



International Confederation of Christian Family Movements



MFC-CFM TOWARDS SPIRITUALITY DEVELOPMENT by Joe and Charito Hilario Philippines

ICCFM Past Presidents Jose & Margarita Pich informed us of the good news about CFM-MFC which we quote as follows:

"In the CFM/MFC there is some good news to comment, that there is a return to Spirituality. The new SPLA Presidents, William and Esilda Cheng, have emphasized this direction and also only recently the Chaplain for CFM USA, Fr. Don Conroy has also signaled it as a priority in the style of Msgr. Hildebrand, founder of USA CFM together with Pat & Patty Crowley."

To us, this is music to our ears. However, this calls for a review of how CFM implements this thrust, particularly, in Unit Meetings where CFMers are supposed to receive their spiritual formation. From the above statement of Jose & Margarita, it seems the original intention of the founders was really the development of Spirituality. After all these years, we may have strayed. We have to find out how we have been faithful to this original design.

From our own experience during our early years in the Movement (1967), the thrust then was already social action, hence, we called our meeting guidebooks "Inquiry Program." We later found out that social action should evolve from one's formation or Spirituality -- balance of loving God and loving one's neighbor. Otherwise, we all get burned-out for lack of Spirituality.

In our review, we should look into the study of how Jesus thinks, feel and acts in life situations of today. In other words, we model ourselves from Jesus, how He grew from man to a perfect man, that we may grow in the CFM formation from man to more of a man, the real person. (Be perfect as the Father is perfect.)

This calls for studying how the Twelve Apostles followed Jesus as their model of a disciple or how Jesus taught them to follow Him in His development. Essentially, the Unit Meeting is a venue where this study is to be made and to go home to become witnesses of the learnings in the Unit Meetings. When the CFMers are at home, we should be conscious of these learnings and support each other to achieve this in between meetings at home and during the meetings through dialogue (between spouses, or "buddies" for singles).

Through this approach that the MFC-CFM is pursuing, the vision/mission of MFC-CFM will be that of the Church. MFC-CFM becomes integrated with the Church. In our parish and in our District (Diocese), we are also slowly pursuing this direction.

Hope we can have an exchange of plans and programs with MFC-CFM in pursuing the development of Spirituality in CFM.