



LINK

Bulletin of the International Confederation of Christian Family Movements

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LINK CALENDAR

CONTINENTAL MEETINGS

XIII Latin American Encounter

July 3-6, 2003
Santo Domingo de Heredia, COSTA RICA
Theme: "Let Us Make of the CFM the House and the School of Communion"

XXI Latin American General Assembly

July 8-9, 2003
San Juan de Santa Barbara, Alajuela, COSTA RICA

IV CFM European Congress

July 17-20, 2003
Zagreb, CROATIA
Theme: "The Family as a Successful Life-Long Community"

VI Asian Conference of the CFM

Sept. 19-21, 2003
Bangalore, INDIA
Theme: "The Christian Family: Challenges of the Present Times"

World Meeting of Families:

GOOD NEWS TO ENSURE THE FUTURE



His Eminence Cardinal Trujillo with Juan & Rosita Leon of Argentina, representing the ICCFM.

THE FOURTH WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES on January 22 – 24, 2003, in Manila, Philippines, affirmed that the Christian family is the main bearer of the Good News of Jesus Christ. Bearing the theme "The Christian Family: Good News for the Third Millennium," the World Meeting acknowledged the family as more than just the object of the Church's pastoral care. Rather, it is a gift of God and the Church's most effective agent of evangelization. For reasons of prudence, His Holiness Pope John Paul II could not grace this worldwide gathering he has personally convened every three years since 1994. To manifest his continuing regard and concern for the family, His Holiness sent as his personal Legate His Eminence Alfonso Cardinal Lopez Trujillo, President of the Pontifical Council for the Family. Past Presidents of MFC Argentina Juan and Rosita Leon and Executive Vice-Presidents of CFM Philippines Rolly and Josie Mesa represented the International Confederation of Christian Family Movements.

To foster awareness and interest in the event, the Philippines celebrated in 2002 a series of festivals highlighting family roles: the Festival of Fathers in March, the Festival of Mothers in May, the Festival of Youth in August and the Festival of Children in October. CFM members, led by Past National Presidents Loy and Trining Marquez, helped organize, actively supported and participated in the festivals.

The World Meeting consisted of two Congresses held simultaneously: the International Theological Pastoral Congress and the Sons and Daughters Congress.

The International Theological Congress speakers condemned the attacks on marriage and the family and argued

for the dignity of human life "amid threatening forces and situations." Former Philippine Undersecretary of Social Welfare and Development Rosa Linda Valenzona defended the intrinsic value of marriage and the family, not as mere social constructs but rather as parts of human nature itself. Dominican Father Fausto Gomez of the Pontifical University of Santo Tomas spoke of the relation between love and pro-life issues, "The family is a community of life and a community of love—of love for life!" His Eminence Paul Cardinal Shan Kuo-Hsi of Taiwan spoke of the family's role in combating the culture of death.

Philippine Bishop Teodoro Bacani emphasized the importance of renewal movements in the evangelization of the family. "The Lord raised up renewal movements in these times where families are under attack," he said. "Marital breakups are averted." Italian theologian Bruno Forte pointed out the central role of evangelization within the Church, not only of those who do not know Christ but also of those who live in once-Christian countries where the Gospel has been forgotten.

Another aspect of evangelization expounded by His Eminence Francis Cardinal Arinze of the Congregation for Divine
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CFM Phils. participate to the world meeting of families. Seated from left, Loy Marquez, Rolly Mesa, Baging Arguelles, Tony Kosca, Bert Singzon, Danny Santos. Standing, Roger Dayan, Trining Marquez, Josie Mesa, Lin Arguelles, Bie Singzon, Mely Santos, CFMer from Zamboanga, Inday Pronstroller & Nora Pantlasigui.

WHAT MAKES A HAPPY MARRIAGE? A CHALLENGE TO FAMILIES

We hear and read so much about marriage breakdowns, where unhappiness in daily life becomes very hard to bear. Unhappy marriages make news and often couples are driven to despair. The children are nearly always the innocent victims and the trauma of divorce becomes a life-long wound.

The media make money out of unhappy marriages. The emphasis is on what breaks the commitment of marriage: from sex, infidelity, money, conflict and many other evils.

Even in our teaching and pastoral approach we often stress more the negative, than the positive. What makes marriages click?

The pedagogy of Christ in the Gospel was positive and challenging. Though he cast the condemned the Pharisees, His whole emphasis was love and the Beatitudes

What is happiness?

The happiness, or joy, that Jesus promises is not the one of the world. Today happiness is often misunderstood and it is not the joy of Christ. He said to His apostles: "I leave you peace, but not the peace of the world."

We count as happiness what helps us to evade the reality of life. Happiness is fun, feasting, money, over-eating, having all the consumer goods, travel, a comfortable home and so forth. Often drink, drugs and sex are taken as a way how to be happy. Happiness becomes something we want to buy, so as to escape sacrifice, suffering and self-denial.

Many couples are frustrated, because though they have it "all", they are unhappy. They suffer from depression, stress and despair. They want to be masters of their life and have the power to end their life on earth. What a pity!

Happiness is a gift of the Spirit. Only as the poet Kahlil Gibran says: "Loving the fatigue of life, we can understand its most profound secrets."

Happiness is achieved through sacrifice. In our "San Raffaele University Hospital", in Milano (1,400 patients), I come across many young and elderly patients whose life is one of suffering. However, they find the strength to accept the joy of the Cross. I am edified and spiritually jealous of

their acceptance of God's will with joy. The Cross is our only hope!

This reminds me of the prophet Job, a just man who feared God and knew no evil. He "cursed the day he was born", yet through suffering he received from God the gift of joy. To be happy he had to shout: "I am tired of my life" (Job 1.1:3, 1-26).

He accepted God's will.

Happiness means being in a state of accepting, knowing and facing one's identity. It is an interior state of life, which the couple have to live individually and then in communion together. If one is happy and the other is sad, they will sustain, support and help each other.

St. Augustine said: "You have created us for you, Lord, our heart is restless if it does not rest in

Happiness means being in a state of accepting, knowing and facing one's identity.

You". Joy is resting in the arms of the Lord, loving Him with all our heart and loving our brethren (in case of marriage, one's spouse) as oneself. Only this can make a happy marriage, for if we are united in love to the Lord Jesus our heart will find comfort, serenity and joy.

If a couple does not have a full immersion in this spiritual, and we might add also psychological state, the marriage will not work. We now live in the "Me Generation" where what counts is the full liberty of the individual. We care less and less about the other, even about the unborn and the children. We live in a society which is free from values and we delve in individualism, egoism, power, self-interest, ambition and all that we think makes happy. What a delusion!



By Msgr. Charles G. Vella (Italy)
International Chaplain ICCFM

Marriage encounter

I always have found as the best recipe the golden rule of ME:

- *What unites us, comes from God*
- *What divides us, does not come from God.*

How true this is for every state of life: married, priesthood or religious?

No millions can buy joy and you cannot buy joy for your kids. Just if the parents are happy, the children will be happy. If not, they will live perhaps in a golden cage of unhappiness.

We have to strive everyday to achieve a state of joy, happiness, serenity and serendipity. Happiness consists in acceptance and appreciation of every moment our life, whether at home, at the workplace or during our pleasure time. We thank the Lord also for small blessing and

also when we have to embrace the Cross. "We see joy and suffering in the Face of Christ" (John Paul II). "If we want to see the Face of Christ", the Pope tells us, "we have to contemplate His Face."

We do so through prayer and the Eucharist, and if possible some time spent in front of the Tabernacle to listen to Jesus and to contemplate His Sacred Face.

Challenge for CFM

This is the present challenge for ICCFM and CFM, if we have as the Pope urges us "to cast our nets deeper" (Lc. 5, 4). The Pope invites us to "look beyond" (Duc in altum). This is what Jesus told Simon Peter and the fisherman.

I pray that all CFM'ers and chaplains will sow the seeds of spiritual joy and happiness in many families where there are tears of suffering, of separation, of divorce and at times of despair.

We are to announce to these families the Gospel of Joy and Life, for Jesus has promised us His unending love.

ICCFM and CFM should be the heralds of "Gaudium et Spes" (Joy and Hope).

This is the key to happiness in marriage!

WORLD MEETING... *cont'd from p.1*



Address by His Eminence Cardinal Sin

Worship and the Sacraments is the role of the family in dialogue with other religions. Catholic families can share their values, such as the defense of life, while maintaining their identity proclaiming their faith. On another level, His Eminence Crescenzo Cardinal Sepe of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples clarified the missionary role of the family. The foundation of the missionary dimension is in conjugal love as the fundamental choice of the Christian spouses, and the family is called to be a sign of the love of God in the history of humanity, thus becoming a light to the world.

Concurrently, the Congress of Sons and Daughters, convened for the first time at this Meeting, acclaimed its success in the decision that the youth will participate in all subsequent World Meetings of Families.

At the closing Mass, His Eminence Cardinal Lopez Trujillo called upon parents to evangelize their children and transmit to them "the light of faith." He stated that the world is in the midst of a battle between light and darkness, where there are multiple attacks against the family, including the imposition of ethical codes contrary to God's will and the approval of unjust laws that lead to ethical relativism. His Eminence called upon families to live their vocation of sanctity and to transmit to the world the light and peace of Christ.

In his Angelus message via live broadcast, His Holiness Pope John Paul II reminded listeners of his words in the apostolic exhortation *Familiaris Consortio*. He reiterates in great awe that "the future of society passes by way of the family."

The Manila meeting gave eloquent testimony to the Catholic Church's efforts in helping ensure the future of society through the vitality and stability of the family.

GOOD NEWS THAT BRINGS HOPE

The World Meeting of Families offers a vision for the future through the family in the Good News for Life, Society, the Poor, the Youth, the World and the Church. Confronted by threats of war, terrorism, famine, sickness and economic uncertainty, many people live in fear. While this fear is manifested within the family, it is also in the family that love abides, the "Good News" of love that overcomes fear and brings hope to the world. The Good News for Life is the call to

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ICCFM ON INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

by Past Presidents Jose and Margarita Pich

It is a fortunate coincidence that in 2003 and 2004 many international events focusing on the family are taking place and, of course, affecting the ICCFM. In May 2003 the United Nations Committee for the Family in Vienna will have a meeting to plan celebrations for the Tenth Anniversary of the International Year of the Family next year. In July 2003 two continental CFM meetings will be held: the MFC Encuentro Latina America in San Jose, Costa Rica, and the CFM European Congress in Zagreb, Croatia,



Past Presidents Jose and Margarita Pich

which will be the second European meeting held in an ex-communist country. The CFM Asia Continental Convention will follow in September in Bangalore, India. Then in 2004 the ICCFM World Assembly of Families will be convened in California, USA.

Many CFM groups all over the world are celebrating their Golden Jubilees. Upon reflection, a fact emerges that the past 50 years has seen an increased interest in the family as an institution with specific attributes and problems:

- 1) The discovery of marriage as a community of love with a social dimension

- 2) The crisis of the traditional family giving way to different family styles
- 3) The basic importance of family in social development
- 4) The greater importance governments give to the family through legislation and provisions for family welfare

What can the CFM do?

From the very beginning the CFM has derived its inspiration through groups working in unity and strengthened by

From the very beginning the CFM has derived its inspiration through groups working in unity and strengthened by Christ.

Christ. The sacrament of marriage is the conscience and fountain from which power is drawn to accept the responsibilities in

society. Therefore, in all these coming international family events, CFM members should be invited to share their extraordinary experiences of marriage and family life.

As the ICCFM exists in five continents, these experiences will undoubtedly be different because situations are different. Although Christian marriage is the same, families are affected by the environment in which they grow.

Participation in these coming international family events will give CFM members the opportunity to show their solidarity with all the families of the world.

FIRES SPECIAL:

A Pictorial of Father Gabriel Calvo's

Golden Jubilee



One of the momentous events at the 35th International Eucharistic Congress of May 1952 in Barcelona was the ordination of 322 priests held at the Grand Stadium of the city. Among the new priests was Fr. Gabriel Calvo, who soon after began his ministry as Spiritual Director of the students in the College of the Brothers of the Christian Doctrine. At the same time he directed a group of boys who did apostolic work in the neighboring barracks between the city and the sea.



Shortly afterwards Fr. Calvo was introduced to a Catalan couple, Jaime and Mercedes Ferrer, who were seeking a priest to direct their spiritual life in their marriage. It was a novel assignment at the time, and it was hard for any priest to believe himself capable of carrying out the new assignment. However, Fr. Calvo had received these instructions: "Whatever they ask you, always answer in the affirmative."

Thus was born the organization of "Marriage Teams" in Barcelona which, after a few years and despite many difficulties, reached out to many couples. Later these groups affiliated with the Movement for a Better World, and finally, under the name "Marriage Encounter," united with the Christian Family Movement that was spreading throughout the world.

After a few years, Fr. Calvo was assigned to Rome, and later

to Washington, where he has lived for 30 years. Washington is now the home of the FIRES programs which Fr. Calvo has established, comprising many action programs called “encounters” among engaged couples, married couples, sons and daughters and whole families. These programs that promote and enhance family life have now spread to 118 countries in Latin America, North America, Europe and Asia.

Old friends of Fr. Calvo have wanted to celebrate his Golden Jubilee, taking the opportunity of his visit to Barcelona on December 14, 2002. There was a great gathering of people—young and old, priests and laymen, all of Fr. Calvo’s many friends through the years. The celebration was held at the same College of the Brothers of the Christian Doctrine where he started his priestly ministry. It began with a Concelebrated Mass, followed by a talk in which Fr. Calvo described his present work, and finally a great feast that revived all the experience of half a century.





News Around the World

RESOLUTIONS IN ACTION

The four resolutions on education, social action, CFM formation and communication determined at the 2001 Maceio ICCFM World Assembly of Families serve as standards directing our CFM mission until 2004. In addition, ICCFM Chaplain Monsignor Charles Vella reminds us that prayer should be a priority, to renew the CFM through Christ and to "cast our nets deeper" in the spirituality of the family.

News from member countries attest to the commitment of CFM'ers to these standards as they implement the resolutions in different ways throughout the CFM world.

AFRICA

MALAWI



*From National Presidents
John and Mary Sichali*

We have fondly read the World Assembly Resolutions with great interest and our National CFM will endeavor to abide by the resolutions. We are now busy preparing for 2003 Holy Family Day.

From Felix and Clara Chindime

I am writing from Malawi, my husband and I are members of CFM at Chilinde Parish, Lilongwe. We joined the organization last year and we are vice treasure couple. The reason for writing is that CFM seems not to grow in Lilongwe diocese and we have taken several steps to remedy this...but they are small steps. Since you have been in CFM for 30 years are there any ideas you can give us.

UGANDA

*From National Presidents
Cornelius and Mary Margaret Masiga*

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude for your letter in which you announced the IX ICCFM World Assembly to be held in San Jose, California.

Passing on this information early enough is indeed of great help as it will

give us ample time to prepare for the Assembly in 2004.

You mention that you have the intention of re-establishing lines of communication with CFM'ers throughout Africa. We therefore wish to inform you that our daughter Nasirumbi Gorreti has allowed us to use her e-mail address at <gnasirumbi@yahoo.co.uk> which we hope to use from now on to make communication not only cheaper but also quicker. Since she has been doing most of our secretarial work concerning CFM, she understands it.

Allow us some more time for the report on the information that you ask us to provide. May the Lord Bless you in all your endeavours.

*(Written to Special Representatives
Wayne and Sue Hamilton)*

ASIA

INDIA

*From National Presidents
Francis and Carmel Colaso*

The National Board meeting on November 3, 2002, was hosted by the Mumbai region. As National President Couple we feel that some significant action is necessary to spread the message of CFM in places where it exists and also to new areas. However, the most important event for CFM India is the forthcoming Asian Conference in Bangalore. All the members present assured us that they would extend their wholehearted cooperation in ensuring that the Conference is a success.

The next National Board meeting will be held in Bangalore during the Asian Conference and the 2004 meeting will be in Goa.

*From National Editors,
Agnel and Anette D'Cruz*

CFM Goa is striving to improve quality of life and spiritual growth of members through concerted individual efforts and action-oriented programs like recollections and ongoing formation.

Bangalore CFM celebrated the Feast of the Holy Family on January 6, 2003, with a Holy Mass offered by National Chaplain Fr. Jose Fonseca, followed by breakfast and fellowship.

Mumbai CFM'ers from Orlem organized a study session on the CFM called "Know Your Movement," conducted by resource persons Fr. Lancy Pinto, Mumbai archdiocese chaplain of the Christian Workers Movement, and Anette D'Cruz. Topics included the story of Cardijn, the history of the Christian Family Movement and the "Observe, Judge, Act" methodology.

CFM members from Bangalore and Mumbai took time to look critically at the CFM mission statement and to examine what it implied for them. Some members feel that missionary zeal is lacking in CFM families and that topics selected for meetings are not relevant to problems faced today. Members suggested that study sessions on CFM methodology and on the social teachings of the Church be organized. Most importantly, prayer should always be an integral part of the CFM.

The Orlem CFM'ers and children gathered at the Grotto near the Church and recited the Rosary for peace in the world. We also took the Family Pledge of non-violence.

HONGKONG



*From National Presidents
Anthony and Alice Leung*

How are you doing? I am still teaching courses towards an Associate Degree in World Ecology at the Hong Kong Baptist

University. In addition, I am giving a Foundation Course on Global Issues.

Alice is very busy with the Natural Family Planning Project in mainland China and the religious conference in Hong Kong. Augustine is studying in primary three and wishing to be a member of school soccer team.

Wishing you all the best! Take care and keep in touch.

JAPAN

FIRES Encounters

Fr. Donnon Murray has been traveling extensively in Asia, Europe, Latin America and North America to direct FIRES programs for youth and adult groups, for laity and clergy. **Takashi and Hisako Otani** solicited prayers for the SADE for seminarians conducted by Fr. Donnon Murray on February 5 - 7, 2003, in Nagoya. This was the first SADE in the world to be held for only seminarians!

PHILIPPINES

*From National Presidents
Baging and Lin Arguelles*

The last months of 2002 were busy days for us. In September we held the National Directorate Meeting in Manila. Then we went to Baguio to attend the Luzon Area Assembly. Our hosts, the Baguio CFM'ers led by Des and Auring Bautista, experimented with a new format for the meeting which they called "Pilgrimage and Honeymoon in Baguio." It was an unforgettable experience visiting holy places. A few days later we were in Aklan to give a talk to parents of seminarians. With Msgr. Vic Rivas, Hernie and Aidy Abaya, Serge and Menchi Tan, we gave talks on "Self."

For November all our energies were directed towards the coming National Assembly of Diocesan Director Couples. After the Assembly we went to Cagayan de Oro to prepare for the Self-Encounter.

We had our "Night with the Clergy" in Bacolod on December 9, our way of showing our appreciation of our priests in the diocese. This event is one of the biggest and much-awaited in the social calendar of CFM Bacolod.

Danny and Mely Santos of the Diocese of Malolos were installed as the new National Auditor Couple. We welcome them to the roll of National Officers of the CFM.

From Joe and Charito Hilario

CFM cannot be relevant nationally or internationally if it is not relevant in parishes and dioceses. In fact, it must be relevant in basic ecclesial communities. In simple language, CFM must be felt by families in basic ecclesial communities, parishes and dioceses. This means the delivery of both family evangelization and family apostolate programs. CFM cannot just undertake these programs unless they are integrated in the pastoral program of parishes and dioceses. Are they?

Europe is experiencing the FIRES programs. Participating families will need continuing formation in the CFM unit meetings. The question is, how ready are the CFM'ers to deliver these programs? Have they themselves faithfully understood, undergone and assimilated them? A tired saying is, "You cannot deliver what you do not have," internally and externally.

From Ike and Nene Moreno



OATH TAKING OF CFM ARCHDIOCESAN

Greetings from Cebu! We have calendared every third Sunday as our meeting at the archdiocesan level. Two weeks after installation day, we scheduled the first meeting under our leadership. We were very happy to see old familiar faces we hadn't seen for quite a time—a very encouraging start! We hope the Holy Spirit will continue to inspire them to come faithfully to these meetings.

Ike and I are hopeful that we will be able to perk up the hearts of the old members and inspire new and younger couples to continue our CFM vision and mission so that we will have more workers for His vineyard and revive the Cebu CFM! With God's grace, I know we can make it!

Appreciation

Heartfelt thanks to National Executive Vice-Presidents Rolly and Josie Mesa who have tried to contact the archdiocesan Family Promotion Council in Kuala Lumpur to renew their CFM affiliation and invite them to the next Asian meeting. Rolly and Josie are also active and reliable

communicators who have provided the ICCFM with information and pictures on the 2003 World Meeting of Families in Manila.

SINGAPORE

Articles Posted on Website

Mark and Theresa Tan's insightful, incisive and critical articles on varied social issues that affect family life, published monthly by the CFSM of Singapore, have finally found their way to the ICCFM website, thanks to them and to ICCFM webmaster Andy Pozdol. Find the selections under "CFM articles" at www.iccfm.org for a stimulating and thought-provoking reading experience that naturally leads to action on CFM resolutions.

SRI LANKA

From National Presidents Susil and Shirani Gunaratna

We are doing lots of CFM work in Sri Lanka. There was a big campaign against abortion. The new government was getting ready to legalize abortion, but the CFM was successful in cancelling the move by our action. Now we are concentrating on divorce. There is a draft against divorce prepared by Susil which was unanimously approved by CFM National Executive Committee.

The Holy Angels Sisters celebrated their 100 Years Jubilee in 2003 and included CFM, OME and SADE in their Jubilee Program. They organised an OME weekend at Ganagama in September and more OME and SADE weekends in November and December.

Rev. Fr. Anthony Padidilian, OMI, celebrated the Golden Jubilee of his profession as an Oblate of Mary Immaculate this year. He is one of the priests fully involved with OME and SADE in Sri Lanka, and he conducted OME and SADE in celebration of his 50th Anniversary.

From CFM Sri Lanka Founders Percy and Agnes Silva

Although I am not completely well, I am engaged in CFM activities. You may be interested to hear that recently we printed a small booklet in our mother tongue Sinhala on the "Spirit, Method and Technique of the CFM." We also published details of sixteen meetings for Leadership Formation which has become very helpful in starting new CFM cells. We printed a small booklet on Dr. Billings'

method of natural family planning, also in Sinhala. We distribute this booklet by charging a small fee at pre-Cana conferences conducted every month.

THAILAND



HIS EXCELLENCY ARCHBISHOP ADRIANO BERNARDINI, APOSTOLIC NUNCIO TO THAILAND WELCOMING NOP & ELMA MUANGKROOT

From the Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Adriano Bernardini

Thank you for your kind letter with the enclosed documentation about the International Confederation of Christian Family Movements with which I am familiar.

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. I also look forward to meeting you at the Apostolic Nunciature when you would have the time to come.

With best wishes and cordial regards.

Asian Conference Planning Meeting



From left, FRANCIS COLASO, India Nat'l Pres., ELMA & NOP MUANGKROOT (right) ICCFM Presidents, FR. BUNSONG HONGTHONG, Thailand Nat'l Chaplain & DENNIS CHUA, Continental Pres.

To plan for the Asian CFM Conference in September, Continental President Dennis Chua and India National President Francis Colaso came to Bangkok on March 1 – 2, 2003, to meet with ICCFM Presidents Nop and Elma Muangkroot, Thailand National Chaplain Fr. Bunsong Hongthong and chaplains Fr. Charles Cotant and Fr. Vrasak Buranapol. The Conference theme on "The Christian Family: Challenge of the Present Times" will be developed in three aspects: the forces acting on the Christian family, the mission of the Christian family and the strategies that will help the Christian family actualize its mission.

EUROPE

CROATIA



European Congress Preparations

European Continental Presidents Tony and Lily Gauci have been visiting Zagreb the past two years to plan the IV European Congress with National Presidents Marijo and Darka Zivkovic and their team. They have successfully visited both government and religious dignitaries and gained wholehearted support for the Congress. Scheduled for July 17 – 21, 2003, the Congress will examine the theme, "The Family as a Successful Life-Long Community." Recognition of God's involvement in every true marriage will be discussed, as well as marriage as a sacrament and the development of a sincere, true, and simple communication with God.

CZECH REPUBLIC

From National Presidents Jiri and Ludmila Ludvik

Thank you for your kind wishes. We are fine and our family organization Ziva Rodina keeps working. We would like to wish you all the best and God's blessing for your important work for families.

HUNGARY

From National Presidents Balazs and Krisztina Menesi

After a long period of hard work, we presented five printed booklets for CFM group meetings. Each booklet contains full material for ten group meetings: starting



(below) CFM Hungary Spiritual Day Participants

(above) His Grace BISHOP BIRO of Hungary

and final prayer, recommended Bible passage and spiritual reading, a short text on the actual topic, questions for Observe,

points for Judge and recommended actions for Act. This provides material for a whole year for groups who want to grow in faith and love.

We have also published an Introduction Booklet which includes detailed information on CFM and the FIRES programs, some practical suggestions as well as the full material for three sample meetings. Any group can try out these three meetings, and if they wish, they can decide to join the CFM—as it often happens. An Introduction Booklet to FIRES programs and the Dialogues for Sons and Daughters have been also published, written by Father Calvo. We enclose a picture about these booklets published.

Just recently, three new groups have started in Western Hungarian cities. All three started from recent Original Marriage Encounters, at the end of which participants were informed that they are welcome to join CFM monthly meetings with other couples in their parish, using the printed CFM booklets as guidelines.

In February we had a wonderful spiritual day conducted by Bishop Biro. One hundred people participated, representing around 25 CFM groups all over the country. We enclose two pictures about this spiritual day. At the moment we have about 28 existing CFM groups.

We gave a 50 minutes interview about CFM and FIRES on the Hungarian Catholic Radio in March. We regularly organize FIRES programs for every member of the family: married couples, engaged couples, sons and daughters. This Spring we had a Sons and Daughters Encounter in February, an Engaged Encounter in April and an Original Marriage Encounter in May. Please pray for all the participants that the Lord may touch their hearts.

We have arranged with Fr Tibor for the OME in Ukraine on June 13 to 15. In July Fr. Donnon Murray is going to introduce two new FIRES programs in Hungary (Sons and Daughters Return and Marriage Re-Encounter). We are also preparing a Priest Encounter to be given by Bishop Biro in August. It gives deep joy to see how the Spirit gives growth to FIRES.

ITALY

*From ICCFM Chaplain
Msgr. Charles Vella*

I think prayer and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament should be a priority in the CFM. I endorse formation and social action, but please find time to discuss the

whole aspect of evangelization. I think we can sum up all the ideals of the ICCFM in the concept of evangelization, which starts from the family.

I fully endorse the establishment of formation schools, or better still, schools for the Evangelization of Families to Families. The experience of other movements teaches us that growth depends on formation. We need a School of Evangelization and we need to prepare a program for such experience.

On April 25 I will be Rimini, Italy, with 25000 people from the Renewal Movement. I will pray there for you and for all ICCFM. As for the Tenth Anniversary of the International Year in 2004, we should celebrate it with the Pontifical Council for the Family and the U.N.

I respond with joy to your e-mail and this was my intention for the ICCFM Mass on the first Sunday of the month. Your spiritual tips are very good and I am sure have been of inspiration to all. I strongly invoke Our Lady of Fatima whose message for peace requests for prayer and penance.

National Assembly

The CFM Italy National Assembly was held last November in Prato with over 100 persons attending. Keynote Speaker was ICCFM Chaplain Monsignor Charles Vella on the theme "Cast Your Nets Deeper." A very special guest was the Bishop Emeritus of Prato, Msgr. Pietro Fiordelli, the father of the pastoral family work through the MFC. It was he who introduced to the Vatican Council the concepts of the family as "domestic church" and of married couples as "consecrated" like priests by virtue of their Sacrament. Other special guests attending were Continental Presidents Tony and Lily Gauci and Malta Presidents John and Marthese Farrugia. National elections were also held and Mario and Maruiccia Di Raimondo were re-elected Presidents.

The Assembly invited all the families to become protagonists of change in a society threatened by material and spiritual poverty. It is the moment to resume with courage the defense of the culture of life and the values of peace. Finally, it appealed to all Christians of good faith to face the present issues, sharing pains and anxieties, hopes and joys, and thereby construct common routes founded on justice and peace.

*From National Presidents
Mario and Maruiccia Di Raimondo*

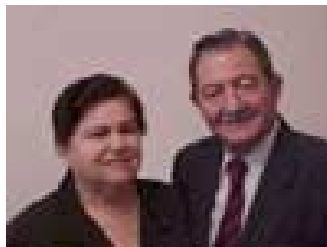
We have sent you our Bulletin and we kindly request you to print, photocopy and publish it for your groups and to make it known to other groups. Please send us addresses of persons who wish to receive the Bulletin.

We also request you to answer the preliminary questionnaire in preparation for the European Congress this July in Zagreb, Croatia. Raise your voice in public so that everyone can become acquainted with the general situation of today's family and undertake common strategies to defend it.

Please send us your experiences of family apostolate so that we can publish them in our bulletin. Do not hesitate to ask us for information or for documents. Visit our web site at <http://www.mfc-italia.it/> to get further information about us.

Expansion Work

Monsignor Charles Vella and Tony and Lily Gauci traveled to Sicily in early 2003 to promote the OME in Prato, Noto and other Sicilian towns. Their greatest aim is to train some local couples to conduct the



OME in Sicily in the future.

MALTA

*From European Presidents
Tony and Lily Gauci*

The CFM Family Day in Malta has really taken root. Couples and families with children filled the grounds of the Archbishop's Seminary with joy, noise and prayers. The day started with a Mass celebrated by National Chaplain Rev. Fr. Nicholas Debono Montebello and animated by family groups. This year we had members of the Civil Protection giving a demonstration of their valuable work. In addition there were games for the whole family, and it was interesting to see grown-ups competing with children. CFM members not only enjoyed the day but also felt a sense of belonging to the CFM while casual discussions also took place. The "Bring and Buy" stall served as a fundraising venue for the Movement.

We are pleased to announce that after our last appeal for funds, Slovakia has sent a

donation of 200 Euros. We wish to remind countries that the ICCFM asks each CFM couple contribute one dollar a year or each country to pledge an affordable sum to help with Confederation expenses. If your country has not yet contributed for the year 2002, you are kindly asked to send your donation. Though we have already sent a few letters asking for country contributions, we received funds only from Malta, Portugal and Slovakia.

Our term as Continental President is due to finish next July at the CFM Congress. We ask and encourage every country to nominate candidates for the position of CFM Continental Presidents for the next three years.

We attended the UN Vienna session at which plans for the Tenth Anniversary of the Year of the Family were discussed. It was decided that NGO's would ask for information about projects from all countries and organizations involved, which would be published in a book for use not just for the Tenth Anniversary but beyond.

Perhaps the ICCFM could work on a book like this. CFM in various countries could send information about their projects and experiences, to be shared with the world. This book with relevant ICCFM information could then be then presented to governments, to the Vatican and others as the case may be. It can also be sent to other family organizations or to newly-established CFM's in different countries.

We are hoping to represent ICCFM in Vienna for the seminar in May as well as to attend for the Full Committee meeting and the Board meeting.



*From National Presidents
John and Marthese Farrugia*

At the moment we are busy with the district meetings. We have five districts in Malta at the moment, and the three meetings we have already had were very well organized. Attendance was satisfactory, better than last year's. This week we have another two district meetings, one of



which we had to organize as we have not yet found a couple to replace us. We are starting with half-an-hour adoration at the new millennium chapel to promote more spirituality in our groups.

Looking forward to meet you sometime in the future.

*From Past Presidents
George and M'Louise Sammut*

We read from LINK that you have been very busy since you took over the duties of CFM international presidents. May God keep you in His care while you devote your time and energies to the work He chose you for. We also enjoyed reading the pages containing CFM news from all around the globe: it made us feel so much part of a large global family.

We send our very best regards to you both, wishing you many more months and years of service to CFM. Hope to meet you next July in Zagreb.

SLOVAKIA

*From Vladimir and Maria
Durikovic to Fr. Calvo*

With a great joy we announce that your books **HAND IN HAND** and **FAMILY ENERGY** were presented in Slovak Radio this Monday, February 3rd, 2003.

Allow us to announce, too, that the Slovak FIRES gathering is planned on June 28, 2003. We heartily invite you to this Encounter. Slovak families await

the Lord's Light and the Energy which they have felt through the FIRES programs through contact with you.

We are praying for your health and God's blessing in each work to which He calls you.

SPAIN

*From Past Presidents
Jose and Margarita Pich*

We are sorry that MFC Spain is not able to provide a candidate for the post of European Continental Presidents for the next election because Spain has a language barrier problem as well as other problems. The only solution we can think of is for some other couple from Malta to volunteer. When we visited Malta years ago, we met some couples who, from our point of view, are no doubt prepared to take the presidency. Let us pray.

Regarding the Zagreb inquiry, we are sending you the answers to the questionnaire prepared by Armando and

Josefina from Avila and by Max and Pruden from Cadiz.

We send our love and prayers for God's blessings.

LATIN AMERICA

ARGENTINA



*From National Presidents
Jorge and Lucy Calvo*

To build solid Christian families has been one of the dominant subjects in the Fourth World Meeting of Families. We get encouragement to continue working with enthusiasm for family evangelization and promotion. We should not lose sight of our objective for the triennium, to focus on the MFC missionary, to put the missionary spirit in all our groups.

His Holiness Pope John Paul II states, "The family is the cradle of evangelization." We are missionaries of life and love and of the Gospel. It is necessary to put power into our project, to be protagonists of a difficult present, looking forward to a hopeful future. The missionary challenge is born of the heart and commits us to live the Gospel values and to give testimony to them. Let us remember and behold Mary, who is always present in our mission, a service based on love which finds more joy in giving than in receiving. Strongly united in prayer with Mary, let us follow her who says, "Do everything He tells you."

We aspire to be companions on the road in this triennium, to be at your side at every time and place, as circumstances permit. We will try to be attentive to the needs of the MFC, to offer fraternal support and together create a strong and committed MFC throughout the country.

*(Adapted from the MFC
Argentina Newsletter)*

From Past Presidents Juan and Rosita Leon

We were very well accommodated in Manila for the Fourth World Meeting of Families, thanks to the Holy See which subsidized all our expenses. We have a picture with His Eminence Alfonso Cardinal Lopez Trujillo which we will send to you very soon. Unfortunately we will not be able to participate in the

ELA or the AGLA in Costa Rica. Please greet everyone for us as we had always attended these Encounters. We send a warm embrace in the name of the Holy Family of Nazareth.

BRAZIL

Golden Wedding Anniversaries



Congratulations and best wishes to longtime MFC Latin American Leaders and Past CIMFC Vice-Presidents Helio and Selma Amorim, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on December 14, 2002, with a Holy Mass in the Church of Our Lady and a reception at their elegant home with the spacious terrace and gardens in Rio de Janeiro. (PICTURE)

The invitation to the Golden Wedding Anniversary of CIMFC Vice-Presidents Carlos and Magda Hita begins, "Those who love initiate a dialog that never seems sufficiently long." The momentous event took place on April 13, 2003, with the reception at Wildberger Mansion in Salvador Bahia.

*From Northeast Regional Leaders
Tales and Theresa Silva*

The National Directive Board of MFC Brazil had a meeting on March 14-15, 2003, in Sao Paulo, attended by National Officers led by President Maria Sebastiana Soares Leao and National Chaplain Father Jose Coelho and the leading couples of the five MFC Brazil regions. Included in the agenda were action reports, the financial statement, MFC services and publications, activities to support the new federal government

campaigns for "Zero Hunger" and "Zero Illiteracy," and planning for the XV National Assembly, to be held in Bagé, State of Rio Grande do Sul, in July 2004.

The meeting of the Regional Directive Board for Northeast Brazil took place on March 21-22, 2003, in Maceió, attended by regional Leaders Thales and Theresa Silva, the coordinators of the four states with MFC groups and local couples. Items discussed were MFC challenges, expansion and preparation for the VI Northeastern Regional Assembly, to be held in Fortaleza, Ceará, in July 2003.

COLOMBIA

*From National Presidents Marthica and
Luis Carlos Pinilla*

Receive a special greeting in the Holy Family of Nazareth! Thank you very much for the breath of your voices, for the knowledge that from such a distant land you also make the effort TO MAKE OF FAMILIES HAPPIER FAMILIES with your pastoral work. Regarding your request to pray for peace in the world, especially for the families in Iraq, and for the Lord to stop with His Hand the SARS epidemic, we will do it.

In Colombia we have an institution for the formation of Coordinators of Base Teams that have for a good while been forming couples who wish to make a more active apostolate, and they are already beginning to work with women as heads of the home, widows and with the separated. With respect to the youth, we have an active movement and will already convene the V National Encounter of the Youth next June in the beautiful Colombian coastal city of Guajira.

GUATEMALA

*From National Presidents
Edmer and Edilma Luna Villatoro*

It is an enormous joy for Guatemala to receive news from our world Presidents. At this time we wish that our Lord Jesus Christ will enlighten you and give you the sanctifying graces to accomplish success in your work at the front of the CIMFC.

The only news we have for the moment is that the MFC of Guatemala will have a grand participation in the II American Missionary Congress (CAM2), to be held next November in Guatemala, at which we hope that 4000 missionaries from the American continent

will participate. Since two years ago we have supported the said project which will bring many spiritual benefits to our families. Greetings from Guatemala!

MEXICO

From Ignacio and Purificacion Villegas

We were designated spokespersons for the National MFC for a short period. At the moment we no longer hold that function. Ignacio is now working in Mexico City while I remain in Oaxaca. The separation has been hard but it has made our spirit stronger as a family. Our apostolate during the past four years has been as assistants to a priest who runs a Sunday radio program. We share the Word with the audience which covers most of Oaxaca State. It is a very stimulating and enriching spiritual exercise.

Thank you for your words. We seek holiness in whatever space we happen to be. We send you our best and hope that one day we will meet.

NICARAGUA

From Eduardo of the Marriage Encounter Movement

May the Grace and Love of the Father spill with power and glory in so noble a work. I am from Nicaragua and I belong to the Marriage Encounter Movement. I would like to share with you all about Christian growth. Greetings and I await your answer. <Eduardoriv@latinmail.com>

From Continental Presidents William and Esilda Cheng

Hello Eduardo! It gives us A GREAT DEAL of joy that you have written.

We were in Costa Rica in January and discussed with Zone 1 MFC Coordinators Alvaro and Margarita Rivera the possibility of contacting Nicaragua to resume the MFC. This July the XIII Latin American Encounter (ELA) will be held in Costa Rica, attended by 18 countries. May Nicaragua be animated by this Encounter and participate in it!

We would like to know a little more about your Movement. How are you organized? We have always believed that the Marriage Encounter is a service of the MFC, not an independent movement. How is follow up given to the couples? Are there teams for basic formation?

We are grateful for your message and we hope to continue our communication. A brotherly hug in Christ and may He bless us!

PANAMA



From Continental Presidents William and Esilda Cheng

The planning meeting in Chiriqui accomplished its objectives. In it we presented the Tentative Plan for the development of the ELA and AGLA. There was a great deal of enthusiasm in the work of both countries and we agreed to be in constant communication. We will send the photo requested.

The response of the countries to the preparatory materials for the ELA have been very good and punctual. Our team continues working and preparing for the next events. It will give us great pleasure to have you at the ELA and the AGLA, which you are most welcome to observe.

SPLA Vice-Presidents and Formation Secretaries Quico and Chela Alvarenga spent a month in the South where they visited Chile, Paraguay, Bolivia and Argentina. We have received messages from these countries expressing their happiness with these pastoral visits.

God willing, the Alvarengas and we will travel to Costa Rica to meet the coordinators of the working groups and to carry out the formation workshops.

We are preparing our next Bulletin for the first week of May. Would you like to send a little message?

PARAGUAY

Letter from Carlos Bordon

My name is Carlos Bordon of MFC Paraguay. I have in my hands an issue of LAZO and feels sad that there is no mention about the MFC in my country. I am part of the Archdiocesan Formation Department and would like to know if there is a possibility that our activities be featured in LINK. Right now we are preparing our website and hope that with the Lord's help it will be completed very soon. Waiting for some favorable answer and God bless you.

PERU

Many thanks to National Presidents Oscar and Carlota Silva for communicating with the ICCFM! MFC Peru is vibrant and working hard in its service for families.

NORTH AMERICA

CFM USA

CFM Represented at Conference of Family Life Ministers

CFM Executive Directors Paul and Jane Leingang, Secretary Lauri Przybysz, and Continental Presidents Gary and Kay Aitchison attended the National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers conference in Kansas City in October.

Bishop Kevin Boland, chairman of the U.S. Bishops Committee on Marriage and Family Life encouraged the group in his remarks saying, "You are an instrument of the God of the possible." Dr. Eileen Raffaniello-Barbella spoke to the group about the "monastery of marriage" which preserves "the center of each of us and the center of our marriage." From that center she noted that families are sent to participate in the mission of the Church.

CFM exhibited its new program materials, especially *Your Marriage the Great Adventure*.

Fall Service Team Meeting

The CFM Service Team led by National Presidents Peter and Jane Buchbauer and National Chaplain Rev. Fr. Father Michael Conroy met in November at Redondo Beach, CA. Local leaders Dan and Noreen Thomas and Greg and Brenda Argano organized the weekend so that the national visitors had maximum exposure to the CFM community.

The team met with long-time CFM'ers and group leaders from St. Lawrence Martyr parish for dinner and a frank discussion of the CFM community there. Peter and Jane led the conversation about recruitment, structure and program topics. The service team gained valuable insights from the California group and had the chance to get an update on the reception

of this year's program and to work with the local team on upcoming projects. One ongoing project is the development of an enrichment program for leaders, which will be piloted in Chicago and refined for presentation in the summer following the board meeting in Winchester, VA.

First Hillenbrand Award Recipient

Monsignor Michael Lenihan, retiring pastor of St. Lawrence Martyr Parish in Redondo Beach, CA, received the first-ever Reynold Hillenbrand Award on November 16, 2002, presented by National Presidents Peter and Jane Buchbauer and National Chaplain Rev. Fr. Michael Conroy. The Hillenbrand Award, named after the first CFM National Chaplain Monsignor Reynold Hillenbrand of Chicago, who led in setting the CFM program agenda during its formative years, recognizes CFM chaplains for outstanding service to the Movement. In all of his 21 years at St. Lawrence, Monsignor Lenihan has been supremely supportive of CFM. At the award presentation Monsignor Lenihan acknowledged that he drew a great deal of support from the CFM group, which was important in developing an active base of involved parishioners over his years as pastor.

Winter CFM Board Meeting

The CFM Board of Directors held its winter Board meeting on February 28 – March 2, 2003, in Techny, IL. On the first evening they met with section leaders from Chicago, Wisconsin and Iowa for an "Evening of Reflection and Enrichment" at Our Lady of the Wayside Parish in Arlington Heights, IL. National Presidents Peter and Jane Buchbauer and Executive Directors Paul and Jane Leingang gave presentations on Cardinal Joseph Cardinal and the mission of CFM. The Buchbauers honored former Area 9 Representatives Jim and Mary Robertson of Wisconsin for their years of service to the Board before the final blessing service conducted by National Chaplain Father Donald Conroy. Assistant Wayside Parish leaders Mark and Michelle Iammarino hosted the event with the support of leaders Bill and Terry Mitchell. Jim and Winnie Stapleton organized



transportation and Tom Toussaint provided the music.

As a special feature on Saturday, Brian and Mary Ann Thelen and their daughters, Rachel and Mary Ann gave a presentation on a special project conducted by their Ann Arbor, MI, group. For the past nine summers they have organized a camp which brought suburban families and inner city families from New York City and Detroit together for a week of personal development and faith enrichment

Re-elected for another two-year term as Board members were Peter and Jane Buchbauer, Chuck and Jan Rogers, Terry and Jean Smith, Bob and Anne Tomonto, John and Lauri Przybysz, Paul and Jane Leingang, Father Donald Conroy, Gary and Kay Aitchison, Larry and Margie Murchan, and Dave Langer and Donna Richard-Langer. Newly-elected to the Board were Dan and Noreen Thomas.

28th Annual Marriage Retorno

Kevin and Kathie Stogsdill and Rev. Fr. Pat O'Brien shared news about the Marriage Retorno conference in Oakland, California, which was a joyous and Spirit-filled experience. They also introduced a new coordinator team: Joe and Mary Ward of Pennsylvania and Rev. Fr. Mel Hemann of Iowa.

*From Continental Presidents
Gary and Kay Aitchison*

The check for \$1382.00 for annual dues to the ICCFM has been received from CFM USA and forwarded to Peter Broeren. It is so good of CFM USA to follow through with the dues. We



*ICCFM and CIMFC Webmaster
ANDY POZDOL*

telephoned Peter and he will be in communication regarding the transfer of the dues.

The 2004 ICCFM World Assembly of Families is looking better. We should have news soon and we will keep you posted. It is difficult to have a location, lose it and then have to find another.

Would you like to send a thank-you email to CFM USA regarding the receipt of the dues as soon as Peter informs you of his receipt of the check?

*From ICCFM and CIMFC
Webmaster Andy Pozdol*

Do we have any more information on other continents? We have nothing from Africa. Please send news to webmaster@iccfm.org

From Tom and Trudy Ryan

It was great for Father Calvo and us to hear from you again. We trust the Lord is blessing you in your challenging and godly leadership role in the ICCFM.

Thank you for the invitation for Father Calvo to come to Bangalore for the Asian Conference in September. Unfortunately, he will not be able to attend. Because of his health he needs us to travel with him, and we also have a commitment the week of September 21. We are sorry to miss out on this very special opportunity.

We trust this will be a very godly and fulfilling event. Our prayers and Father Calvo's are with you.

MFC USA

*Letter from Wilfredo and
Martha Melendez*

My wife Martha and I are the Zone 7 delegates of MFC USA for New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. We are from El Salvador in Central America, where we had our Encuentro Conyugal in 1981, then 4 years later emigrated to the USA. We now live in Long Island and, with the help of Father Juan Amengual, started the MFC in 1992 at the Rockville Center Diocese. Today we have four federations: Nassau County, Suffolk County, Brooklyn and Queens. With

our Spiritual Guide Father Orlando Corrales we are working to expand the MFC into the Bronx and to Bridgeport, CT. We have two Encuentros Conyugales, one on February 14 -16 in Connecticut and another on May 2 -4 in Brooklyn.

Sixteen new couples found love in each other and faith in Jesus in the Encuentro Conyugal of February. Father Orlando is working with contacts and planning an Encuentro Conyugal in Vega Alta, Puerto Rico, on the first weekend of October.

We are traveling in the middle of April to Houston for a meeting with our National presidents and all regional presidents to plan and set all work for the MFC/USA.

*From MFC Chaplain
Father Orlando Corrales*

I am now the spiritual director of the Christian Family Movement in the three states: New York, Connecticut and New Jersey. My community Yarumal Missionaries was founded in 1927 in Colombia and our primary work is evangelization. We have missions in Asia, Africa and South America.

I met Wilfredo and Martha Melendez in 1998, and they began to speak to me about this Movement. Their love and testimony of family life have touched my heart and for that reason I am trying to help in this great work of God.

We are carrying out excellent work with some couples involved in this noble family mission. I believe that the family has an important role both in society and in the Catholic Church. The crisis of values, the culture of the money and materialism are factors are affecting our families. Because we have a shortage of priests, we cannot reach out to the whole community; thus we need to prepare our couples for mature leadership. This lay leadership is the authentic domestic Church where there is fraternity and spiritual support.

To me it is a great news to hear about you as there are a few Catholics in your country. Were you born in Thailand? I would like to know if you are working with families over there. I

feel profound happiness in knowing that the MFC is greatly represented in your charismatic love.

Please pray for our Encounter for 14 couples in May.

OCEANIA

NEW ZEALAND

*From Emmanuel and Rachel
Calvelo to Nonoy and Minda Arriola*

It's great to know Kiwi CFM'ers from the North Island! We sure hope we can do music together, barring the distance!

We have been in Wellington for over two years now. In August our family had a chance to visit back home and had a "crash course" on the "Family Communication Workshop" with Rolly and Josie Mesa and the "Parenting Workshop" with Jo and Ver Victoriano, our co-CFM'ers in Pasig Greenpark, with the intention of sharing the same experience with our friends in Wellington.

Having been long-time CFM'ers, it is our quest to inject CFM "values" within the group and possibly evolve into a CFM-NZ or a CFM satellite sort of group. We have members who were Couples for Christ, Familia, Prex, and Charismatic Renewal groups back home—some single, some married. On December 8, we will have our "Family Fun Camp Out" and we will include the Family Communication Workshop, CFM style—a prelude to a more comprehensive Communication Workshop and Parenting Seminar we plan sometime in February next year.

We are very sure that with your vast experience with a number of CFM programs, our CFM journey with our adopted homeland would bear much fruit!

Galileo G. Arriola (Nonoy and Minda)
g.g.arriola@lycos.com

Emmanuel & Rachel Calvelo
calvelo100@xtra.co.nz

REQUEST

Please contact Fr. Pipe who is very much interested in the CFM.

Father Richard Pipe
Richard.Pipe@clear.net.nz
St Thomas More Parish
17 Gloucester Road
Mt. Maunaganui, New Zealand

www.iccfm.org

Visit the ICCFM website!

IN MEMORIAM



ISABELLE LEROUX Isabelle and her husband Rollie were Presidents of the ICCFM from 1977 to 1983. They organized the 1980 World Assembly of Families in Rome. In 1989 the Leroux were appointed by Wayne and Sue Hamilton to serve as liaisons to United Nations in New York. They were recognized for their contributions to the ICCFM with the Cardijn Award for service to ICCFM at the ICCFM General Assembly in Malta in 1995.

JOHNNY HAGAD Johnny and his late wife Titay were Philippine CFM National Presidents in 1982 – 83. They were instrumental in CFM expansion outside Manila.

GERALD PRETE Jerry and his wife Anne were among the first CFM members in Chicago since the 1940's. Jerry was active in developing CFM leadership training and motivation until the 1970's and developed a mission of providing affordable housing for indigent seniors.

JOHN NAKAMURA John and his wife Theresa brought the Marriage Encounter to Japan and participated in several ICCFM World Assemblies in the 1970's – 1980's.

WORLD MEETING... *cont'd from p.3*

legislators to respond positively to the Note of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith on their responsibilities as Christians and citizens. Anti-life practices such as abortion, embryo experimentation, cloning, and euthanasia cannot be tolerated in any free pro-family society, as the family is the sanctuary of life.

The Good News for Society is the vision of a pro-family society that challenges families to take the initiative to struggle for social policies and legislation that promote and protect the rights of the family, a just distribution of resources and support for the most vulnerable and helpless.

The Good News for the Poor is

the affirmation of solidarity with poor families. The Meeting firmly rejects the practice of population control and calls on demographers and economists to tell the truth about population trends, on governments to turn away from population control and focus on concrete policies that favor poor families in terms of health, education, agrarian reform, employment, and housing. Natural regulation of fertility which helps couples space births in a moral and healthy way is proposed.

The Good News for the Youth is the affirmation of the right and dignity of all children. They should never be neglected and abandoned on the streets. They should be protected, especially when

threatened by exploitation through prostitution, pornography, child labor, drug trafficking, homosexual adoption, immoral "sex education" and internet misuse.

The Good News for the World is the Christian Family reaching out to all peoples and bearing the good news of Jesus Christ. The Christian Family expresses solidarity with persecuted Christian families and with families who become innocent victims of conflict in regions threatened by war. As the future of humanity passes through the family, a call is made for creative strategies for evangelization, especially with rapid cultural changes undermining respect for the culture of indigenous peoples whose family values often prepare

the way for the word of God.

The Good News for the Church is that the family emerges not merely as a passive subject of evangelization and care but as an active agent in the mission of Christ in His Church. As the smallest Christian community, the family is the living cell of the whole Church, offering a vision for evangelization and spiritual growth within it. A call is made for pastoral planning to make the family a priority, to shape the pastoral plan of each diocese and parish around the family.

Through prayers, learning and sharing comes a deepening of understanding and appreciation of how the Christian family fulfills its role as a "domestic church," the basic unit of evangelization. By living in unity and love, the Christian family reflects God, as it was in a family that the Son took flesh through the power of the Holy Spirit. Contemplating this mystery, all are enjoined to entrust families to the gentle protection of Mary, Queen of the Family, and Saint Joseph her spouse. Finally, the Christian family is sent to spread the Good News of love that overcomes fear and brings hope to the world.

(Sources: Report by Loy and Trining Marquez, CFM Philippines Representative to the World Meeting of Families, and ZENIT News Agency, "Families as the Building Blocks of Society: Manila Meeting Highlights," Manila, Philippines, February 1, 2003)

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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.