

# ACT Newsletter

## September 2017

“Be doers of the word and not hearers only.” James 1:22

### Praying for Texas!

Investigate how to donate to those who are helping flood victims and take action. [Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston](#) will help all without regard to their race, creed, or immigration status. Our sister movement, [MFCC-USA](#), has hundreds of families in the area.

### Grow CFM: Each One, Reach One!



*Personal Invitation is best, but you should also post a Bulletin Announcement like this one:*

“Friendship and Support for Busy Families: Families, fun, and faith in action -- that is what the Christian Family Movement is all about. Through prayer, discussion, and action families grow in their faith and provide support and friendship to one another. Families learn to live their faith in their everyday lives, at home, in our communities and in the market place. If you want to learn more about this new group here at St. \_\_\_\_\_, attend the upcoming information night on (date), at (location).”

Look here for more helpful bulletin [announcements and much more](#) information for Starting/Renewing/Continuing CFM.

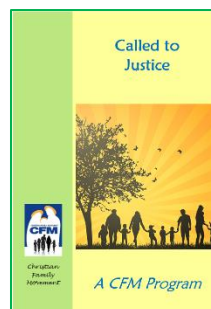
### Getting CFM Up and Running:

Any CFM group can follow this plan from St. John’s CFM in Tucson:

Spread the word about CFM by word of mouth and in the bulletin (See above). Sign up all interested families after Mass or by phone and email. Collect donations and have people fill out the [membership form](#) or have a tablet available for them to [register online](#). Then, create group lists, using criteria of your choice: same-age children, diverse-age adults, various meeting nights, or any mixture you judge will be beneficial. People can readjust, as needed.

Next, hold an Introductory Meet and Greet for everyone at the parish hall to go over, as a whole group, the group agreement, the format for meetings and social events, and brief history of CFM.

Then, have them break up into their "premade" action groups for a "get-to-know-you icebreaker" and to plan out the dates of the meetings. Discuss and decide which months each group would like to volunteer to coordinate the social/ service events. Brainstorm possible ideas for action during the year.



### Called to Justice: A CFM Program for Everyday Christianity

Concerned about conflicts in today’s society and looking for how your group can fruitfully discuss and plan relevant action? This 6-meeting program guides small groups to

observe life at work, at home, and in the public square, then decide how to follow Jesus in practical action as citizens of today’s society, guided by the US Catholic Bishops’ Pastoral Reflection, *Everyday*

*Christianity: To Hunger and Thirst for Justice.* Your group could sponsor an evening of reflection using one of these chapters: Family and Work Pressures; Fairness in the Workplace; Consumerism and Materialism; Family as Church in the World; Politics and the Christian Family; A Call to Stewardship.

**If you host a parish discussion program**, please ask participants to [make a donation to CFM](#) online or you can collect and send to the CFM office. To request a copy, email [director@cfm.org](mailto:director@cfm.org)

### Discussing Politics During a CFM

**Meeting?** – Now is a good time to [review the guidance](#) found on the Leader’s Materials page of our website.

### Keep Your Pastor Informed

Here is [a sample letter for him](#). It would be great if he can spread the word and offer helpful guidance. He may even be able to join your group! See video testimonies from CFM chaplains, [here](#).

### Priest Chaplains Strengthen CFM –

Brigid and Jason Smith, of Our Lady of the Angels in Woodbridge, VA, invited their new associate pastor, Father Thomas Cavanaugh, to a planning meeting this summer. He had never heard of CFM before, but after meeting the couples, Fr. Thomas offered to be their chaplain and help grow the mission. He will attend their kick off and each meeting this year! “One of his ideas was to split us into smaller groups since they are getting so big with many little kids, and have each group meet on a different Sunday so that we could have multiple Sundays available for new members to try it out each month.”

### SERVICE IDEA: Outreach to Parents during Baptism Preparation

The birth and baptism of a child is often a point in young married couples’ lives when they are seeking a reconnection with or a greater participation in the Church. [CFM has a ready-to-go meeting](#) for your local CFM group to use with these parents. More ideas: Hold a reception for them at the end of the course; sew White Garments; send cards to congratulate immediately or one month later.

**\*\* Read [CFM’s Blog for Gospel insight](#)\*\***

**For Young Parents – Grandparents and Godparents, too!** *Feeding Your Family’s Soul* (Paraclete Press) Book and DVD have excellent catechesis for the adults in a child’s life, with practical ideas to teach the child on all the topics. Great stories and wisdom of the saints used throughout. Click here for [25% Discount to CFM members](#).

**CFM is Thankful** – Ray Ensroth, Detroit-area CFM leader and past National Secretary (1997-2000), died last month. He and Eleanor mentored many CFMers over the years. Well done, good and faithful servant!



### Partnering to Help Veterans



Greg Herr reports that their local Habitat for Humanity organized the Catholic Coalition, the first effort of its kind in Orange County. Eleven parishes and organizations, including local Knights of Columbus councils

and young adult groups, are in the Coalition along with CFM. Catholic Coalition is planning and constructing two homes in the City of Tustin for Veterans and their families who are in need of housing. An anonymous donor gave to this effort in the name of our joint St Joseph (Placentia)/Blessed John Henry Newman (Irvine, CA) CFM group.

### CFM in ACTION across the USA

SEWICKLEY, PA - Sean and Darlene Weaver, leaders at St. James ordered copies of *Loving the Family God Gives Us* ahead of time for their renewing group so that members could prepare for their first meeting later this month.

TUCSON, ARIZONA - Darla and Steve Martinez at St. John the Evangelist Parish reports that they started with a group of about 6 families. They introduced CFM to the parish and lead one group. They are working on establishing two other groups, plus a grandparents’ group. They had two social events last year. Most of the leaders are teachers and former principal at our school. Their parish priest, Monsignor Treviso, is very supportive would like to have a retreat for them in October.