot* in Singapore with CFM Asia President *Dennis Chua*, right (March 23, 2002)



**(L-R)** *MFC President Couple Mario and Juanita Figueroa, Elma, Father Davila, Nop, North American President Couple Kay and Gary Aitchison*



Photo from Malawi, Africa sent by *John and Mary Sichali*



Group poster expressing "God is in our Home" after the Convention



**(From Left)**  
*Elma, Wayne, Sue, Ken, Carolyn, Kay, Gary*



# News Around the World

## ASIA

### India

Learning is fun for CFM kids, report Angelo and Cynthia Pinto from Mumbai. The CFM children enjoyed a great party during their summer holidays, at which they introduced themselves, saying what they liked to do best, which was their favorite animal and why. The children were each given a colorful name badge with another child's name, for them to write something they liked about that child before presenting the badge to him. These activities taught them cooperation, politeness and affirmation. Other games taught the children the importance of controlling their anger in simple ways such as counting to ten, taking deep breaths, and saying sorry through a beautiful and meaningful action song. At the end, the parents felt a great sense of contentment that their children had benefited from being a part of a big CFM family.

Agnel and Anette D'Cruz of Mumbai have recommended that the ICCFM admit as supporting member the Science and Research Foundation of Asia on Family and Culture (SERFAC), a pro-life and pro-family NGO which shares a similar mission in family service. Led by Sr. Catherine Bernard, its mission is to create an awareness about the evolving social and technological systems that contradict the basic values of marriage and family life and to actively engage in the creative tasks of forming/fostering relationships and values that promote stable marriages and healthy family life. A consultation with Joe and Margarita Pich led to the conclusion that the two organizations indeed share a similar ideology and steps are being taken to effect the membership.

National Presidents Francis and Carmel Colaso of Bangalore will rally their members all over the country for help in preparing for the Asian Continental Convention in October 2003 at the CFM India National Board meeting to be held on November 3-4, in Mumbai. In Bangalore, of course, the process of organizing the conference is already going on.

### Hongkong

Three generations of a Christian family in Hongkong: CFM leaders Anthony and Alice Leung with son and mother.

### Japan

Rev. Fr. Donnon Murray writes that Japanese FIRES has been involved in the international net of prayer, sacrifice and suffering. The Japanese agenda,

even if not complete, is wonderful and challenging. It is taking shape little by little, and the group's schedule for the entire year includes Self and Marriage Encounters, Sons and Daughters Return, Marriage Return, Bi-yearly National Meeting of FIRES and SADE for student nurses.

### Korea

Peter Tae Hwan Kim of Korea shares the exciting news of preparing for their first CFM meeting. They are looking for a CFM model that will be acceptable to Korean Christians. CFM Philippines has offered to help and Peter plans to visit the country to learn about its CFM actions and programs.

### Philippines

Joe and Charito Hilario's "Twelve Pebbles," a weekly reflection and meditation on the Sunday gospel, is greatly enriching the spiritual lives of Christians all over the world and has been used by some priests for inspiring ideas for their homilies. Joe was recently out of action for a while when he underwent surgery, but "Twelve Pebbles" came in the mail as usual.

National Executive Vice-Presidents Rolly and Josie Mesa report that their goal is to have "a CFM unit in every parish." On a business trip to Malaysia in September, Rolly intends to seek out CFM members to restore contact and communication.

CFM members have offered their services to prepare for the **World Meeting of Families** in January 2003 in Manila. His Eminence Cardinal Alfonso Lopez Trujillo, President of the Pontifical Council for the Family, will represent His Holiness Pope John Paul II at this reunion. The CFM is involved in the pre-assembly meetings in parishes in the form of "festivals" for fathers, mothers, youth, sons and daughters and families. Past CFM National Presidents Loy and Trining Marquez are in charge of the festival for families.

National Presidents Baging and Lin Arguelles have been traveling all over the country visiting groups and attending CFM Area Assemblies. To quote the energetic leaders, "When one is busy, time flies. . . As we look back over the past six months, we thank God for all that has happened and with grateful hearts we say, "Thank you, Lord, for all that has been, that is and will be!"

### Singapore

CFM Asia Presidents Dennis and Fanny Chua, with Vice-Presidents Mel and Emma Ricafrente and advisers Joe

and Charito Hilario of the Philippines, are working together via e-mail to develop a suitable theme for the next Asian Continental Convention.

Mark Tan's brilliant and insightful observations on critical social issues, published monthly by the CFSM, have gained the admiration of many readers throughout the world.

Asia Presidents Dennis and Fanny Chua have called for a Secretariat meeting to prepare for the next Continental Convention in January 2003, Manila, coinciding with the World Meeting of Families.

### Sri Lanka

According to former National Presidents Agnes and Percy Silva from Sri Lanka, CFM's new leadership has started conducting the Original Marriage Encounter of Rev. Fr. Gabriel Calvo. OME was first introduced to Sri Lanka by Rev. Fr. Donnon Murray in 1997 and has been warmly embraced by the CFM.

Susil and Shirani Gunaratna write that FIRES is spreading fast in Sri Lanka with the Sons and Daughters Encounter already having been held for seven weekends as of July. A welcome news is that their new bishop, Bishop Oswald Gomis, who is the Secretary General of the Federation of Asian Bishops Conference, is a strong supporter of CFM. Ranjan and Therese Perera and Anton and Margaret Fernandopulle send their greetings to all CFM members.

### Thailand

It's a source of great pride to learn that His Excellency Apostolic Nuncio to Thailand Msgr. Adriano Bernardini is familiar with the ICCFM. He writes, "I convey my good wishes to you, as well as the assurance of my prayers for your endeavors in serving the Church through your mission for families."

National Chaplain Rev. Fr. Bunsong Hongthong marked the feast of his parish patron St. Anthony of Padua with a big celebration. Couples and families who form the members of his marriage enrichment teams from all over the country held a reunion during the feast. These teams form the core of Father's working units as they meet every month to plan their formation program for couples.

## EUROPE

### Hungary

Presidents Balazs and Krisztina Menesi share their perspective of the book

*Hand in Hand: Questions and Answers for Young People Preparing for a Happy Married Life* by Rev. Fr. Gabriel

Calvo: "We found Father Calvo's book *Hand in Hand* very good for young couples as well as for marriage preparation. Therefore Krisztina translated it into Hungarian and we succeeded in publishing it in 3000 copies. We believe that this book can be used both as a marriage preparation guidebook for young couples as well as an efficient means for reaching out or for missions." (For a more detailed book review by the Menesi, visit [iccfm.org](http://iccfm.org) under **News and Messages**)

Balazs and Krisztina Menesi share the wide range of FIRES and CFM activities in Hungary. What an inspiring and commendable report!

"Thinking of the summer we have some wonderful experiences to remember. For the first time in Hungary, we had the Family Communication Workshop, the Engaged Encounter and the Self Encounter introduced by Fr. Donnon Murray. All the three were blessed experiences. . . We think, however, that we can never know the real results of any FIRES experience. The only results are those deep changes in the hearts of participants which cannot be measured or achieved, only hoped for and accepted as grace from the Lord. . .

It definitely seems that there is great interest in the Engaged Encounter. Couples recommend it to friends. Therefore we plan to have one again next spring. On November 30 we are going to give a Family Communication Workshop to a CFM group and other families. There has also been inquiries about the next Self Encounter, which we might have again in the autumn of 2003, but that is still uncertain. In the near future we are planning a Sons And Daughters Encounter (October 17 - 20) and a Marriage Encounter (November 8 - 10). . .

Last Sunday we had our CFM Veni Sancte Mass. We opened the new schoolyear with the group leader couples of 23 CFM groups. There are some more groups to start now, not only in Budapest but also in the country. It is wonderful to see how people who experience FIRES Marriage Encounter become enthused to belong or even to start CFM groups. And vice versa, all CFM couples who have not made ME yet are invited to make it. It would be a wonderful experience for a whole group to make ME together.

We are working hard on the outlines of CFM group meetings. As a result, five years' outlines will be printed in a booklet form within two months. . . Fr. Gabriel Calvo's *Hand in Hand* is selling well: out of 3000 copies, 1000 are being sold in bookshops all over Hungary (and beyond,



in Transsylvania, too). Out of the 2000 that we have stored in our home there are fewer than 600 left! We receive lots of enthused opinions about it. Next year we are planning to translate and publish Fr. Calvo's other books: Face to Face, then Family Energy." More power and congratulations to CFM Hungary!

#### Italy

ICCFM Chaplain Msgr. Charles Vella assures us that he is offering Holy Mass every first Sunday of the month for CFM families as a spiritual link of brotherhood and love among all families, especially those who are in difficulty.

With MFC leader Dr. Salvatore Solombrino, Msgr. Vella visited Sicily and conducted a meeting on the topic, "Globalisation, a Challenge to Families." An MFC meeting was held in Noto with the National Chaircouple Raimondo and their team, followed by a retreat attended by 40 couples.

On November 2 - 3, CFM, Italy, will hold its National Convention in Prato, near Florence, on the Pope's theme for the New Millennium, "Cast your Nets Deeper." European Presidents Tony and Lily Gauci will be special guests at this meeting. Msgr. Vella invites all CFM members who will be in Italy around this time to attend the meeting.

Giuseppe Genovesi has published an informative MFC Italy Bulletin distributed through the internet. He invites everyone to print it and make copies for distribution. He is also seeking contribution for news on family apostolate for publication and send to [1947@interfree.it](mailto:1947@interfree.it) In addition, Rosario Modica invites CFM members to visit the MFC Italy website at <http://www.mfc-italia.it> better or to write to our addresses that you will find on the first page of the Bulletin.

#### Malta

CFM Europe Presidents and ICCFM representatives to the United Nations Tony and Lily Gauci visited Vienna May 5 - 7, to attend the NGO Committee on the Family International Forum on Motherhood and Fatherhood. Various ideas coming from representatives throughout the world arrived at these main conclusions: father in partnership, breadwinner and education; mother in partnership, child bearing, care and education. Problems of combining work and being a housewife are still a stress on the mother. Child-minding organizations should be increased wherever possible and flexible hours for the working mother was suggested.

On May 7 a full-day Board meeting of the NGO Vienna Committee on the Family was held. It is a great honor to the ICCFM that Tony and Lily had been elected to this Board last year.

There was a change of leadership for CFM Malta in 2002. Beloved two-term Presidents George and M'Louise Sammut stepped down after a fruitful and fulfilling service to the Movement. They were replaced by equally devoted and long-standing CFM leaders John and Marthese Farrugia. Both couples have been involved with the CFM on an international level for over a decade.

ICCFM Chaplain Msgr. Charles Vella preached a course of Lenten sermons to 300 married couples in Malta. The theme was, "What Makes Marriage a Success?"

#### Netherlands

Taking time for some rest, Hank and Thea Degen have decided to slow down in their work at the International Federation of Marriage Preparation Centers. They intend to spend part of the year in France while continuing to serve the diocese and the Church. The new contact for the FICPM is Bishop Msgr. Anton Hurkmans [bisdome@bisdomebosch.nl](mailto:bisdome@bisdomebosch.nl). Succeeding Hank and Thea as couple in charge are Wim and Tineke Heijmans [tinekeheijmans@hotmail.com](mailto:tinekeheijmans@hotmail.com). The Degen's e-mail address is [hjfdegen@12move.nl](mailto:hjfdegen@12move.nl).

#### Portugal

MFC Portugal is the first among the CFM Europe countries to send their annual membership subscription to the ICCFM for the year 2002. European Presidents Tony and Lily Gauci request Portugal Presidents Carlos and Maria Luisa Gomes to convey their thanks to the generous MFC group.

#### Romania

Franz and Elena Kuhl happily share the news that their country stands at a momentous time when Christian education is once again given prominence with the reopening of the Marian Institute and the schools of the Congregation of Mary. Another important addition in the educational scene is the foundation of a new professional school, La Salle, by the Brothers of the Christian Schools. They look forward to attending the European Congress in Croatia next year.

#### Spain

ICCFM Past President Couple Jose and Margarita Pich are still very much involved in the work of the Confederation as wise and loving mentors of Nop and Elma Muangkroot. Not a week passes without correspondence between the two couples, with the new presidents seeking guidance and advice from the experienced ones especially on administrative matters such as finances, bank accounts, communications, membership and so forth. The ICCFM is lucky to have the combined service of both couples.

To commemorate Rev. Fr. Gabriel

Calvo's Golden Jubilee this year, his religious order in Madrid organized a gathering of his confreres who were ordained in the same year. As a fitting celebration to end his Jubilee year, good friends from Fr. Calvo's birthplace, including Joe and Margarita, are planning a grand reunion in his honor. The auspicious city is Barcelona, where Fr. Calvo was ordained and where he first started his ministry among families that has now spread as FIRES throughout the world.

## LATIN AMERICA

#### Argentina

Marta and Daniel Ambrueso of Argentina write that despite the economic crisis in Argentina which is wearing down its citizens, the MFC has contributed judgement elements to its members that pave the way to creativity and a powerful new ardor that in MFC's worldwide communication, let them realize that we are working together in harmony to discover, declare and announce the kingdom of God.

August 17 - 18 are the dates chosen for the first meeting of the new National Directors Commission of Argentina elected in Cosquin. They will develop resolutions based on the conclusions of the National Encounter and follow up ongoing projects.

Past National Presidents Arnold and Esther Witzel assure their members of their desire to continue their service in the cause of the Christian family. As the newly-elected National Vice-Presidents, they are entrusted with the tasks of Promotion and Expansion. They dedicate themselves to plant the seeds for the present and the future of the CFM, with the blessing of the Holy Family of Nazareth.

#### Brazil

ICCFM mourns the recent demise of His Eminence Lucas Cardinal Moreira Neves on September 8 in Rome. Frei Lucas a great apostle of families who served the CFM in Rio de Janeiro in the most loving and dedicated way for 60 years since its earliest beginnings. Frei Lucas worked intensely with families in Rio de Janeiro, inspiring them to expand the CFM throughout the country. With two MFC couples, Frei Lucas edited Limiar, the magazine of CFM formation whose quality brought great prestige to the CFM for many years. His participation in seminars, retreats, national and continental formation courses and CFM meetings resulted in the literature of marriage preparation that is used until today as a national reference. He dedicated his life to family service and claimed to have been "evangelized by the family."

May the Lord receive him with great joy into eternal life and may he continue to pray for our Movement!

Profound and prolific writer Helio Amorim continues to challenge CFM members with thought-provoking ideas on social issues in his newsletter MFC Correio, as well as his pamphlets. As a special gift to the ICCFM, he has written an article entitled "Ten Challenges to the Family in this Decade," which was translated by Manuel Samaniego of Venezuela. It is posted in [iccfm.org](http://iccfm.org) and [cimfc.org](http://cimfc.org) under "CFM articles." Congratulations to Selma Amorin whose deep spiritual communion with God and nature constantly inspire her to create artistic masterpieces using semi-precious stones and other media. Selma has just completed a one-woman exhibition of her artistic paintings and sculptures in Rio de Janeiro, an inspiring tribute to God and a pride to the CFM.

ICCFM Vice-Presidents Carlos and Magda Hita continue to inspire us with their dedication to the Confederation. They are committed to the ICCFM as one of its team members, ready to contribute in whatever they are capable of at this moment. It gives them happiness to know that SPLA under the leadership of William and Esilda Cheng is fully collaborating with the International Confederation and that the homepage of the CIMFC has now become a reality. Thanks be to God Carlos has had an extraordinary motor recovery and is clinically balanced enough to be free from major complications.

#### Costa Rica

Gerardo and Lizeth Elizondo send their brotherly greetings from CFM Costa Rica. They wish to receive news from CFM'ers throughout the world for greater sharing and communication in our service. Their address is [gerelip@hotmail.com](mailto:gerelip@hotmail.com).

#### Mexico

Eduardo and Aurora Gonzalez would like to receive comments and recommendations for their CFM unit which is a new formation that they have founded. Their address is [reciclar@idn.net.mx](mailto:reciclar@idn.net.mx).

Lupita Salgado" ([lupitasalgado@hotmail.com](mailto:lupitasalgado@hotmail.com)) writes from Mexico: "I'm Lupita from Ensenada, México, and I'm a happy member of the CFM in México. I'm sorry if I don't write English very well. I'm 23 years old, and I'm single but we have a new group in the CFM for young people. I really want to know if these groups exist in other places. If you have any information please let me know. Thanks for your attention, the CFM is a really nice group and if you want to be good friends. I know I'm a little young but I really know more about other people

of the CFM. Thanks for all."

Eduardo and Alma Monroy are delighted that the CIMFC has a home page, which they feel is a blessing from God because members communicate with each other and share their work. They have been in the CFM for three years and it has really changed their lives. They would like to know the number of MFC families in Mexico.

#### Panama

Latin American Presidents William and Esilda Cheng also pray to the Lord to preserve the love and enthusiasm of all CFM members in the service. They wish to remind their members to make preparations for Sunday, October 6, is the special day designated for the CFM of Latin America to be one in prayer and celebration throughout the continent.

Emilio and Yolanda Wong are the able and efficient translators of the ICCFM. They translated the history of the ICCFM "By Our Roots We Know Ourselves" and other articles for the CIMFC website. They have also generously given their time to translate this issue of LINK into LAZO.

#### Venezuela

With joy and enthusiasm Rev. Fr. Gabriel Calvo shares his account of the "Venezuela Family Encounter," a three-day gathering in the Andes mountains. Two hundred families were involved: parents with their sons and daughters arrived in this corner of Paradise from all over the country, traveling up to ten to twenty hours by bus. The sharing of experiences and testimonies among these families were impressive and awe-inspiring, and the Spirit of the Lord was truly there. There were about 800 people and it was miraculous that not one accident happened.

The last day was the election of a wonderful family (not just a married couple) nominated by the majority, to become the Servants of the Servants of the Families. A giant Holy Rosary was consecration by all families to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, with the commitment to pass the experience from family to family until all parishes become a Family of Families. It was a sublime, insurmountable experience.

Emira Hernandez seeks information about the Marriage Encounter in Venezuela, specifically in Caracas.

## OCEANIA

#### Australia

The Maltese Australians led by Leslie and Carmeline Sammut now have a Maltese chaplain who allows them to use his parish for CFM meetings. Earlier the Sammuts had thought of discontinuing the CFM because of difficulties. Tony

and Lily Gauci sent them a long letter to encourage them to carry on, if possible in another parish.

The Sammuts went to a new parish and met Rev. Fr. Portelli, who is willing to be their CFM chaplain. Their first meeting was held on June 4 with 25 persons attending. Fr Louis Camilleri, who is the director of Cana Movement in Malta, is going to Australia and will meet with Fr. Portelli, the CFM group and other married couples. The Cana Movement is an organization for couples founded by Msgr. Charles Vella more than 40 years ago, and Fr Louis is taking it to Australia.

#### New Zealand

Rev. Fr. Richard Pipe, parish priest of St. Thomas More Parish at 17 Gloucester Road, Mt. Maunganui, New Zealand, is interested in starting CFM groups in his parish. There used to be CFM groups at St. Thomas More several years ago. Father would like to see some of the CFM programs to introduce to his parish council. He would like to receive introductory material—in fact, he would like a starting package mailed to his Church. His e-mail address is [richard.pipe@clear.net.nz](mailto:richard.pipe@clear.net.nz).

## NORTH AMERICA

#### United States

ICCFM chroniclers Tom and Vernie Dale have been happily engaged celebrating family milestones the past year. Their "By Our Roots We Know Ourselves" traces the history of the Confederation from its very beginnings in 1966 in Caracas to the ICCFM World Assembly for Families in 1995 in Malta. Written in Vernie's inimitable style, it embodies the essence of the ICCFM as it has developed today: "The roots of ICCFM lie in bright visions and hard journeys, but they still nourish the three fruits ICCFM has always sought to produce: communication, service and ecumenism among the families of the earth. Despite its struggles with language, perspectives and finances; despite communication problems that face families everywhere; ICCFM continues to flourish as an example of the universal domestic church, the hands and heart of Christ reaching out to heal and caress the earth."

Thanks to the determination and singular effort of ICCFM webmaster Andy Pozdol, who speaks Spanish, the Spanish CIMFC website has become a reality! The English website designed by Balazs Menesi of Hungary was posted earlier, but there was no CIMFC logo and no Spanish translation. Getting the CIMFC was not just a matter of reversing the order of the ICCFM letters! At his own initiative, Andy asked a friend to design

the CIMFC logo, and Latin America came to the rescue for the Spanish translation. SPLA officer Emilio Wong of Panama offered his help, and he and Andy are in charge of the website. More than a webmaster, Andy also translates some of the documents, edits, gives valuable suggestions and recommends articles for both English and Spanish sites. Andy and Judy belong to a CFM group in Arlington Heights, Illinois. Thanks, CFM USA, for sharing Andy with the ICCFM!

Former ICCFM Chaplain Rev. Fr. Sam Palmer sends a picture of the Covenant Weekend that took place on April 12-13, at St. Pius X Parish in Des Moines, Iowa, USA. The Covenant Experience is program that helps strengthen and enrich marriage for the couples. With his constant love and commitment to the ICCFM, Fr. Palmer was also at the planning meeting of the 2004 ICCFM World Assembly in Miami, Florida, last July.

One of the celebrations to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of the ordination of Rev. Fr. Gabriel Calvo, founder of the Original Marriage Encounter and FIRES, was held on May 26 in Washington, D.C. Fr. Calvo's lifelong friends and OME promoters Joe and Margarita Pich, also ICCFM Past Presidents, traveled all the way from Barcelona, home city of both Fr. Calvo and the Pichs, to be with him on this very special celebration. Congratulations and thank you from the ICCFM, dearest Father Gabriel!

For the first time in the United States, the Original Marriage Encounter was held on the weekend of August 23 – 25, in San Diego, California. Rev. Fr. Donnon Murray came all the way from Tokyo, Japan, to conduct it with his OME team. With the gentle guidance of Fr. Donnon, the participants received strategies that helped them share their real feelings and way of thinking with their spouses. After the three days of Fr. Donnon's warm, comfortable words and acts of love, the participants "were filled with spiritual substance and were humbled by the mixture of the Catholic faith, Christian sharing and the realistic, simple steps to improve their marriage lives." Plans are already under way for a second Southern California Original Marriage Encounter experience soon.

CFM USA President Jane Buchbauer, National Chaplain Rev. Fr. Don Conroy, Directors Paul and Jane Leingang and Secretaries John and Lauri Przybysz represented the CFM in a special program commemorating the first anniversary of terrorist attacks on the United States, on September 11, in Washington. In a prepared address, Jane exhorted the audience, "Let this day be the day we take action as families, as towns and cities, to support measures

that affirm family life and the dignity of each and every family member . . . Today we call for a new initiative. We call on families from all regions and areas for our great nation to renew the impulse so many of us felt a year ago, to reach out to each other, to stand together with each other, to support each other in times of sadness and in times of joy." Full report of this important CFM event is at [www.cfm.org](http://www.cfm.org).

## AFRICA

#### Malawi

Two most welcome letters to share come from Malawi. From John and Mary Sichali of Lime:

"We are writing from Malawi after a long, dead silence. It has been quite unfortunate in that you are no longer sending us the LINK newsletter we used to get . . . CFM in Malawi is quite strong and expanding. On 7<sup>th</sup> April 2002 we had a meeting at which 69 families participated in various topics ranging from expansion, fundraising, future life of the CFM at the National level, parish annual reports, etc. Enclosed is of the pictures showing participants. Please write to us and keep us abreast of what the ICCFM is doing and when and where will be the next Assembly, what was discussed and recommended at the 2001 Assembly. Kindly let us know the contact address of Africa Presidents Jarvis Michael and Theresia Ntuba."

Since then the Sichalis have been sent a copy of LINK. The contact address is:

**Jarvis Michael and Theresia Ntuba**  
P.O. Box 462, Limbe, CAMEROON  
(home) 237-33-2424 (office) 237-33-2450  
Fax: 237-33-2476 [jmntuba@yahoo.com](mailto:jmntuba@yahoo.com)

From Anthony and Hellena Kamoto: "Hellena and I are Regional Secretary Couples for the Christian Family Movement in Blantyre ArchDiocese, Malawi, Africa. Just today I have come across your magazine LINK, Vol.5 No.3 of Dec. 2001. Congratulations for this magazine. It's a wonderful piece of presentation. We would like to subscribe to this Bulletin so that we can share the good news with our family friends in the community. We look forward to hearing from you."

The ICCFM thanks Anthohey and Hellena for their letter. LINK is sent to CFM members who have a postal address in the record.

The last World Assembly at which Africa participated was in 1995 in Malta. ICCFM Special Representatives Wayne and Sue Hamilton have generously agreed to be the ICCFM Contact Couple in charge of the continent of Africa.



## ↩ Visits from page 4

In the evening had dinner with the Latin American Secretariat (SPLA SEDE), a social affair in which we got to know each other better. We learned about their programs for all levels of people and all ages.

**July 27** - We had a tour of the beautiful Gamboa resort and the Panama Canal in the morning with MFC National Presidents Luis and Yariela Hernandez and MFC Archdiocesan Presidents Armando and Angeles Correa. In the afternoon there was a general meeting with the national and archdiocesan officers. We addressed them and asked for their support in our joint effort to serve families, especially disadvantaged ones. They asked some questions about the ICCFM and about the CFM in Thailand. Again, all were very committed to their MFC cause and enthusiastic in their work.

At the end of the visit, Nop and Elma noted that the secret of MFC Latin American success and vigor is the total commitment and hard work of its members. They generously give up their time for the work as though it were just part of their daily existence. Their main emphasis is formation; therefore, for group action, they introduce the MFC and form family groups in poor areas. This is a great action that ICCFM can follow in other parts of the world.

The visit was very fruitful and the World President Couple promised to attend the next General Assembly of Latin America in Costa Rica next year. On their part, MFC Latin America promised to fully support the 2004 World Assembly and to send at least one couple per country to the meeting.

## Costa Rica disappointment

Nop and Elma Muangkroot were scheduled to visit Costa Rica after Panama from July 29 to 31. Checking in for their flight in Panama, they learned that their tickets would not allow them to stopover in Costa Rica, an unfortunate misunderstanding with the travel agent. ICCFM Past Presidents Alvaro and Margarita Rivera, now ICCFM Special Representatives, and MFC Costa Rican Presidents Norman y Sonia Maynard had organized a loving welcome at the airport and a grand dinner reunion with the National MFC for the next day, but it was not to be. It was indeed a very great disappointment for all, but God must have His reasons. Nop and Elma wish to extend their heartfelt apologies to Alvaro and Margarita, Norman and Sonia and all MFC Costa Rica members. They will visit Costa Rica in July 2003 for the ELA and AGLA assemblies.

## Philippine meeting

During their visit to the Philippines, Nop and Elma asked CFM Philippines for special help in organizing, preparing for and marketing the 2003 Asian CFM Continental Convention in Bangalore. They also wanted to know how CFM Philippines is doing, and to give the group recent information about the ICCFM.

On August 4, Nop and Elma met with ICCFM Secretaries Nic and Lilia Austriaco, Asian Vice-Presidents Mel and Emma Ricafrente, CFM Philippines Executive VP Rolly and Josie Mesa representing Presidents Baging and Lin Arguelles, CFM Philippines Past Presidents Pepe and Lina Lugay, Rene and Inday Pronstroller, Loy and Trining Marquez. Area Vice-President for Manila Roger and Nora Panlasigui, CFM Foundation President Frank Ramos and Cubao Chairperson Naty Dayon. Unfortunately, former CFM Asia Presidents and long-time CFM leaders Joe and Charito Hilario had to cancel attendance at the last minute because Joe was in the hospital.

## ↩ CFM from page 1

The ICCFM preliminary planning groups included Presidents Nop and Elma Muangkroot, Special Representatives and Past Presidents Wayne and Sue Hamilton, North American Presidents, Kay and Gary Aitchison, North American Treasurer Carolyn Broeren, Continental Chaplain Rev. Sam Palmer and Assembly Adviser Rev. Ken Weare.

## Planning Committee and Operations and Site Committee

**CHAIRCOUPLE:** Gary and Kay Aitchison

**MEMBERS:**

Andy and Martha Maurer  
Wayne and Sue Hamilton  
Mario and Margarita Gavidia  
Peter and Carolyn Broeren  
Nop and Elma Muangkroot

Rev. Sam Palmer

Rev. Ken Weare

Latin American Encounter and Latin American General Assembly, San Jose, Costa Rica to be held on July 4 - 6, 2003, in San Jose, Costa Rica, the Latin American Encounter (ELA) will have the theme, "Let Us Make of the MFC the House and the School of Mutual Sharing." The concept is based on the four MFC pillars of Formation, Spirituality, Promotion and Solidarity.

After the ELA, there will be a Latin American General Assembly (AGLA) on July 8-9. The planning for the ELA and the AGLA will be conducted by the MFC (Movimiento Familiar Cristiano) Secretariat on September 13 - 15 at Chiriqui, Panama, close to the border with Costa Rica.

page 12 ⇨

## Newest members of the ICCFM Secretariat

**W**illiam and Esilda Cheng were elected at the Latin American General Assembly in Asuncion, Paraguay, last November 2001, as MFC Latin American Continental Presidents for the years 2001 - 2005.

They live in Panama City, now the seat of the Latin American Secretariat (SPLA), which they coordinate. Esilda is an educator and William is an accountant, both retired. They have five children and seven grandchildren. They first joined the Movement when they were four years married and have served as coordinators of basic teams as well as given pre-matrimonial courses and conjugal

encounters. They have also been Archdiocesan Presidents, National Presidents and Zonal Coordinators of the MFC.

It has been 36 years since they have been MFC members, and they consider themselves grateful and blessed by the Lord for permitting them to be instruments in building His Kingdom, especially in the area of family.

William and Esilda send a special greeting to all the members of the ICCFM and encourage all to unite and redouble their efforts in the work for the family: the basic cell of society and the hope for a better world.

INTERNATIONAL  
CONFEDERATION OF  
CHRISTIAN FAMILY  
MOVEMENTS (ICCFM)

The ICCFM Presence in the World

The ICCFM has affiliated organizations in the following countries, spread in six continents:

<b>North America</b> .....	4,000 families U.S.A.
<b>Europe</b> .....	3,990 families Spain, Malta, Portugal, Hungary, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Italy
<b>Latin America</b> .....	80,000 families Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica, Cuba, Peru, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Dominican Republic, Panama, Uruguay, Brazil, Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay
<b>Africa</b> .....	475 families Uganda, Malawi, Cameroon
<b>Asia</b> .....	4,000 families  Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, India, Sri Lanka, Japan, Hongkong, South Korea
<b>Oceania</b> .....	5 families Australia
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>92,470 families</b>

# NEWS FROM SPAIN

Presidents Rosa and Candido Asensio report that Spain is working on an MFC renewal based in a national survey of the family situation in Spain. The first step is for the dioceses to work according to the objectives and actions selected during their Diocesan Assemblies. The process and results are evaluated as they go along, with the results to be presented during the National Assembly which will be held in September in Avila. Most of the dioceses are working on four important services: **Encounters, Promotion, Youth, and Family Solidarity and Help.** There have already been a hundred Marriage Encounters the past year and new groups are still being initiated in all the dioceses. In July the National Youth Gathering organized by the Service for the Youth will be held in Alicante and will gather 200 young people and adolescents.

**Participants are:**

**From Panama:** Latin American Presidents William and Esilda Cheng, Vice-Presidents Enrique and Graciela Alvarenga, Secretaries Alberto and Yabel Hernandez, Treasurers Rodolfo and Eneida Naranjo, Editors Emilio and Yolanda Wong and Chaplain Rev. Fr. Jose Majadas, OSA.

**From Costa Rica:** Zone 1 Presidents and ICCFM Special Representatives Alvaro and Margarita Rivera, Costa Rica Presidents Norman and Sonia Maynard and their team.

In the plan of action, the Latin American Secretariat (SPLA) will be in charge of theme and program, and MFC Costa Rica will take care of the logistics.

CFM European Congress,  
Zagreb, Croatia

The European CFM Congress will be held in Zagreb, Croatia, on July 17 to 20, 2003. The theme, "The Family as a Life-long Community," has been chosen because it is challenging and interesting, a topic to be examined and discussed not only at the Congress but also in everyday life.

CFM Europe Presidents Tony and Lily Gauci were in Zagreb, Croatia, from May 8-12, 2002, and met with Congress Chaircouple Marijo and Darka Zivkovic, to discuss the Congress program. They visited the Apostolic Nuncio, who accepted to address the Congress, the Bishop of Zagreb and government and Church representatives for the Family.

The Congress will focus on four main talks, followed by questions, which will be sent in advance for delegates to discuss in their own country. Thus the Congress will gain from the participation not only of the delegates in Zagreb but also of other CFM members at home. The four speakers include a resource person from the USA, one from Milan, a couple and a priest from Croatia.

**Four workshops on the following themes:**

- 1) Marriage and growth in mutual love
- 2) Parenthood and the success of a happy family;
- 3) Environment and the family
- 4) Communication

The Official Opening Ceremony on the afternoon of July 17 will feature addresses by Marijo and Darka, the Apostolic Nuncio, Tony and Lily with Fr. N. Debono Montebello, representing the CFM Europe Presidency, and Nop and Elma Muangkroot, ICCFM President Couple. There will also be addresses by the civil and ecclesiastical authorities. After the Congress there will be an optional tour of two days to Medjugorje.

CFM Asia Continental Convention,  
Bangalore, India.

The CFM Asia Convention has been scheduled for September 19 to 21, 2003. The theme, still to be confirmed, will relate to the different aspects of CFM service in Asia and the methodology of See-Judge-Act. About 30 to 40 foreign delegates are expected to participate in the program in addition to the national delegates.

Special guests will be members of the ICCFM Executive Secretariat, which will hold its pre-World Assembly secretariat meeting in Bangalore to coincide with the Asian Convention. Committees to work on theme, program, logistics and marketing are presently being formed.

Preliminary planning for the Continental Convention was held on April 7 – 10, 2002, in Bangalore. Present were ICCFM Presidents Nop and Elma Muangkroot, CFM Asia Continental President Dennis Chua, CFM India International Representatives David and Aloma Lobo, CFM India Presidents Francis and Carmel Colaso, CFM Bangalore Presidents Albert and Rosalind Selvanayagam, Secretaries Joan and Hubert de Nazareth and Treasurers Eddie and Flavia Nazareth.

# LINK



LINK, published biannually by the International Confederation of Christian Family Movements (ICCFM), is distributed to members as part of the membership. LINK includes worldwide news on activities of ICCFM.

The International Confederation of Christian Family Movements (ICCFM) is a leading international partner of the Vatican in the advancement of the development of the family globally along traditional and current Church doctrines.

The ICCFM Mission is to promote, encourage, and help the Christian Family Movements so that the organizations and their members live their human and Christian vocations and bear witness to the essential values of the family, based upon the faith as announced by the Gospel and proposed by the teachings of the Catholic Church. The Confederation shall support the expansion of the Christian Family Movement in those countries where it is established and will try to establish it where it does not exist.

For further details contact:

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