

Dear friends: In response to your request, we will describe the major activities carried out by the Christian Family Movement (CFM) in Spain as follows:

The major activity of the CFM in Spain is centered on the various group and team meetings (A group is composed of non-CFM members and a team is made up of CFM members.). The group and team meetings are carefully organized and every effort is made to have a long and profound moment of prayer on the part of each individual, married couple and team. We always underline the importance of having the married couple prepare the meetings at home and write their answers in a notebook which will be read at each meeting. There is a priest who regularly attends each group/team meeting and prepares his own answers. Each individual team member as well as the team as a whole is expected to assume a commitment as the result of the meetings.

The CFM membership process followed by each group from its first meeting is the following:

1.- Start with the book "Marriage and Family" and perhaps with some of the last chapters from the book "Evangelizing from the Family" where fundamental CFM principles are found. The objective is to complete this process in about two years with the group members becoming CFM members.

2.- The second book to be studied in each group is "Building our Faith in Jesus" in which each married couple and family is committed to the person of Jesus. This book enables us to reflect on our marriage goals in accordance with the doctrine and life of Jesus.

3.- "Following Jesus in the Church" is the third stage in this process. Each married couple is encouraged to develop an awareness of their membership in the Church founded by Jesus where His doctrine has been deposited throughout the ages. We have to consider ourselves fully integrated members of the Church by following His teachings and defending it whenever and wherever necessary.

All these books have been published by the Spanish religious publishing house Sal Terrae and the books used in the second and third stages of the membership process are currently being revised and we hope to have new editions ready by next autumn.

One of our major concerns is to ensure that the Spanish CFM members are well versed in Catholic teaching and we have published books on current issues every year which have been warmly received by both Spanish CFM and non-CFM members alike. Parish study groups composed of married couples, as well as other movements and associations of the Catholic Church, have shown a great interest in these publications and have used them in their meetings.

The CFM is currently present in 29 Spanish dioceses, most of which are celebrating their 40th anniversary since the CFM was established there. Most of the members are older married couples but some diocese have young married couples and most of them are very enthusiastic about the CFM and are eager to work for its goals because they are convinced that it will improve their family life.

Spanish CFM members participate in diocesan activities in many ways, especially those related to family issues. For example, CFM members cooperate with the diocesan family services, pre-marriage courses, family counselling and parish catechism. Many CFM members work actively in pro-life and human dignity associations, especially in favor of the needy.

There are currently twenty groups preparing for CFM membership in all the dioceses. Most of the married couples in these groups have participated in a Marriage Encounter.

We are actively supported by our bishops who value our status as a public association of the Catholic Church. The Spanish National President Team strives to respond to the trust placed in us by following Church doctrine at all times and under all circumstances. In this regard we have written to His Holiness Benedict XVI to inform him of our support in the face of the attacks he has endured from certain news media in relation to some priests' behaviour.

The Spanish National CFM Executive Commission has set the following objectives which will be submitted to the Spanish CFM general assembly in September:

- Promote spirituality and the awareness of CFM membership
- Respond to the most pressing issues facing the family and the Church
- Foster personal development for CFM members by revising CFM publications, studying books on current issues, organizing marriage encounters, holding renewal courses on Catholic doctrine. Parish family celebrations, talks on family issues, discussion groups, etc., can be held outside the CFM.
- Promoting the CFM in other Spanish dioceses.

We have also selected the following actions as priority ones:

- Cooperate with the organizers of World Youth Day scheduled for Madrid in 2011.
- Organize a family pilgrimage to a sanctuary dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary in Spain.

We wish to send you our warmest greetings and our prayers for a successful world assembly in Goa and we regret not being able to attend it. However, we are sure that our friends and fellow CFM members, Robert and Mary Carmen Kimball, will do an excellent job of representing us there.

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Spanish National CFM Presidents

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