

## Colombia will host next World Assembly in Bucaramanga

Marthica and Louis Carlos Pinilla, the presidents of ICCFM in Latin America have announced that the ICCFM 12th World Assembly and 16th General Assembly will be held in Bucaramanga, Colombia in June of 2013. The specific date will be made available in the Spring of 2012 and will be announced in the summer edition of LINK/LAZO.

Bucaramanga, Colombia is a very hospitable colonial city. The area has a large number of MFC families who are open to serving the ICCFM visitors for the Assembly. The city has excellent hotels for those who do not wish to stay with families. Bucaramanga was the host city of a large Latin America MFC Assembly in 2006 and the local MFC families had a very positive experience with the Assembly.

ICCFM Presidents Gary and Kay Aitchison have announced that the theme for the ICCFM 12th World and 16th General Assembly is “Christian Families: Finding our Voice in a Global World.” Proposed topics for study are: Migration—The Effect on the Family, Making CFM/MFC More Relevant for Families, Spirituality and Evangelization of the Family, Economic Influences on the Family, The Influence of Technology and Opportunities for Families, and Education and Families.

LINK/LAZO will continue to keep the ICCFM membership up to date on the latest information regarding attendance. Mark your calendar and make initial plans to attend the ICCFM World and General Assembly in June of 2013—in Bucaramanga, Colombia.



The Cathedral of the Holy Family in Bucaramanga (above). Bucaramanga is located on a plateau in the Cordillera Oriental range of the Colombian Andes.



# 7th World Meeting of Families is Prepared for Early Summer in Milan by the Vatican; Registration is Open

The registration process has begun for the Seventh World Meeting of Families (WMF) to be held May 30-June 3, 2012 in Milan. The theme is “Family: Work and Celebration.”

More detailed information, including the opportunity to register online, is available at the WMF website, [www.family2012.com](http://www.family2012.com).

The World Meeting of Families is convened by the Holy Father and sponsored by the Pontifical Council for the Family in collaboration with the host dioceses—in this case, the Archdiocese of Milan.

These meetings were first promoted by Blessed Pope John Paul II beginning in 1994 and have occurred at three-year intervals since then.

The structure of the meeting is in two parts. The first involves a series of lectures and presentations aimed at those who are engaged in education and pastoral ministry with couples and families. This part runs from May 30 through June 1. The second part begins on the evening of June 1 and concludes on Sunday, June 3. It includes festive national gatherings, a prayer vigil and testimonials, and the celebration of the Eucharist. Pope Benedict XVI is expected to join the meeting on Friday and to preside at the vigil on Saturday and the closing Mass on Sunday.



## Committee Appointed to Review ICCFM Constitution and Present to General Assembly

On November 30, 2011, ICCFM president couple Gary and Kay Aitchison appointed a committee to review the 1987 version of the Constitution of the International Confederation of the Christian Family Movements. The work of the committee will be presented to the 16th ICCFM General Assembly for approval when it meets in June of 2013 in Bucaramanga, Colombia.

Committee Chairpersons are Wayne and Sue Hamilton, USA. Representing their continents at the request of the continental presidents are Andrew and Bernadette Simango, Malawi; Mel and Emma Ricafrente, Philippines, Robert and Carmen Kimball, Spain; Jorge

and Rosalinda Carrillo Campos, Mexico; and John and Lauri Prsybysz, USA.

At-Large Members selected by Gary and Kay Aitchison are William and Esilda Cheng, Panama; Nop and Elma Muangkroot, Thailand; and Erwin and Nora Lopez, USA.

It is the responsibility of the General Assembly to receive the recommendation of the committee and approve, modify or reject the committee's proposals. It will be presented to the Assembly in English and Spanish.

# How Does God's Dream Become Our Dream?

By Fr. Bill Young

Our human race, probably from the beginning, seems to have a habit of looking at certain events or moments of time as promising the possibility of a future better than the present, as an opportunity for change, especially change for the better. Maybe a war has ended, a powerful ruler has emerged, the earth has become more fruitful -- maybe a child is born.

Doesn't the New Year evoke in many of us a yearning for that something better, for that time of opportunity, of dreaming we can move beyond where we have been? In fact, we often make a New Year's Resolution (maybe even several) in our effort to bring our dream down to earth. Wouldn't the world be a more wonderful place, if we kept those resolutions?

God had a dream for the world, for us, when his creative love burst forth in creation, in space and time, shaping and caring for our world, that infinitesimally small sliver of the universe that we call home. Then God's Word became flesh and he pitched his tent among us (Jn 1:14) and our world became his home too, where Jesus began to live out God's dream for us – in a family.

That family of Joseph, Mary and Jesus was nestled in among many others, sharing life, earning a living, sharing love with each other and with all others, suffering the oppressive heel of a foreign empire, and through it all living their Jewish faith as it guided them in God's ways. As in every human life and family there must have been

high points and low points, moments to treasure and moments best forgotten.

They lived, loved, prayed and worshiped, absorbed God's Word in the Scriptures and through all this changed and grew, individually and as a family, into God's dream for them. Everyone around them was touched and challenged to let such a dream spring up in their own hearts and lives.

Yes, that is why they really were a holy family. The three special persons who formed this family made it holy in one sense, but it was the dynamic way these holy individuals helped each other create a holy family among themselves and then radiated that very real, lived holiness to their neighbors and to everyone that they really became the holy family.

I am sure that it was not always easy or perfect or successful, since these three family members were very human, just like us, but they were tuned into God's dream for the world and lived it with all their heart, with all their qualities and limitations and no matter how

humanly difficult or impossible it might seem. I think we all realize holiness is not some ethereal state of life, at least somewhat elevated above our ordinary, human life. Yes, it is in the very nitty gritty details of our lives, when we are most human and vulnerable, that God's love and grace impregnate us, as individuals and families, with real, honest holiness, in much the same way that the Holy Spirit touched and changed the young, teenage Mary as she accepted to bring God's Word into human flesh and so brought God's dream for our salvation, our holiness, right down to our human level.



## **For Reflection and Prayer**

- 1) Does God really have a dream for us, for our world?
- 2) How is the family life of the Holy Family like your family life?
- 3) How can we use our CFM method of Observe, Judge, and Act to bring about God's dream in our families, in our world?

# Continental Reports

## AFRICA

The occasion of the closing of the office of CFM USA in Evansville, Indiana, has benefited CFM Malawi. Paul and Jane Leingang, who live in Evansville, took charge of sending a library of books that were no longer needed and a refurbished computer to the Malawi CFMers. The CFM USA office has moved to Omaha, Nebraska, and Mary Kay Halpin is the office manager. She and her husband Tom are vice-president couple of CFM USA.

Blazio Ngwale had requested help from the Leingangs whom he had met at the ICCFM assembly in Fatima in

2007. He writes, “Once again, thanks. The CFM members here pass their thanks for the books and also for the computer. The books are really necessary for us. Members are borrowing to read.”

CFM is fast growing in the Archdiocese of Blantyre, Malawi. CFM is in 33 parishes of the 37 in the diocese and by June 2012 CFM will be in all the Parishes.

*Information submitted by  
Lucius and Nellie Kamoto  
CFM Chaircouple, Archdiocese of Blantyre*

## ASIA

### SINGAPORE

Neighbourhood Parish Group Gatherings remain the basis for the Movement’s faith formation. Families gather to reflect on the issues of life as a Christian adult and parent in Singapore prompted by the Christian Family and Social Movement (CFSM) Social Inquiry booklet (revised edition). In addition, some CFSM groups use the Archdiocesan Lent and Advent Booklets for weekly reflections in preparation for Easter and Christmas. These fellowship sessions enable families (parents and children) to grow closer as Catholic communities at both social and spiritual levels.

### Activities sponsored by CFSM:

#### Celebration of the Feast of St. Joseph The Worker:

The theme for this celebration was “The Dignity of Work amidst Globalization and our Solidarity with the Migrant Worker.” For the first time, the session was jointly organized by CFSM and the Archdiocesan Commission for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People (ACMI) at the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary Retreat Centre. It drew a good participation from 43 adult attendees (both local members and migrant workers from India, Myanmar and China). Participants were reminded of the dignity of the worker and work because of God’s love for all humanity, especially the worker. The Catholic Business Network was present to share about Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and human rights.



CFSMers in Malacca in June. They had an opportunity to pick fruit at a retreat house.

#### Parenting Session: Education and Character

**Formation:** Forty-two people attended this session, benefiting from the sharings about children’s character formation from various aspects: the family, school and parish catechism.

Speakers were Mark Tan (CFSM member) who highlighted the importance of family in the character formation of children; Dr. Koh Thiam Seng (St. Joseph’s Institution principal) who spoke on the pastoral care and character-formation programs in SJI and Fr. Erbin Fernandez (Spiritual Director of Archdiocese Catechetical Office), on the uniqueness of the Catholic faith, and how catechism needs to impress children and youth of its uniqueness.



Children sing for the participants of a formation session for CFSM in November

**The CFSM Experience:** The theme of our group outing was Solidarity. Forty-six people including children went for the Cameron Highlands trip. The response was overwhelming. A handful of families drove to Cameron Highlands and joined us in the activities. Generally, the families enjoyed the trip but what stood out was the kid's involvement in the Mass and daily prayers.

**Facebook Connects CFSM Youth:** A few teenagers continued to connect through social network Facebook. The youth Facebook account has also been linked to 3 youth in India (arising from the GOA trip), YCS and other organizations. To date, there are about 50 users linked to the youth Facebook.

**CFSM Faith Formation II: "Dignity of Work:"** In an effort to bring the message across to members, issues were explored through role-playing (acting out of the different groups: housewives, domestic workers, foreign workers and management executives). Students from Catholic Junior College volunteered and performed the sketches and this facilitated members to examine the different situations portrayed vis-a-vis the Christian attitude towards work and the dignity of the worker (including non-dollar-denominated work).

**Caritas Singapore Community Council:** Being a member of the Caritas Singapore Community Council (CSCC) the umbrella body of all Catholic groups dealing with charity and social issues, the CFSM participated in various forums, including the Social Mission Conference of Caritas on the theme "Transforming Ourselves and Society in Charity and Justice."

In keeping with our national profile in the international movement, CFSM continues to maintain an appropriate presence in the international organizations. As an affiliate of the International Confederation of Christian Family Movement (ICCFM) and the World Movement for Christian Workers (WMCW), the CFSM was represented at the last ICCFM conference in Goa and the WMCW East Asia Meeting in October 2010 held in Seoul, South Korea. Representatives from Taiwan, South Korea, Japan and Singapore attended. Francis Mane, executive committee member, represented Singapore at the meeting. Participants discussed issues such as an aging population, relevance of the movement, environmental issues and what actions they have taken.

The monthly newsletter of CFSM continues to provide food for thought and topics of discussion to all members with lively local anecdotes and thought-provoking articles. The value of such articles is that they help our members see relevance of our faith to our lives in the present context of what is happening within the family. Other CFSMers from Asia have used our articles for their members, especially the June 2010 (What would I like to help to teach my children about sex for Life?) and October 2010 (Gendercide) issue.



Youth enjoy a two-day retreat.

The Executive Committee would like to thank and encourage families making time and effort in sharing their lives and faith during their monthly sharing. The Movement would like to express our appreciation and thanks to: Archbishop Nicholas Chia, Spiritual Director, Fr. Andre Christophe, Angeline and Edmund Song, Martin and Bunsom Siok, Mark and Theresa Tan, committees and all members.

## **THAILAND**

The main activity of CFM Thailand is organizing weekend seminars for couples, the Thai version of the Marriage Encounter. We have had three seminars within the past five months.

It deserves special mention in that the family mission of CFM helps Buddhist families as well, evangelizing non-Christians. At the last seminar on May 27-29, 2011, nine couples participated: one Catholic couple and eight Buddhist couples.

## **PHILIPPINES**

The 31st Biennial CFM National Convention was held 21-23 October at the Campus of the Adamson University in Manila. The convention was also a commemoration of the Emerald (55th) Anniversary of CFM Philippines. The theme of the convention was “Building Tomorrow, Today?.” More than 400 members participated.

The conference opened with a keynote address given by the Bishop Mylo Hubert Vergara, ordinary of the Diocese of Pasig and son of a CFM couple. Ceremonies also included sharing of experiences by three CFM Chaplains and recognition of past presidents including the widow of the First President Teresa Nieva.

Jesuit priest Johnny S. Go spoke to the gathering about “Youth in God’s Kingdom” and attorney Jo Imbong, Legal Officer for the Catholic Bishops of the Philippines (CBCP) addressed the topic “Major Challenges To Families Now.”

Rev. Edwin Corros, Executive Secretary of the Episcopal Commission on Migrant and Itinerant People of the CBCP, spoke about how CFM Cares for Families of Overseas Filipino Workers (FOW).

## **EUROPE**

### **SLOVAK REPUBLIC**

The Christian Family Movement in the Slovak Republic (CFMSR) is organizing the 7th European Family Congress. The Congress is planned from August 29 - September 1 under the auspices of The Slovak Bishop Conference at The Archbishop Office in Trnav. The theme of this Congress is “The Culture and Morals of the Family in a Globalized Society.”

Several workshops were conducted by Mel and Emma Ricafrente, Rene and Inday Pronstroller, Pip and Wilma Cua, Manny San Luis, and Lindah Santos.

The day was capped with recognition of the top performers of year 2010-11 in individual, unit, parish and diocesan categories. Special recognitions were also rendered to very select friends of CFM for benevolent assistance.

On the concluding day of the conference CFMer and Columnist Attorney Jose Sison spoke of his advocacy against divorce. After his speech, the General Assembly unanimously agreed to oppose a proposed bill in the Philippine Congress advocating divorce. The convention adjourned with optimism for more vibrant CFM in the coming years.

New leadership was elected at this meeting and on January 1, 2012, Roger and Naty Dayan passed the presidency of CFM Philippines to Mario and Inday Nery.

### **OTHER DEVELOPMENTS**

CFSM Singapore is making inroads to Malaysia. They are working with a group in Malacca, a state in Malaysia. Let us support them in prayer.

CFM in Sri Lanka has been passing through a little uncertainty. Fr. Juilian Patrick Perera. National Director of the Family Apostolate in Sri Lanka appointed by the National Bishops conference of Sri Lanka in the month of July 2010, was given the task of bringing about a reconciliation. With his and Fr. Sunil Gunawardana’s efforts the CFM in Sri Lanka has been reconstituted and under the new leadership is now stabilized

*Reports submitted by Cyril and Carmen D’Souza with additional information from Donald and Esther Sng, Singapore and Roger and Naty Dayan, Philippines*

Detailed information about the Congress can be found at [www.eu-fc.sk](http://www.eu-fc.sk). Mária and Vladimír ěurikoviã are the President Couple of Christian Family Movement in the Slovak Republic.

### **HUNGARY**

MECS Hungary celebrated its 15th anniversary under the leadership of Bishop Laszlo Biro in Esztergom from June

16-18, 2011. MECS includes over a hundred groups all over the country,

The gathering of the families of the 16 CFM and FIRES leader/organizer couples began in the evening of the 16th of June with a liturgy of reconciliation and Holy Mass. Next day Bishop Biro gave a spiritual orientation to the couples. In his talks he stressed that human efforts at the evangelization of families are not enough; in the midst of the spiritual warfare with the powers of evil, evangelization will only be fruitful if it builds upon divine Grace. Life according to the Gospel can be truly witnessed by the lives of those persons, couples, families who keep getting closer and closer to God through the sacraments, prayer and fasting. Marriage and family life lived in God overflows and becomes the source of strength and the proof of the good news of the Gospel for others, the Bishop said.

Each talk was followed by witnessing by two couples and finally by Holy Mass. In the evening there was an interactive presentation about the MECS Academy to be launched in the autumn of 2011. At the end of the meeting all leader couples expressed not only their gratitude and joy for the spiritual food they had received, but also their desire to have similar gatherings at least once a year. Their kids agreed, having had a great time with each other and the young helpers who cared for them during the program.

On June 18, 400 people from all over Hungary attended the one-day national MECS family celebration. Bishop Laszlo Biro and Fr. Domonkos Meszaros OP gave talks



Archbishop Paul Cremona and Tony and Miriam Sammut, CFM Malta president couple at a Mass at St. John's Co-Cathedral in Valetta on the 15th of October 2011.

about the joy and the celebration of the family and the Christian community. Each talk was followed by the testimony of a couple.

After lunch, a wonderful large "birthday cake" was offered — to the joy of both young and old — by the leader of a mid-Hungary MECS group, a prize-winner confectioner. The afternoon Mass was followed by music and dancing, and the gathering was closed with a prayer together.

*Report submitted by  
Balazs and Krisztina Menesi CFM/FIRES Hungary*

## **MALTA**

CFM Malta celebrated its 40th Anniversary since its foundation in 1971 with the motto "40 Years of Formation and Work in the Community."

The main feature of this celebration was a Mass of thanksgiving for all the blessings the Lord has bestowed on us during the last 40 years. This was celebrated at Malta's Co-cathedral of St. John in Valletta, by Archbishop Paul Cremona, OP, Archbishop of Malta. The national chaplain and vice chaplain of CFM Malta, together with several other group chaplains, concelebrated with the Archbishop.

About 300 CFM members were present for this Mass. The Mass started with a short introduction by the president couple of Malta, Tony and Miriam Sammut, who gave a brief history of Gruppi Familja Nsara (CFM) in Malta. This was followed by the pontifical Mass with the active participation of many CFM members together with the St. Monica choir. At the end of the Mass, messages from international presidents Gary and Kay Aitchison and European presidents Robert and Mary Carmen Kimball and Msgr. Charles Vella were read.

The ceremony ended with the Sammuts presenting a token for the occasion to the Archbishop, followed by the presentation of the past president couples and present committee members to the Archbishop.

The last activity for the 40th anniversary was a meeting for all members of CFM Malta held in November. The topic was "The future of CFM in Malta." Pro-Vicar Msgr. Anton Gouder addressed the conference.

*Report submitted by  
Tony and Miriam Sammut  
President Couple, CFM Malta*

## UNITED NATIONS NGO COMMITTEE MEETING

Csaba and Gréta Horváth participated in the last meeting of the Vienna Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) Committee on the Family on December 5, 2011. The morning session included a very interesting presentation by Dominic Richardson, PhD, Policy Analyst for Child Well-being at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). His topic was “The Multiple Goals of Family Policy and How to do Better for Families.”

Probably even more interesting than the presentation was the debate that followed. Committee members discussed whether or not, and to what extent, financial support by the state (maternity and family subventions) have an effect on the well being of the family.

According to research figures such financial aid hardly has any impact on fertility and the willingness to accept children in the family. Lack of support for maternity has proven disastrous in Hungary. The birth rate has sharply dropped in the last year.

The NGO Committee on the Family involves organizations that are not based on Christian values. It is valuable that CFM is able to represent a Catholic Christian perspective in the discussions. Among others discussions there was a short but sharp debate about gender roles.

## LATIN AMERICA

The XXV Latin American General Assembly (AGLA) was held in the city of La Falda – Cordoba, Argentina, October 28 to 31. On this occasion, the presidents of the Christian Family Movements from 18 countries with their respective priest advisors and the president of the Secretariat for Latin America (SPLA), Marthica and Luis Carlos Pinilla, came together.

Using the theme, “For the Unity of CFM in Latin America,” the work of the families and the movement’s contribution to the Family Pastoral in each of the dioceses where CFM is present was analyzed in view of the changing challenges that the movement is confronting in building healthy families and making homes to be happier homes.

Some do not even like to hear about traditional male and female roles in the family. In spite of clear evidence that working women bear fewer children, and in countries where the ratio of highly-educated working women is larger, the birth rate has dropped sharply. It is widely believed that men and women should work equally, and both should take part in child care equally. It is a minority opinion that children could not have better care than that of their mother, and they gained a lot from the safety only their mother could offer them.

In the afternoon session the members made short presentations about their work. The Horvaths reported about FIRES programs regularly offered in Hungary to young people, engaged and married couples and individuals. The other committee members received these activities favorably. Some of them could report only about their annual conferences, which directly affected only a small number of people.

*Information provided by  
Csaba and Gréta Horváth*

## OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

Two South American couples are interested in organizing the CFM in Sweden and England. The Kimballs are providing them with support and Spanish language materials from Spain.



Marthica and Luis Carlos after the AGLA opening Mass with the celebrants.

Participating countries were: Mexico, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Panama, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay. For reasons beyond their control, our CFM family members from Costa Rica could not travel, but in Costa Rica they were very aware of the ongoing work of this Assembly.

The Assembly activities were initiated with a solemn Mass, presided by Monsignor Carlos Ñañez, Archbishop of Cordoba, who encouraged and gave the message to the representatives of the different countries attending the Assembly to work tirelessly for Latin American families that are in need of the help of CFM.

The opening of the assembly took place on the first day with all the guests, who rejoiced in the love of Christ while sharing their experiences. As the Assembly schedule unfolded, each country reported on the membership and the main activities carried out on behalf of Latin American families.

Fraternity and sharing experiences were the common denominator for the three days, in which there was an exchange of ideas, suggestions and sentiments on behalf of the unity of Latin American CFM.

Each delegation departed for their home country full of hope, motivation, commitment and enthusiasm to continue the basic cycle of education, strengthening the services they provide and implementing new pastoral actions that result in the rescue and salvation of families.

The biggest commitment promised was to prepare for the Zonal Meetings (EZOs) that will take place during the year 2012 in the countries of Paraguay, Peru and Guatemala.

*Report submitted  
by Marthia and Luis Carlos Pinilla,  
Latin American Continental Couple*



Scenes from Latin American General Assembly

## NORTH AMERICA

### Christian Family Movement Energizes Families throughout North America

The Christian Family Movement in North America continues to be comprised of CFM-USA, MFCC-USA and MFC-Los Angeles. The three movements support the ICCFM with annual contributions. Some Spanish-language CFM groups are also meeting in Canada, one in Hamilton, Ontario and one in Montreal, Quebec.

#### Christian Family Movement-USA

Current registered membership is about 700 families, and many other families meet and benefit from CFM methods and materials in parishes throughout the US. Many resources for family life and social action can be found at the website, [www.cfm.org](http://www.cfm.org)

The National CFM Board of Directors met at the Cabrini Retreat Center in Chicago, July 30-August 1, 2011, to work and plan new initiatives for inviting more families to join the Movement. The Board welcomed a visit by his Eminence Francis Cardinal George of Chicago. Cardinal George listened to ideas from the Board about strengthening marriages and family life and he blessed the Board members and encouraged them to continue spreading CFM in more parishes. As is the custom for the summer meeting, children of board members also attended and enjoyed a special program and activities planned just for them.

The CFM-USA board members committed themselves to executing energetic membership expansion strategies and communications with local CFM leaders. The Board began planning for a National Convention for Summer 2013 in South Bend at the University of Notre Dame that will gather new CFM families as well as CFM veterans for a reunion and leadership formation. All the families gathered for Mass and prayer, led by spiritual director, Fr. Tom Rzepiela, who is also pastor of St. Thomas of Villanova Parish in Palatine, Illinois.

A major task for the semi-annual board meetings is work on CFM resource materials. CFM-USA leadership writes an annual program book for members to use to Observe, Judge and Act. The 2011 Program was Saints: Friends of the Family, and helped couples learn and practice the virtues, and actions of a diverse collection of saintly role models. The 2012 program, Acting on Faith, examines the Acts of the Apostles and applies the spirit

and faith of the early Church to today's families in the home and in the marketplace. The 2013 program, which focuses on Christian stewardship in its many dimensions, is already well into the writing and production process.

National board members of CFM-USA volunteer for two-year terms and maintain contact with local leadership by phone, email and visits to support and promote CFM. Current board members are John and Mary Poprac, treasurers (California), Anna and Ken Kielesewski, meetings chairs, (Illinois), Brian and Mary Ann Thelen, membership chairs (Michigan), Bob and Ann Tomonto, presidents (Florida), John and Lauri Przbyysz, operations and program chairs (Maryland), David and Donna Richard-Langer, secretaries and ACT-editor (Iowa), Beth and Dan McKenna (Virginia), Mary Kay and Tom Halpin, vice-presidents and member services coordinator (Nebraska), John and Jule Ward (Indiana), and Fr. Thomas Rzepiela, chaplain (Illinois).



CFM national chaplain Fr. Tom Rzepiela, Cardinal Francis George, CFM national presidents Anne and Bob Tomonto pose at the summer meeting.

#### Movimiento Familiar Cristiano in North America

The MFCC USA has passed the 5,000 families mark in membership and continues to grow. Tony and Loly Layton of Edinburg, Texas, are the newly elected

presidents. Three presidents. Three years ago they changed their name from Christian Family Movement to Catholic Christian Family Movement.

Membership has grown from 4, 400 to 5,300 families. Their largest membership concentration is in the western, southwestern, and southern states. MFCC also has active groups in New York, New Jersey, and Washington, DC. A group is starting up in Mississippi, at the invitation of the diocesan family life minister. The Laytons have made a commitment to visit all the regional leaders throughout the country.

MFCC-USA recently held its National Convention in Houston, TX. Cardinal Daniel DiNardo celebrated Mass and addressed the assembly of 500 families. North American continental couple John and Lauri Przybysz, ICCFM presidents Gary and Kay Aitchison, and MFC-Los Angeles presidents, Geremias and Rosario Morales, and past presidents Erwin and Nora Lopez attended and addressed the gathering.

The MFCC-USA National movement is organized into Regional Work Teams, a National Executive Board, a National Board of Directors and a National Secretariat. MFCC is working with families in Sweden to start the movement there, invited by Carmelite sisters from that community. The MFCC-USA has been progressing in the use of audio-visual and electronic materials for training purposes.

MFCC-USA uses program materials written by their lead-



Back row, L-R: Juan and Teresa Rodriquez (past presidents MFCC, Fr. Rafael Davila (MFCC spiritual adviser), Gary and Kay Aitchison (presidents ICCFM), Geremias and Rosario Morales (Presidents MFC-Los Angeles); Middle row: Nora and Erwin Lopez (past presidents, MFC-Los Angeles); Tony and Loly Layton (presidents MFCC); Front—Lauri and John Przybysz (North American continental couple)

ership and formation for their members includes a marriage encounter experience. Gary and Kay Aitchison, ICCFM presidents, gave MFCC permission to translate the program they wrote for grandparents, The Grand Adventure, into Spanish. Parishes in the MFCC areas are asking for help in starting CFM in English using CFM materials. John and Lauri Przybysz received many requests during the convention. They referred all to the CFM office for starter kits and offered to serve as animators.

**MFC-Los Angeles** Another Spanish-language CFM movement in North America is MFC-Los Angeles. The

MFC LA consists of 490 families in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, California. They have added four parish groups and are calling a higher percentage of young couples and families to the movement. The presidents of the MFC-LA are Geremias and Rosario Morales.

MFC-Los Angeles has monthly meetings for the purpose of motivating Christian leadership. They provide marriage encounters for the membership, a basic Christian Family Movement course and special marriage talks every month. All programs are focused on the evangelization of families in the MFC.

The MFC LA has developed a website. They have worked to enhance their parish programs to incorporate Christian marriage and family values into family life. They have developed a project of work with children and young people. The MFC LA plans to focus more attention on working with families with unmarried and single mothers. They plan to open new parochial groups in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. The Morales invited John and Lauri Przybysz from CFM-USA to visit their federation in LA next year and make a presentation on family spirituality – in Spanish.

North American Secretariat. The North America ICCFM Secretariat consists of the current officers of the movement in North America (CFM USA, MFCC USA, MFC LA), the chaplains, the former executive directors of the CFM USA (Jane and Paul Leingang), former officers of the ICCFM from North America and the former presidents of the movements in North America, Wayne and Sue Hamilton, Florida, and Pete and Caroline Broeren, Pennsylvania. John and Lauri Przybysz are North American Continental Couple for ICCFM. Fr. Donald Conroy, Pennsylvania, is the North America ICCFM chaplain. Andy Pozdol, Illinois, continues to serve as the ICCFM webmaster.

*Report submitted by John and Lauri Przybysz  
North American continental couple*



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