



MINUTES OF THE XIV GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF CHRISTIAN FAMILY MOVEMENTS

JULY 28-29, 2007
FATIMA, PORTUGAL



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Minutes of the XIV General Assembly of the International Confederation of Christian Family Movements

July 28-29, 2007, Fatima, Portugal



1. OPENING OF THE XIV ICCFM GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1.1 Opening Prayer

Monsignor Charles Vella, ICCFM Chaplain, led the Opening Prayer.

1.2 Reports and Brief Remarks by ICCFM Officers

1.2.1 Presidents Nop and Elma Muangkroot



Nop and Elma Muangkroot put emphasis on the value of meeting ICCFM members personally and the importance of maintaining constant communication. With God's grace, these interactions have helped them to lead a more dedicated, renewed and united ICCFM in its family life mission. In regard to meeting members personally, they made more than twenty country visitations and Conference participations during 2004-2007. For communication, the ICCFM

Website, the LINK/LAZO Annual Review and the E-mail circulate ICCFM information and help sustain correspondence, along with related links to websites of other CFM countries. ICCFM's relationship with other organizations is made through the participation of ICCFM's representatives or through reciprocal invitations to meetings or conventions. The vitality of ICCFM member countries in Latin America, Hispanic North America and East Europe have been reasonably sustained, but the same is not true in other parts of the world. After the 2004 ICCFM World Assembly in California, a hopeful revival has been seen, judging from the increased participation in the Continental Conventions of Asia and Europe. Along with the revival, there has also been diversity in the Confederation membership, which has embraced other kinds of national family organizations that conform to CFM prayer and action and meet regularly in groups. Nop and Elma enjoined the Assembly to "make the LEAP across the wide chasm of fear or inaction or complacency because Our Lady of Fatima will be our Inspiration and our Protection." (See Appendices I and II for full texts of Speech and Report.)

1.2.2 Vice-Presidents William and Esilda Cheng

William and Esilda expressed their deep appreciation for Nop and Elma who have accompanied them in Assemblies in Latin America. William and Esilda have worked with and learned much from this couple whom they wish to emulate.

1.2.3 Treasurers Pete and Carolyn Broeren

Pete and Carolyn reported that ICCFM still has some money in the bank. They will be giving a detailed statement to the incoming Presidents William and Esilda Cheng. ICCFM has existed on small donations and personal funds of its members. National organizations are enjoined to donate \$1 a year per family. Contributions also come

in the form of country pledges according to what the country can afford. The Pius XII Foundation of the Vatican has donated about \$1000 a year since 1998. US contributions come mostly from proceeds of World Assemblies. ICCFM funds are basically used to help delegates from Third World countries to attend Assemblies.

2. REPORT OF REPRESENTATIVES

2.1 Special Representatives Wayne and Sue Hamilton

Wayne and Sue have been working for the past six years for Africa to be in the World Assembly. It was in 1995 that Africa was last represented. This time there are delegates from Cameroon and Malawi. The internet has helped greatly in communicating with them.

Wayne and Sue are also ICCFM representatives to the UN in New York. They reported that UN New York does not have a Committee directly serving the family as in UN Vienna.

2.2 ICCFM Representatives to the Vatican and to the UN in Vienna

Tony and Lily Gauci

Vatican Report

● ICCFM is a recognized Movement by the Pontifical Council of the Laity. ICCFM Presidents Nop and Elma were invited to speak at the 2006 World Meeting of Families in Valencia, Spain. This is the second time that the Pontifical Council has invited ICCFM to address the World Meeting. The other time was in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

● When His Holiness Pope John Paul II passed away, Tony and Lily wrote a letter of condolence to Alfonso Cardinal Trujillo, President of the Pontifical Council for the Family.

● The Vatican contributed \$3000 to ICCFM for the years 2004-2007.

UN Vienna Report

● During the past three years, Tony and Lily have attended various international seminars, Committee and Board meetings as representatives of ICCFM at the NGO Committee for the Family at UN Vienna.

● A report on the work of ICCFM has been given to the magazine Families International.

● Aside from representing ICCFM in the Committee, Tony and Lily have been re-elected to the Board; thus, ICCFM is the only Movement with a couple on the Board.

● Tony and Lily participate in interactive online family forums on behalf of the ICCFM.

3. SPECIAL PRESENTATION ON THE MISSION OF MONSIGNOR JOAQUIM ALVES BRAS

Sr. Maria de Fatima Castanheira made the following presentation:

● Msgr. Bras was an extraordinary preacher of the Message of Fatima as it relates to the mission of the family.

● Msgr. Bras was devoted to the Mother of God. His life was very much aligned to the Fatima message of prayer and conversion, which he relayed to the family by encouraging collective and individual family prayer.

● His constant message was, "Pray and pray for the conversion of sinners." The spirit of sacrifice is manifested in offering sufferings to God for the conversion of sinners.

● The characteristic spirituality of Msgr. Bras was evident in his daily recitation of the rosary. He stressed praying the rosary and singing during pilgrimages to the Shrine of our Lady.

● Msgr. Bras enjoined that all should pray and emphasized family prayer,

stressing that, "this habit of praying for one another unites the members of the family more closely among themselves and unites them with God by the chains of holy Christian love."

● Another important aspect in the spirituality of Msgr. Bras is his contemplation of the Mystery of the Holy Trinity and his devotion to the Holy Family of Nazareth.

● To see the family as a school of humanity and as a fruitful field of ecclesial life has been the light in the horizon of his life.

4. CONTINENTAL AND COUNTRY REPORTS

4.1 Continental Africa

4.1.1 Cameroon

George and Magdalene Zembeh, Assistant Provincial Secretaries CFM Cameroon, reported the following:

CFM Cameroon is in 50 parishes with 65 active branches or groups and a total membership of 1300 families, 50 of whom are widows and 25 widowers with their families. Newly-formed branches meet weekly and older branches every two weeks. Parish meetings are conducted every three months, zonal or divisional meetings every six months, and provincial meetings once a year. Their top three family evangelization or family ministry services are: branch meetings using the "Observe-Judge-Act" methodology, regular Masses, rosary prayers and devotions, seminars, retreats, novenas, Marriage Encounters and Marriage Enrichment courses.

Actions taken in regard to the 2004 World Assembly resolutions are daily family rosary prayers with scriptural reflections from the Bible, special family meal prayers, membership in the parish Justice and Peace Commission and the conducting of premarital courses.

In the years 2004-2007, members actively participated in the Church program of activities for the International Year of the Family. Members carry out spiritual and corporal works of mercy. In the next three years, CFM Cameroon will embark on the formation of CFM youth groups and open up more CFM branches in the country.

4.1.2 Malawi

Blazio and Judith Nangwale presented the following report, prepared by Symon and Patricia Kunthambuyo, National General Secretaries of CFM Malawi:

CFM Malawi is in six of seven dioceses in Malawi. It has a membership of more than 2000 families. Each diocese has executive committees at the parish level which reports to the diocesan executive committees which in turn report to the National Executive Committee. CFM is well established and growing fast. Their three top family ministry services are promoting values and virtues of Christian marriage by encouraging prayers in family gatherings, providing guidance to the youth by conducting retreats, promoting HIV-AIDS awareness, giving briefing on the role of the youth in the family, church and society and managing charitable activities.

An emerging issue for which CFM Malawi wishes to provide support and counseling is on the various forms of violence: physical, economical, social, psychological and sexual violence, including gender-based violence. They are looking forward to the completion of their website so that they can better communicate with the local and worldwide membership of CFM.

4.2 Continental Asia CFM/CFSM

Mel and Emma Ricafrente, Continental Asia CFM/CFSM Presidents, reported the following:

There are currently 5 countries in Asia that are active: Philippines,



Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and India. Four countries: Malaysia, Pakistan, China (Hongkong and Macau), and South Korea are in touch. Australia of the continent of Oceania has been working closely with Continental Asia since 2006. There are about 4,800 active families in Asia. The membership of Hongkong and South Korea may need confirmation. The application of Malaysia and Pakistan will be encouraged.

Communication is maintained through email, post mail, telephone calls and text messages. Continental meetings are held every three years, the last one in 2006 in Singapore. To strengthen family spirituality CFM Philippines, under the aegis of Continental Asia CFM /CFSM, prepared a booklet of prayers, Prayers for the Worldwide Prayer Project of ICCFM, a 24-hour prayer chain intended for CFM families worldwide.

Mel and Emma gave useful comments on other suggested worldwide ICCFM projects. The exchange home stay for CFM youth needs to be defined with a system of procedures and guidelines. The "Adopt-a-Unit" project for needy CFM units is best done within a country and is being done in the Philippines; however, the plan is difficult to do outside the country. The integration of CFM actions in the workplace is being promoted and implemented, also in the Philippines, and motivational stories are being compiled to be shared in promoting the project. (See Appendix III for full text of Report.)

4.2.1 India

Cyril and Carmen D'Souza, Presidents of CFM India, reported the following:

CFM India is organized in small groups of couples, families, solo parents, widows and widowers. There are about 140 families in the Movement. They meet once a month, participating in a formative process of "Observe, Judge and Act" in the light of God's word. The top three family evangelization or family ministry services are marriage formation courses at parish level, catechesis at parish level, and sessions and programs for parents.

On the 2004 World Assembly Resolutions, they have identified actions in the family, in the Church and in society. For Resolution 1 on Prayer: encouraging member families to have prayer time together everyday and to participate in the Eucharist together as a family, participating in parish activities with emphasis on the spiritual rather than the ceremonial aspects, being exemplary couples and beginning and ending family meetings with a prayer. On Resolution 2 on Action: having at least one family meal together everyday, holding family outings once a month and visiting the aged and sick relatives, holding marriage renewal sessions, giving talks and sessions on parenting, teaching catechism and participating in Gram Panchayat meetings on social projects like sewage and garbage disposal.

CFM India's most notable achievement in 2004-2007 is the enrichment of family spirituality through regular meetings and outings and involvement in various activities at the parish level. On the evangelization of other families, CFM India launched a national family magazine Family Trove and brought together families in the parish on occasions such as the celebration of Family Day. For 2007-2010, CFM India plans to expand CFM to other regions by communicating with the bishops, wider distribution the magazine Family Trove, and more action, especially group action, to attract more families.

4.2.2 Japan

Fr. Donnon Murray reported the following:

He has utilized the FIRES programs as a way of providing experiences that enrich family and community interrelationships.

● In Japan, thousands of baptisms have ensued after attendance in FIRES programs.

● The FIRES experience has inspired a number of sons to enter the seminary and daughters to become nuns.

● The FIRES Marriage Encounter has saved hundreds of marriages.

● Japan has only about 400,000 Catholics, so the conversions brought about by FIRES have great significance.

4.2.3 Philippines

Roger and Nora Panlasigui, Presidents of CFM Philippines, reported the following:

CFM Philippines has a membership of about 4000 couples, solo parents, widows and widowers, and their families. Each group or unit meets every two weeks. Among its family evangelization or family ministry services, the top three nationwide are marriage orientation or pre-Cana counseling for couples about to be married; TIPANAN, a one-day program in the vernacular on interpersonal growth of couples; and the Marriage Encounter.

On the actions taken on the 2004 World Assembly Resolutions, the following are on Resolution 1 on Prayer: completing the booklet of prayers, Worldwide Prayer Project of ICCFM, and making prayers integral to any activity in which CFM members are involved. The following are on Resolution 2 on Action: continuing to be in the forefront of Philippine family life programs; enhancing and delivering programs on current concerns like domestic violence, counseling and parenting, etc.; and membership in the Private Sector Disaster Mitigation network.

The most notable achievement in 2004-2007 for the enrichment of family spirituality is the formulation of the basic formation course of the Nazareth Institute of Family Formation. On the evangelization of other families, CFM Philippines has done the following: reaching out to the poor and assisting in livelihood projects, sharing its formation books following "Observe-Judge-Act" methodology with other organizations and encouraging its members to assist in strengthening Basic Ecclesial Communities. Plans for 2007-2010 include enhancement of CFM programs by developing capabilities for facilitators at the diocesan level, more extensive use of media, instituting the Nazareth Institute of Family Formation, promoting programs for the youth, overseas workers and their families.

4.2.4 Thailand

Fr. Bunsong Hongthong, National Chaplain of CFM Thailand, reported the following:

There are about 250,000 Catholics in Thailand, 90% of them in mixed marriages to Buddhists. The ICCFM member groups in Thailand are the Christian Family Movement, the Family Life Promotion Council, and the Basic Ecclesial Communities. CFM Bangkok has four families; the Family Life Promotion Council has ten; and most of the other families are the CFM-affiliated BEC groups in the rural areas, all under Fr. Bunsong's responsibility. Ninety percent of members are couples, the rest are families, solo parents and widows or widowers. Members meet every month and/or during special Church feasts and family occasions. Their top three family ministry services are: Family Life Promotion Seminar; Promotion of Bible Study; and membership in the St. Vincent de Paul Society and the Legion of Mary.

On the actions taken on the 2004 World Assembly Resolutions, Thailand members have for Resolution 1 on Prayer: emphasis on Bible study and encouragement of attendance at Mass as a family. On Resolution 2 on Action, the following actions have been taken: organizing the youth to take active role in Holy Mass, giving musical training to the youth for the Church music ministry and serving families through membership in the St. Vincent de Paul Society and the Legion of Mary.

Their most notable achievements in 2004-2007 are the increase

of fruitful inter-religious dialogue between Catholics and Buddhists and establishing norms for mixed marriages. For the survival and/or expansion of CFM evangelization mission, members they are putting more emphasis on Bible study especially in the BEC groups.

4.3 Continental Europe

George and M' Louise Sammut, Continental Europe CFM Presidents, reported the following:

The active ICCFM member countries in Europe are Hungary, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Slovak Republic and Spain. There are number of countries where group meetings use the CFM "Observe-Judge-Act" methodology but are not yet full members of ICCFM, which are Croatia, Czech Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, and Romania. Tony and Lily Gauci visited Romania and contacted ecclesiastical authorities for the possibility of setting up CFM groups.

The main event during the past three years was the V CFM European Congress held in Cheste, Spain. Resolutions intended for married couples and families to work closely with institutions that promote a life of faith and hope for the well-being of all families were formulated and directed to CFM members and European civil authorities. The next European Congress will be held in 2009 in Hungary. (See Appendix V for full report.)

4.3.1 Netherlands

Deacon Henk J. F. Degen, representative of the Dutch Bishops Conference, reported the following:

There have been negative reports about the Netherlands or Holland in the media, but there are also some positive developments. The negative news relates to the law on "open marriage for homosexual couples" and the program Big Brother which includes shows considered immoral for mass media presentation.

It is acknowledged that Holland has a great need for spirituality. Some positive developments are the following:

- Although Church attendance is at a low rate, there are now more people in Church on Sundays than in sports events as in the past.

- While there is less interest in priestly vocations in Europe, there are many permanent deacons and pastoral workers in Holland

- For the first time in its history, Holland now has a Minister for Youth and Family Affairs.

- A recent study shows that the majority of young people who are looking for a relationship finally choose marriage.

The vision for the future is to strengthen the family through "family unions" and forming a triangular structure including the family, the school and the Churches reflecting and acting together, using Cardijn's "Observe-Judge-Act" format. It is also hoped that FIRES can be brought to the country.

4.3.2 Hungary

Balazs and Krisztina Menesi, CFM Hungary Presidents, reported the following:

CFM Hungary has about 300 member families in more than 50 groups. In one region there are also four CFM youth groups. In 2006, FIRES/CFM Hungary celebrated its Tenth Jubilee. From the very start Bishop Laszlo Biro has encouraged and supported FIRES/CFM because of his commitment and enthusiasm for the family. There are six geographical regions, headed by regional leader couples, with six to ten groups per region. The groups have monthly meetings and have a choice of ten books for study and discussion. Several young couples who have joined CFM after experiencing a FIRES Encounter are now helping to write new books. Some groups also use these books even

though they do not join CFM. Besides the books, FIRES/CFM Hungary offers weekend programs for engaged and married couples, young people, families, individuals and priests.

CFM Hungary aims to have six groups belonging to one regional leader. Personal contact and communication are given top priority. Its website greatly helps in promoting their activities. More and more couples visit their site which is also available in English.

The next European CFM Meeting will be in Hungary in 2009.

4.3.3 Italy

Monsignor Charles Vella, ICCFM Chaplain, reported the following:

CFM Italy started in 1974 and is supported by various bishops. Its main problem is that no couple wants to be CFM President. This situation could be due to a proliferation of Movements and a parochial outlook of some priests who wish to keep groups only within the parish.

For the future, CFM needs to find new ways and to develop a new image. "What does the Spirit want out of CFM?" Bridging relationships among the many family and religious organizations should be looked into. Missionaries for the family are needed in places like Sicily, and materials shared must be translated to Italian.

4.3.4 Malta

Anthony and Miriam Sammut, Presidents of CFM Malta, reported the following:

The Christian Family Movement has been in Malta for 36 years. It is made up of sixty groups in different localities with a total of about 600 couple members of different ages. Meetings are held once a month though a few groups meet twice monthly. It has a National Committee made up of a chaplain, the president couple and six couple members who are in charge of different subcommittees that handle spiritual formation and social activities. Besides conducting an Annual General Meeting, the National Committee holds separate regional meetings.

CFM Malta is in the process of completing a study on the present situation of CFM with a view of improving the response of the Movement to the current situation and needs of families. Committed members are in constant contact with parish priests in their effort to increase the membership. Utmost importance is given to the spirituality of the family. In all activities emphasis is made on God's loving presence through prayer. Among its family ministry services are forums on the subject of spirituality of married couples, Marriage Encounter and marriage preparation courses.

CFM Malta will continue to plan on how the Movement can be of further service to families in need of support. It is also in the process of putting up a website to link with all CFM members in Malta as well as with the CFM of other countries.

4.3.5 Portugal

Antonio and Maria Celeste Moniz, Presidents CFM Portugal, reported the following:

CFM Portugal, whose members belong to the Portuguese Christian Home Movement (MLC), has prepared for this World Assembly over the past three years. The full organization of the World Assembly was undertaken by the MLC and the Secular Institute of the Cooperators of the Family. In 2005, with the visit of the Muangkroots and the Gaucis, much of the planning and preparation, including the program which directly links the World Assembly to the 90th Anniversary of the Apparition of Our Lady of Fatima, were put in place.

In the past three years the MLC, founded in Portugal, has established a unit in the diocese of Madrid, Spain, and another in the

diocese of Guarda, Portugal. Three more units in Spain have been established. MLC members conduct monthly meetings and gather for celebrations during special religious and family events, such as Christmas. The MLC also conducts pilgrimages to Fatima. MLC Guidelines for new units have been prepared. It also conducts sessions for young couples who are preparing to get married.

CFM (MLC) Portugal is integrated with several national movements that also work for the family.

4.3.6 Slovak Republic

Vladimir and Maria Durikovic, CFM Slovak Republic Presidents, reported the following:

CFM Slovak Republic had its beginning in Slovakia in 1969. It had been an active underground movement for twenty years until it was legalized in January 1990. The structure of the Movement follows the Church structure: diocese, sub-diocese, deanery, parish, family community. The Slovak Congress, the highest body of CFM in the country, meets at least once in four years. The activities between the conferences of the Congress are coordinated by the Council of CFM which consists of the presidents and the vice-presidents of the diocesan and town centers. Family communities meet in groups of 5 to 8 families once or twice a month for a spiritual program in which they pray, read and meditate on the Bible. Assisting the Movement is the Family Center in Bratislava. Here Original Marriage Encounters (OME) has had 5000 married couples as participants.

FIRES programs are offered on weekends for engaged couples, sons and daughters, families with children and priests. CFM organizes courses for animators, moderators, coordinators and leaders of FIRES programs, Family Communities and all CFM programs. In addition, vacation exchanges for foreign children are facilitated. A family Christian periodical *FAMILY* is published.

CFM Slovak Republic coordinates its activities with the Bishops' Conference and with the diocesan bishops and priests. The Movement is in touch with pro-family movements in Europe and other continents. The Euro-children Movement holiday stays for Slovak children in Belgium and Belgian children in Slovakia are organized.

4.3.7 Spain

Enrique J. Alonso Hernandez and Teresa Guardia Carrillo, Presidents of CFM Spain, reported the following:

CFM Spain has a membership of about 3000 families. Some 700 priests join couples in teams and around 200 more are involved in promotion groups. The average age of the membership is close to 55 years. The membership of young couples is starting to grow. Its current thrusts are Promotion, Encounter, Youth, Solidarity and Family Orientation. In Promotion, methods are updated in formation courses for its promoters and 25 courses were offered over the last three years. For Encounters, the Marriage Encounter designed by Fr. Calvo is offered fifty to sixty times a year. Some fifteen Sons and Daughters Encounters and several Engaged Encounters are also offered annually. For the Youth, different types of actions, including group meetings, are undertaken. For Solidarity and Family Orientation, the CFM provides economic aid to the neediest families through charitable organizations, and with civil and ecclesiastical groups to aid the needy. It is institutionalizing CFM promotion through the media. CFM Spain recently published an updated version of Marriage and Family and translated books into Spanish, including *The Work of Fr. Gabriel Calvo*.

CFM Spain's new challenges are attracting more young couples and giving a special focus on the needs of migrant families, families of prisoners, and single-parent families.

4.4 Continental Latin America

Jorge and Rosalinda Carrillo, Continental Latin America Presidents, reported the following:

There are 18 active CFM member countries in Continental Latin America: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Uruguay and Venezuela.

From the start of their presidency in December 2005 to the first semester of 2007, Jorge and Rosalinda have made several country visitations at which they conducted many important meetings. A meeting of the Plenary Latin American Secretariat (SPLA) was held in January 2006 in Mexico, led by the Presidents of Latin America (PRELA) for the integration of the work on the plans, programs and structures of the MFC in Latin America. Other meetings convened include the first meeting of Ecclesiastical Movements and New Communities in Latin America held in Colombia in 2006 and the presentation of the project "Evangelical Solidarity" in Panama and Colombia. The PRELA made many pastoral visits to member countries. Pre-zonal encounters were conducted to prepare for the Zonal Encounters (EZO's), which were held to interpret the results of the XIII Latin American Encounter (ELA), evaluating them in the light of the signs of the times. They conducted three Zonal Encounters in 2006: EZO I in El Salvador for Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico; EZO II in Colombia for Panama, Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru and Dominican Republic; and EZO III in Brazil for Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay.

The PRELA send reports to member countries by mail. CD's of their Zonal Encounters for 2006 were distributed at the end of each meeting and also sent by mail. Communication of CFM Latin America with other continental CFM's is almost nil except for official notices received from the International Team. There were no new member countries the past two years; in fact, there was no answer from Nicaragua which was also visited.

The MFC Latin America Day of Prayer on the first Sunday of October is observed by the whole continent with a Eucharistic Celebration and a fellowship among families. (See Appendix V for full report.)

The members of CFM Latin America participate actively in the implementation of the "Project Evangelical Solidarity." This project seeks to integrate to the MFC of Latin America an actual dynamics that is committed to the principles and the vision of the Compendium of Social Doctrine of the Church. It consists of the application of reorganization with a prospective vision of the MFC after the analyses of the four pillars of Solidarity, Spirituality, Formation and Promotion, in addition to the challenge of the MFC confronting family disintegration. The "Project Evangelical Solidarity" has been introduced and implemented in the three zones of MFC Latin America. (See Appendix VI for full report.)

4.4.1 Bolivia

Mauricio and Luz Maria Larrea, Presidents of CFM Bolivia, reported the following:

MFC Bolivia has a total membership of 130 couples, widowers and widows, and their families. The groups meet every two weeks. Their top three family evangelization or family ministry services are: premarital counseling, marriage encounter and giving talks at schools, commercial establishments and parishes.

Their plan of action for 2007-2010 for the survival and expansion of the evangelical mission of MFC in Bolivia is to institute the projects of Evangelical Solidarity.

4.4.2 Colombia

Rafael and Marlene Rodriguez, Presidents of CFM Columbia, reported the following:

MFC Columbia has a total membership of 358 couples, widows and widowers and their families. Group meetings are conducted every two weeks. Their three family evangelization or family ministry services of major impact are premarital orientation, integral formation of the youth, and workshops and encounters of couples and single heads of the family.

On the actions taken by MFC Columbia on the 2004 World Assembly Resolutions, they for Resolution 1 on Prayer: a Eucharistic integration of all families of the MFC (in every diocese) at the end of the month, and at the national level in a chosen diocese every 2 years is accomplished with themes on formation that promote human and Christian values. On Resolution 2 on Action: at the national level some dioceses have their radio programs, and at the governmental level they have appeared before Congress, assemblies and media delivering their positions as MFC against abortion laws, abduction and killings.

Their most important achievements for 2004-2007 are: the unification in the themes for formation; and, service to the state project "School for Fathers" through which other families are evangelized. Their plan of action for 2007-2010 include: the wide support and participation of their spiritual counselors/directors; the important work and participation of the families in the zonal encounters; and launching on the national level of the project Evangelical Solidarity.

4.4.3 Peru

Jorge and Rosalinda Carrillo, Presidents Continental Latin America, reported the following:

MFC Peru has a total membership of 300 families. Groups meet every two weeks and general meetings and reunions are held every month. Their three most popular family ministry services are the Marriage Encounter, pre-marital orientation and family encounters.

On 2004 World Assembly Resolutions on Prayer and Action, CFM Peru promoted prayers before meals and at the start of meetings, active participation in the Eucharistic celebrations and holding spiritual retreats.

Future plans include the total revision of the Statutes and Regulations of MFC Peru as well as the total renovation of the methodology and documentation of its work plans for expansion.

4.4.4 Uruguay

MFC Uruguay has a total membership of 150 couples, single parents, widows and widowers, as well as divorcees and families. The groups meet every two weeks. Their three family ministry services with the highest impact are premarital orientation, the Marriage Encounter, adoption, support for biological mothers and future adopting fathers.

In support of the resolutions of the 2004 World Assembly, MFC Uruguay works on the evangelization of the members and groups with prayer lectures on the Bible. For 2007-2010, MFC Uruguay is devising a plan of pastoral participation and determining the priorities in the pastoral action of the MFC, including timetables, itineraries and forms of work, in order to strengthen the life of the groups and communities.

4.5 Continental North America

Gary and Kay Aitchison, CFM Presidents of Continental North America, reported the following:

CFM in North America comprises two countries, Canada and the United States. Three organizations represent the movement in the USA: CFM USA, MFC USA, and MFC Los Angeles. CFM USA is English speaking while the MFC USA and MFC LA are Spanish

speaking. A total of about 4500 families are members of the movement in the USA.

The biggest challenge for the Movement is the increase in the immigration of Spanish speaking families to the US. This is an opportunity for MFC to give its support and for CFM USA to assist families as they integrate into the culture of the US.

Everyone is enjoined to avail of the resources of the ICCFM website at www.iccfm.org, which is hosted and maintained by CFM USA, and is written in both English and Spanish.

CFM USA will be celebrating 60 years of Christian service to families in 2009. (See Appendix VII for full report.)

4.5.1 CFM USA

John and Lauri Pryzbysz, CFM USA Presidents, reported the following:

CFM USA currently has about 1300 active families. Its members are mainly young married couples, but single parents are also welcome to join. A new membership drive is being conducted. Easy starter kits have been designed and new technologies are utilized to reach prospective members. CFM USA hosts the ICCFM website. Several young couples who understand the needs of families today are in the Board of Directors. CFM maintains a national office in Indiana where the ACT newsletter is published eight times a year. CFM USA is funded by membership dues and donations to the Movement.

Since 2004 CFM USA has been an active partner in the US Bishops' Pastoral Institute for Marriage. In support of this Initiative, CFM USA is developing a program book that will focus on the relationship between marriage and society and the Christian call. CFM USA also held a National Family Life Conference in 2005 in Chicago, which was attended by Nop and Elma. New program books are published each year, the latest ones being *Discovering Christ* in 2005, *Intentional Christian Families* in 2006, and *Families Choose Life* in 2007.

Member couples now want to bring their children to their meetings. Several groups have developed strategies to deal with this. CFM USA hopes to share these strategies through the website and their Newsletter.

4.5.2 MFC USA

Juan and Teresa Rodriguez, MFC USA Presidents, reported the following:

MFC USA has about 2500 active members. General meetings are held three times a year in most of the federations, to give members a better spiritual formation. Most regions conduct annual regional conventions. National conventions are held every three years. The last Triennial National Convention was held in 2005 in Tucson, Arizona. In addition, special monthly Masses are held in each of the federations. MFC USA has expanded into other states such as Massachusetts, Minnesota and Oklahoma, and has made some inroads into Canada. One of the bigger regions, East Texas, was divided into three smaller ones for better management and delivery of services. Among the Hispanics in the US, MFC USA is the largest organization that represents the Movement. They need clarification, however, on a similar association which is the Christian Family Movement of Mexico. MFC USA is funded through membership fees at the national level, and most federations at the local level are funded through membership fees and fundraising activities.

The main activities of MFC USA are the Capacitating Basic Course, which is a leadership training program taken by all members once a year; visitations by the national leadership to different federations; and communication with bishops regarding the organization. The creation of a plan to strengthen, unify, extend and standardize MFC USA is producing the expected results.

4.5.3 MFC Los Angeles

Erwin and Nora Lopez, MFC LA Presidents, reported the following:

MFC LA has approximately 450 active couple members and their families in 16 parishes.

Three of the most important activities in the last three years are formation, constant and effective communication with the leadership, and working to maintain unity. Activities in this regard include offering classes on marriage preparation, the Marriage Encounter, basic formation, retreats and coordination meetings. There are new parishes interested in the MFC programs, and the decision for their inclusion is left to the bishop. MFC has always maintained links with the Church through its service.

MFC LA sustains itself financially by voluntary member contributions, the sale of books and religious articles, and conducting fundraising activities such as raffles and food sales.

On the future prospects of MFC, it is observed that while some couples may not be fully committed to serve, the positive impact on the overall growth of the couple and the family at the emotional, psychological and spiritual levels and the creation of a better understanding and growing enthusiasm for service are always present.

5. CONCLUDING STATEMENT

Living in a challenging society, in which the cultural, economic and social changes of our times do not always present the family in a positive way, we, Christian married couples, believe that "The Legacy of our Lady of Fatima," Queen of the Family, to the family today is the following:

1. To understand that we are a gift to each other and to our family, particularly through the daily sacrifice of ourselves;

2. To live our daily spiritual life as a couple in a profound and coherent way, in union with the ministers of the Church, through the participation in the Sacraments, the listening to and the contemplation of the Word of God and the practice of the Rosary;

3. To transmit, as missionaries, in an interactive way, to our children, young people, other married couples, single mothers and fathers, widows and widowers, the richness and the beauty of conjugal love, and to accompany young couples in their marriage journey with an open mind of inter-religious dialogue;

4. To support and heal in a curative and restorative way, with the light of Christ and the help of our Lady, our Mother, the wounds and sufferings which many families, including the migrants, are enduring.

In conclusion, we hope that opinion, economic, religious and political leaders of the entire world take practical actions in favor of the dignity of life, the family and the fundamental human rights.

6. PROCLAMATION OF THE INCOMING ICCFM PRESIDENT COUPLE

6.1 Proclamation

ICCFM Vice-Presidents William and Esilda Cheng were proclaimed ICCFM Presidents for 2007-2010.

6.2 Acceptance by Incoming ICCFM President Couple

William and Esilda thanked God and everyone for the opportunity to serve as Presidents of ICCFM and expressed the need to work "... to promote, empower, and help the Christian Family Movements; so that



their members may live their human and Christian vocation. That they be witnesses of the family essential values based on the faith proclaimed by the Gospel and strengthened by the Catholic Church Teachings." They expressed their wish to meet together with all the CFM Continental Presidents to plan ahead. (See Appendix VIII for full Speech.)

7. PRESENTATION OF AWARDS AND CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION

In appreciation for exemplary work of love and service rendered to ICCFM, the following persons were presented with special awards and certificates of appreciation:

7.1 Cardinal Cardijn Awards

The Cardinal Joseph Cardijn Award is conferred by ICCFM to recognize the superior contributions of its members. The recipients of this award have demonstrated long and continuous service at various levels to CFM/ICCFM. They have dedicated themselves to the formation of the laity through Cardinal Cardijn's "Observe-Judge-Act" methodology and demonstrated a missionary spirit. They also display evidence of a faith enthusiastic for social, moral and religious action and organization. The Cardinal Cardijn Award is bestowed by ICCFM Past Presidents Wayne and Sue Hamilton. It was awarded to Roland and Isabelle Leroux in 1995 and to Fr. Sam Palmer and Tony and Lily Gauci in 2004.

7.1.1 Father Pedro Richards

The beginning of CFM dates from 1952 in Montevideo, Uruguay. The designation of founder is given to Father Pedro Richards, who hosted a retreat out of which CFM grew. Fr. Richards was ordained in 1940, and in 1948 he began his lifelong work for and with families. He traversed the roads of Latin America, bearing the message of Jesus and the good news about marriage and the family. In 1957, after attending the Congress of the laity in Rome, he went to almost all the countries of Latin America and brought MFC to Ecuador, Bolivia, Mexico and Cuba. In 1960, Father Richards was reelected general advisor at the second CFM Latin American Assembly and was called to Rome to serve as consultant to the Commission of the Apostolate of the Laity in preparation for Vatican II. When John Paul II created the Pontifical Council for the Family, Father Richards was named a consultant and was one of the ten experts named by Pope John Paul II to the Synod on the Family in 1980. Father Richards also served as Director of the Institute for Family Science in Montevideo, Uruguay. Father Richards lived an intense life of commitment, generosity and service. Deeply devoted to Mary, one of his wishes was that families pray the rosary. For his long, passionate and continuous service to the CFM/ICCFM, Fr. Pedro Richards is awarded, posthumously, ICCFM's highest honor, the Cardinal Joseph Cardijn Award.



7.1.2 Msgr. Charles Vella



The second awardee, Monsignor Charles Vella, has been involved in promoting the values and activities of CFM for over 57 years. He was still a seminarian when he met Pat and Patty Crowley in the summer of 1955 and fell in love with the mission of CFM. Ministry to the Family has always been his priority. Immediately after his ordination, he started the Cana Movement in Malta, and CFM followed.

He encouraged and started the Marriage Preparation courses, the Natural Family Planning courses and Marriage Encounter in Malta and Italy. In 1982 the Italian Bishops Conference invited him to establish Marriage Counseling services in Italy. He helped establish about 120 centers and trained about 3000 counselors. In 1984 he was appointed the first director of the International Center for Family Studies. He has served the last six years as ICCFM Chaplain. As a journalist he has written much about the family and the CFM in four languages. His love for the sick and their families led him to serve as Ethics Consultant for over twenty years at the famous Scientific Institute University Hospital San Raffaele in Milan. Father Charles Vella is passionate about CFM.

7.2 Continental Awards

ICCFM Awards for Exceptional Service to the Continent were given to the following:

7.2.1 Dennis and Fanny Chua

For giving 20 years of brain power to conceptualize CFM/CFSM Asia Conferences.

7.2.2 Gary and Kay Aitchison

For decades of efficient, dedicated and loving service to CFM North America.

7.2.3 Alvaro and Margarita Rivera

For their unconditional delivery of service to the families and the youth of Latin America.

7.2.4 Tony and Lily Gauci

For promoting the ideals of ICCFM in Europe, especially in Eastern and Central Europe, making ICCFM known to Ecclesiastical Authorities and getting the permission to start ICCFM in different European countries.

7.3 Certificates of Appreciation

ICCFM Certificates of Appreciation were given to:

7.3.1 Agnel and Anette D’Cruz

For resolute leadership and valiant perseverance in keeping CFM alive through decades despite daunting obstacles.

7.3.2 Alice Cardoso

For courageously, generously and lovingly organizing the 2007 Fatima World Assembly on minimal human resources but with total faith in God’s goodness.

7.3.3 Antonio and Maria Moniz

For courageously, generously and lovingly organizing the 2007 Fatima World Assembly on minimal human resources but with total faith in God’s goodness.

7.3.4 Rev. Fr. Bunsong Hongthong

For constantly supporting us so that together we have kept the

CFM alive in Thailand despite obstacles and for always being at our side in CFM international Conferences.

7.3.5 Rev. Fr. Donnnon Murray, O.F.M.

For being a FIRES missionary who knows no boundaries of time and space and who has established FIRES programs in greatly divergent parts of the world.

7.3.6 Francis and Carmel Colaso

For resolute leadership and valiant perseverance in keeping CFM alive despite obstacles, and for dedicated service to CFM/CFSM Asia.

7.3.7 Rev. Fr. Gabriel Calvo

For the FIRES programs which have served to nourish and animate the CFM in many countries all over the world.

7.3.8 Jorge and Rosalinda Carrillo

For commitment and complete dedication to the role of MFC Latin American Presidents, never resting from travel throughout the Continent and accomplishing every duty of the position with excellence.

7.3.9 Jorge Angel Calvo

For constantly inspiring MFC members throughout the world with gems of thoughts and insightful reflections on ordinary and extraordinary things in life.

7.3.10 Msgr. Laszlo Biro

For holding a total conviction in the importance of the family to the fulfillment of human destiny and for giving unstinting support to CFM and the FIRES programs.

7.3.11 Msgr. Manny Gabriel

For constantly supporting CFM Philippines through the years, starting as a young priest and now as a seasoned Monsignor; and for keeping the CFM flame alive despite many obstacles.

7.3.12 Maria de Fatima Castanheira

For courageously, generously and lovingly organizing the 2007 Fatima World Assembly on minimal human resources but with total faith in God’s goodness.

7.3.13 Mel and Emma Ricafrente

For capably producing the Minutes of the 2004 World Assembly and leading the World Prayer Project of the ICCFM.

7.3.14 Rev. Fr. Nascimento Mascarenhas

For decades of enduring love for families and total dedication to CFM service despite obstacles of health and inefficient communication before the age of technology.

7.3.15 Roger and Nora Panlasigui

For total commitment of resources to God through CFM service and for taking the Minutes of the 2007 World Assembly.

8. SITE OF THE XV GENERAL ASSEMBLY

India will be the site of the 2010 World Assembly. Cyril and Carmen D’Souza and Fr. Socorro Mendes graciously accepted the privilege and responsibility of hosting this event.

9. CONCLUSION OF THE XIV GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The XIV ICCFM General Assembly adjourned for the ICCFM members to attend Holy Mass at the Fatima Shrine.



APPENDIX I

OPENING SPEECH OF ICCFM PRESIDENTS

July 28, 2007

Nop and Elma Muangkroot

The good news is that our report is already in LINK/LAZO, so you don't have to listen to it. The bad news, however, is that we will not go away without having said the last words, so you still have to listen, anyway.

As this is the last time we will address you as ICCFM Presidents, and still have you as a captive audience, we wish to share some musings as we contemplate the past and the future of the ICCFM.

Over 40 years of ICCFM history has proven that we have been visionaries and trailblazers on issues affecting families, as evidenced by the themes of our World Assemblies. Here are the themes of our World Assemblies the past 20 years, themes we have developed into resolutions

with our collective wisdom and implemented into action.

ICCFM champions the rights of the poor:

- o 1986 Chicago, USA – “Families: The Voice of the Poor and Suffering” We questioned the oppressive economic and political systems which defy social justice.

- o 1998 Thailand – “CFM Renewal 2000: Christian Families Committed to the Humanization of All Families in the World” We addressed the dehumanization of families especially in the Third World.

- o 2001 Maceio, Brazil – “Ethics of Life in Globalized and Excluding World” We deplored the irony resulting from globalization which, instead of spreading the wealth, marginalized the poor even more.

ICCFM thinks ahead of the times:

- o 1989 Avila, Spain: “Families: Mystery and Reality, Hope of the Third Millennium” We already anticipated how families prepare themselves to face the millennium.

- o 1995 Malta – “Towards a Global Community, Visions for the Journey” We looked forward to the benefits of a universal brotherhood in the age of globalization.

- o 2004 California, USA – “Family: Artisans of an Evolving Society” We admitted that technology has changed human life irreversibly and families must be ready to face the unknown and rapid changes of a post-modern world.

ICCFM recognizes that stewardship of the earth is in the hands of families:

- o 1992, Merida, Mexico – “Families of the Earth: Creating New Covenants in a Changing World” 15 years ahead of Alan Gore’s An Inconvenient Truth we have examined how God has made families stewards of the earth. We took the role seriously and pioneered in environmental protection on the family level.

We are really proud to have been Presidents of an organization with such a compassionate, pro-active and prophetic voice. It helped, of course, that we have as our think tanks Fr. Ken Weare and Sue Hamilton, among others, as who hold graduate and post-graduate degrees in theology and human psychology, who believe that the noblest use of their learning is to protect family

integrity against a world grown increasingly hostile. Our history is a source of great pride in being ICCFM. After this World Assembly we must continue to work hard, to get our act together for our quickly changing audiences.

We must never forget that we are destined for perfection. "BE PERFECT AS YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER IS PERFECT" Matthew 5:48 (Mt.5: 48) Comparing us to the Heavenly Father shows that Jesus calls us to the highest form of perfection. Our surest indica-

tor of perfection according to the Gospel is to love God with our ultimate being and to love our neighbor as ourselves—prayer and action, spirituality and sacrifice. Fulfilling this command will bring us divine perfection of our human nature and achieve the purpose of our life on earth

Recently the ICCFM has been on a decline, but with all of us inspiring and encouraging each other in recent World Assemblies, we generated the will to continue and we are again on

an incline!

We are destined for the highest form of perfection but it is a destination that is being realized day by day. We are still on our way. We have chosen the CFM so we will achieve our perfection through the CFM. Let us leave this Conference with at least one mantra—whichever one speaks to us most effectively because each of them are complete in their meaning to our individual resolutions:

Monsignor Charles Vella -

School of Mary

Dom Acevedo – Make Reparation

Father Gonzalez – Sow the Good Seed

Bishop Biro – Pray the Rosary

Father Davila – Make This a Turning Point

Let us take our resolutions to complete fulfillment; make the LEAP across the wide chasm of fear or inaction or complacency because Our Lady of Fatima will be our Inspiration and our Protection. ADELANTE, MFC!

APPENDIX II

2004-2007 REPORT OF ICCFM PRESIDENTS

I. INTRODUCTION

We consider that meeting CFM members personally, through country visitations and conference participation, constitutes the most valuable function of the presidency. We thank God that through this personal interaction, He has helped us lead a more dedicated CFM, a renewed CFM that will promote family spirituality and social justice with greater vigor now that the family needs to be protected with vigilance. We also built closer relationships with CFM countries through increased written communication, thanks to the internet. There is now a stronger feeling of unity in the ICCFM and a greater enthusiasm to get together in international conferences.

Before continuing our report, we wish to acknowledge and thank ICCFM International Chaplain Msgr. Charles Vella; Continental Chaplains Msgr. Manny Gabriel, Rev. Fr. Joseph Mizzi, Rev. Fr. Jose Majadas, the late Rev. Fr. Samuel Palmer, all CFM Chaplains throughout the world and FIRES founder Rev. Fr. Gabriel Calvo.

II. COUNTRY VISITATIONS AND CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

YEAR 2004

July 2004

28 Jul – 1 Aug USA

Santa Clara, California: IX World Assembly of Families and XIII IC-CFM General Assembly on the theme, "Family: Artisans of an Evolving Society," organized by CFM North America Continental Presidents Gary and Kay Aitchison and their team consisting of ICCFM Past Presidents Wayne and Sue Hamilton, ICCFM Treasurers Pete and Carolyn Broeren, CFM USA Presidents Peter and Jane Buchbauer, MFC USA Presidents Mario and Juanita Figueroa and MFC Los Angeles Presidents Jose and Maria Elena Marin and MFC Las Vegas Presidents Claudio and Ines Salas.

August 2004

29 Aug HONGKONG

Hongkong: Meeting with country presidents Anthony and Alice Leung.

December 2004

30 Dec PHILIPPINES

Cebu: Meeting with CFM regional and diocesan leaders.

YEAR 2005

January 2005

4 Jan PHILIPPINES

Manila: Meeting with national and regional leaders.

July 2005

15-16 Jul USA

Chicago, Illinois: CFM USA National Convention on the theme, "Fanning the Fires of Faith." CFM USA Presidents John and Lauri Przybysz succeeded Past Presidents Peter and Jane Buchbauer.

15-17 Jul USA

Tucson, Arizona: MFC USA National Convention on the theme, "In the Silence of the Desert, the Christian Catholic Family Evangelizes with Example and Action." MFC USA Presidents Mario and Juanita Figueroa were re-elected, and later succeeded by MFC Presidents Juan and Teresa Rodriguez.

21-25 Jul PORTUGAL

Lisbon: Planning for 2007 ICCFM World Assembly with National Presidents Antonio and Maria Moniz and the Cooperators of the Family.

23 Jul PORTUGAL

Fatima: Meeting with Rector of Fatima Msgr. Luciano Guerra to seek his support and blessings for the planned World Assembly.

27 Jul SINGAPORE

Singapore: Planning for 2006 CFM Asia Continental Conference with Asia Continental Presidents Mel and Emma Ricafrente, Singapore National Presidents Francis and Julia Mane and team.

October 2005

21-23 Oct PHILIPPINES

Pampanga: CFM National Convention on the theme, "CFM Going Fifty, Looking Beyond ..." CFM Philippines Presidents Roger and Nora Panlasigui succeeded Past Presidents Rolly and Josie Mesa.

November 2005

3-5 Nov PERU

Lima: General Assembly of Latin America. Newly-elected Presi-

dents (PRELA) Jorge and Rosalinda Carrillo of Mexico succeeded Past PRELA William and Esilda Cheng of Panama.

YEAR 2006

May 2006

26-28 May HUNGARY

Budapest: FIRES-CFM Tenth Jubilee, with the participation of Ukraine, on themes derived from Jesus' words "You are the salt of the earth" and "You are the light of the world." National Presidents Balazs and Krisztina Menesi and their team convened an exceptional meeting.

June 2006

13-15 Jun MALAYSIA

Johor Baru: Participation in Malaysia's Basic Ecclesial Communities (BEC) meetings in different homes, which are basically the same as CFM meetings.

15-18 Jun SINGAPORE

Singapore: CFM Asia Continental Convention on the theme, "The Challenge of Being Family in Asia is a Joyful Mission," organized by CFSM Singapore Presidents Francis and Julia Mane. Continental Presidents Mel and Emma Ricafrente were re-elected. CFM Oceania Presidents Leslie and Carmeline Sammut attended.

29 Jun-2 Jul COLOMBIA

Bucaramanga: MFC Latin America Zonal Meeting on the theme, "The CFM Confronting Family Disintegration." Host organizers were Zone II Presidents Luis and Martha Pinilla and MFC Colombia Presidents Rafael and Marlene Rodriguez.

3 Jul COLOMBIA

Bogotá: Fellowship meeting with PRELA Jorge and Rosalinda Carrillo and other MFC Latin America leaders.

July 2006

5-9 Jul SPAIN

Cheste: CFM Europe Continental Congress on the theme, "Twenty-five Years of Familiaris Consortio," hosted by MFC Spain under the leadership of National Presidents Enrique and Teresa Alonso. CFM Europe Continental Presidents George and M'Louise Sammut were re-elected.

7 Jul SPAIN

Valencia: Participation at the V World Meeting of Families as speakers at the Theological-Pastoral Congress on the topic, "ICCFM and the New Evangelization."

31 Jul PHILIPPINES

Cebu: Meeting with diocesan officers and potential CFM chaplains

August 2006

6 Aug PHILIPPINES

Manila: Meeting with CFM Asia Presidents Mel and Emma Ricafrente and CFM Philippines leaders.

October 2006

20-22 Oct PHILIPPINES

Manila: Golden Jubilee Celebration of CFM Philippines on the theme, "CFM Celebrating Fifty Years in the Service of the Filipino Family," chaired by CFM Philippines Presidents Roger and Nora Panlasigui.

YEAR 2007

July 2007

25-29 Jul PORTUGAL

Fatima: X World Assembly of Families and XIV ICCFM General Assembly on the theme, "The Legacy of Fatima to the Family: Spirituality and Sacrifice." The meeting was hosted and organized under the leadership of Christian Home Movement Presidents Antonio and Maria Moniz and Sr. Maria Fatima Castanheira and Sr. Alice Cardoso of the Cooperators of the Family. ICCFM Presidents William and Esilda Cheng of Panama succeeded Past Presidents Nop and Elma Muangkroot of Thailand.

III. COMMUNICATION

ICCFM Website

The ICCFM website, with the continuing support of CFM USA Executive Directors Paul and Jane Leingang and Webmaster Andy Pozdol, has continued to circulate current ICCFM information by posting our quarterly letters as ICCFM Presidents as well as publications of CFM member countries, documents related to the World Assemblies and links to national CFM websites.

LINK/LAZO

LINK/LAZO has become an Annual Review of 16 pages instead of the twice-yearly 12 pages because we have used the ICCFM website to share information about the CFM. Elma is the editor and Spanish-to-English translator, while Emilio Wong of Panama is the English-to-Spanish translator.

E-mail

E-mail communication has been efficient in getting information for the ICCFM website and for LINK/LAZO, preparing for the 2007 ICCFM World Assembly, maintaining relationships with other international organizations and keeping ICCFM correspondence in general.

IV. RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Pontifical Council of the Laity (PCL)

In July 2006 the ICCFM was invited by His Eminence Alfonso Cardinal Lopez Trujillo, President of the PCL, to give a presentation at V World Meeting of Families in Valencia. The PCL granted the ICCFM \$6,000 between 2004 and 2007, bestowed by His Excellency Archbishop Leonardo Sandri, Deputy Secretary of State. Tony and Lily Gauci, ICCFM Representatives to the Vatican, have a report on their activities in the main Minutes.

UN Vienna

ICCFM representatives to the UN in Vienna Tony and Lily Gauci were re-elected as Board Members of Vienna's NGO Committee on the Family, maintaining the significant role of the ICCFM in the Committee. Tony and Lily have a report on their activities in the main Minutes.

UN New York

ICCFM Past Presidents Executive Wayne and Sue Hamilton are the ICCFM representatives to the UN in New York. In the past three years the UN in New York has not convened meetings that directly relate to families.

Cardijn Community International (CCI)

Because of our common foundation in Catholic Action, the ICCFM and the CCI have communicated regularly. CCI Convener M.J. Ruben was supposed to make a presentation on Cardinal Cardijn at the Fatima World Assembly, but he was unable to get visa.

Service and Research Foundation of Asia (SERFAC)

SERFAC continues to invite the ICCFM to its meetings, and in return, we have invited SERFAC to the CFM Asian Convention and to the ICCFM World Assembly. However, because of absence of travel funding, we have not been able to honor each other's invitations. Some of our members from Singapore and India attend the SERFAC meetings, so we maintain the relationship in our common service to families.

V. OTHER ACTIVITIES AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

The ICCFM World Day of Prayer is the first Sunday after Christmas, the Feast of the Holy Family. We have also instituted an ICCFM Worldwide Prayer Project, a booklet of prayers with a special intention every month, each intention related to the members and the mission of the ICCFM. This booklet, compiled by CFM Philippines, is available in English and was distributed at the 2007 World Assembly. A Spanish version will follow.

VI. CONCLUSION

ICCFM member countries have reasonably maintained their vitality in Latin America, Hispanic North America and East Europe, but not so in other parts of the world. After the 2004 ICCFM World Assembly in California, there has been a little revival, judging from the increased participation in the continental conventions of Asia and Europe. Along with the revival, there has also been diversity in the Confederation membership, which has embraced other kinds

of national family organizations that conform to CFM prayer and action and meet regularly in groups. For example, there is Happy Family Movement of Malaysia, Hongkong and South Korea. It is the Christian Home Movement of Portugal that hosted the Fatima World Assembly. Thailand has the Basic Ecclesial Communities and the Family Life Promotion Seminar organizers. Honduras, El Salvador, Spain, the Philippines, Hungary, Japan and some other countries derive their CFM vitality through FIRES, the ICCFM prototype and ideal, though such requirement cannot be demanded of other national family movements. Africa has a strong traditional CFM, but on the other hand, it has great difficulty in maintaining communication without funding.

The fact that similar family movements attend the ICCFM continental and international meetings demonstrate that they feel a need to share experiences and gain mutual encouragement. The ICCFM is the first family Catholic organization of its kind, and it already has a strong international structure with regular international, continental and national assemblies. It has gained much experience in evangelizing families and can share this knowledge. With a stronger organizational structure which advocates openness, a stronger member commitment and a richer spiritual life, the ICCFM will fulfill its family life mission with greater pertinence and efficacy.

Nop and Elma Muangkroot
ICCFM Presidents
2004-2007

APPENDIX III

CONTINENTAL ASIA REPORT

Continental of Asia President Couple Mel and Emma Ricafrente of the Philippines

I. CONTINENTAL MEMBERSHIP

A. Current number of active ICCFM members countries* in your Continent

- Five (5) countries are active namely: Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and India
- Four (4) Countries including Malaysia, Pakistan, Hong Kong / Macau / China and South Korea are in touched.
- Oceania Continent specifically Australia is working closely with Continental Asia since 2006.

B. Total Number of active families in the Continent

- About 4,800 active families

II. REPORT OF FUNCTIONS (JULY 2004 – JULY 2007)

July 2004 – July 2007 (3 yrs.): President Couple Mel and Emma Ricafrente

7.1. To promote interaction between the Christian Family Movements in their area

A. Frequency and purpose of distance communication with countries

Frequency: Monthly to Quarterly

Means: E-mail, Post office mails, Long Distance Telephone and Texting

B. Number of Countries Visited since 2004

India (once)

Singapore (twice)

Australia of Oceania Continent visited the Philippines for exposure

C. Continental Meetings

● **Bangalore, India last September 2003**

6th Continental Asia CFM/CFSM Conference on

“The Christian Family...Challenges of the Present Times”

● **Singapore last June 16-18 2006**

7th Continental Asia CFM/CFSM Conference on

“The Challenges of Being Family in Asia Is a Joyful Mission”

7.2. To promote and expand the life and spirit of the Christian Family Movement through the National Teams

This has to be strongly promoted and encouraged to reach and be prayed by all CFMers worldwide.

A. Action taken to strengthen family spirituality as a Continent

CFMer of the Philippines under the aegis of Continental Asia

CFM/CFSM prepared a booklet of Prayers for the Worldwide Prayer Project of ICCFM.

The Worldwide Prayer Project of the International Confederation of Christian Family Movements or ICCFM is a 24-hour prayer chain to be participated in by CFM families worldwide. The suggested time slot for praying is immediately before or after dinner, or approximately 1800H to 2000H (6:00 to 8:00 P.M.) in their respective time zones. For each month there is one prayer for a specific group sector. There are therefore 12 prayers for 12 target sectors for the entire year. A prayer for the CFM Organization is included.

Promoting the strengthening of Families by couple and family prayer, living Christian lives at home or school and be witnesses to Christ.

Continental CFM Asia have established among the different countries linkages thereby promoting sharing of family life programs, trainors and other resources.

B. Social action for the family apostolate undertaken as a Continent

Continental Asia CFM has resolved in its 2003 Continental Conference in India Social Action Resolution 2. Including 7.4.A

7.3. To represent the Confederation at the Continental level

A. Frequency of communication with other Continents

Thru Internet – Monthly

B. Benefits gained for the Continent from this communication

Awareness, knowledge, learnings and inspiration to continue with CFM functions, projects, advance work and way of life.

7.4. To represent the Christian Family Movements of its Continent at the General Assembly of the Confederation

A. Three most essential Resolutions of the latest Continental Meeting in Singapore last 2006.

1. Respond as Catholic Parents and Citizens to the developing Society and the World and always live out Christian values whenever possible.

2. Enhance parental education and training in Gospel Values and Social Teachings of the Church as they serve as primary educators of their children.

3. Emphasize simple living, sharing with others and Christian stewardship of God's gift to the family.

B. Three most essential resolutions of the previous Continental Meeting in India last 2003

1. Networking and Capacity Building

To bring more family welfare activities under the inspirational aegis of the CFM wherever possible, including other programmes such as those comprised in FIRES, and to link appropriately with associations/ movements with similar objectives, in order to build a greater solidarity to fulfill our mission.

2. Social Action

To identify critical micro/macro social issues that impact the family in our own local context, catalyze ourselves as instru-

ments of change, and actively respond wherever appropriate at family, local, regional, national and international level as a CFM group in an effort to strengthen the movement.

3. Animating CFM Meeting

To participate in more meaningful programmes / activities of the CFM in order to discern and fulfill our role and mission as Christian families and thereby inspire others to join the movement.

7.5. To process applications for membership in the confederation of the Christian Family

Movements located within their geographical area. These applications shall be sent to the President Team of the Confederation to be submitted to the General Assembly.

● Membership of – Hong Kong and South Korea may need confirmation

● Application of Malaysia and Pakistan will be encouraged

7.6. To cooperate with other organization concerned with the family, especially with those who are Associate or Supporting Members of the Confederation.

A. Linkage with Federation of Continental Bishops Conference

Weak

B. Linkages with FIRES

Active

C. Linkages with other family organizations

Strong in some countries where CFMers are working closely under Episcopal Commission on Family and Life (ECFL) and Episcopal Commission on Lay Apostolate (ECLA) of the Catholic Bishop Conference of the country.

III. Sharing of Ideas

A. Funding strategies

● Effective methods for membership fee collection

Letter of Appeal with personal verbal explanation and several follow-ups

● Sponsored projects

Feasible in a Country but not Feasible for Continent

B. Continental actions for family spirituality (e.g. Continental day of prayer) and for social service

Promote strong ICCFM Worldwide Prayer Project a 24-hour prayer chain by all CFMers Worldwide

Other Continental Matters

1. Awardee for Exceptional Service to Continent and description of achievements

● Joe and Charito Hilario of CFM Philippines who were the Continental Asia President in 1992 – 1998 are the 2007 awardees

● Sito and Sony Sison of CFM Philippines who started Continental Asia CFM serving as the President Couple in 1969 – 1981 were the 2004 awardees

2. Comments on the following suggested future projects

● exchange home stay for CFM youths (short visits)
System including procedures, guides instruction and forms of Surveying Volunteer Host Family and Matching Youth and Host Family should be established.

● “adopt-a-unit” project (to help underprivileged CFM units)
Being conducted in country but difficult in Continental Asia due

to economic status of most countries

● Integration of CFM actions with our jobs (conscious intention)

Being promoted and done

Motivational stories are being compiled to improve promotion.

Reported By:

Mel & Emma Ricafrente

President Couple

Continental Asia CFM

July 23, 2007

APPENDIX IV

CONTINENTAL EUROPE REPORT

Continental membership: The following are the current active ICCFM member countries in Europe:

- Hungary
- Italy
- Malta
- Portugal
- Slovak Republic
- Spain

In a number of other countries, there are groups meeting and using the CFM Observe-Judge-Act method, but who are not yet full members of the ICCFM. These include:

- Croatia
- Czech Republic
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Romania

Main events July 2004-June 2007

• The main event during the past three years was without doubt last year's 5th CFM European Congress held in Cheste, near Valencia, in Spain. The theme of the Congress was “25 Years of Familiaris Consortio”.

The organization was entrusted to the Spanish National Presidents, Enrique and Teresa Alonso Guardia and their hard-working team. Originally the Congress was planned to be held in Granada but when it was officially announced that the World Meeting of Families, planned by the late Pope John II, would be held in Valencia more or less during the same time as our Congress, it was decided to change the venue of the CFM Congress.

This was not an easy task for the organizers, but the Spanish organizing team managed to draw up a programme that very ably integrated the two events: the CFM Congress and the WMF.

The speakers at the Congress provided us with a very realistic picture of the present situation of the family in Europe, and they stimulated serious discussions on the subject. The participants also had the opportunity to take part in the activities in connection with the WMF: one such activity was the evening Family Rosary on the beach. And of course the highlight was the Sunday morning Mass celebrated by H.H. Pope Benedict XVI. It was a very moving experience that will not be easily forgotten.

We feel we must once more thank and congratulate Enrique

and Teresa and their team for the hard work they put into the CFM Congress, ensuring its success. And we must also congratulate them for the excellent publication, issue number 84 of their Boletin (September 2006), in which they gave a detailed report, accompanied by numerous photos, of the 5th CFM European Congress.

The final resolution of the Congress contained a number of appeals directed to CFM members themselves, and other appeals directed to the civil authorities of European countries.

As CFM members we pledged to pray for all families, to live with faith and hope the model of family as willed by the Creator, to defend and proclaim the true meaning of marriage as an inseparable union between one man and one woman, a union open to life. We also pledged to work closely with those institutions that promote this model of family, and, finally to work for the well-being of all families, especially those in difficulties.

Addressing the civil authorities of the various European nations, we insisted that they should respect and promote this model of the family, a model that has contributed so positively to our continent and to the whole world over the centuries. We also expect the lawmakers to avoid the ambiguous use of the word ‘marriage’, and to legislate in favour of life, from its inception till death.

Communication with CFM member countries:

• In our absence, our friends Tony and Lily Gauci, paid two visits to Romania and made valuable contacts with the Ecclesiastical authorities on the possibility of setting up CFM groups there.

• Close contact is being kept with Lithuania and Latvia for the same purpose.

• Every year the booklet containing the monthly schemes/meeting plans used by CFM Malta are translated into English and sent to these Eastern European countries to be translated into their own native language.

Finally, we would like to officially announce – something that Balazs and Krizstina have already done – that the next European Continental Meeting will be held in 2009 in Hungary.

Report by:

George and M’Louise Sammut

Continental Europe CFM President Couple

APPENDIX V

CONTINENTAL LATIN AMERICA REPORT

Continental Presidents: Rosalinda and Jorge Carrillo
Continental Chaplain: Father Juan Marcos Granados Álvarez

I. Continental Membership

A. Current number of active ICCFM member countries in your Continent

At the present time there are 18 countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Uruguay and Venezuela.

B. Total number of active families in the Continent (Please count a solo parent or a widow, widower, etc., as one family)

| | |
|-------------------------|---------|
| Costa Rica | 1,250 |
| Cuba | 210 |
| El Salvador | 18,500 |
| Guatemala | 2,650 |
| Honduras | 1,755 |
| México | 58,000 |
| Subtotal Zone I | 82,365 |
| Colombia | 2,650 |
| Dominican Republic | 150 |
| Ecuador | 70 |
| Panamá | 310 |
| Perú | 270 |
| Venezuela | 102 |
| Subtotal Zone II | 3,352 |
| Argentina | 1,400 |
| Bolivia | 300 |
| Brasil | 30,000 |
| Chile | 204 |
| Paraguay | 1,560 |
| Uruguay | 140 |
| Subtotal Zone III | 33,604 |
| Total MFC Latin America | 119,321 |

II. Report on Activities (July 2004 – June 2007)

We integrated the report by year for the reason that we assumed the Presidency in December 2005, therefore the report corresponds to the year 2006 and the first semester of 2007:

Year of 2006

1. 1st Meeting of the Full Latin American Secretariat (SPLA)

OBJECTIVE: "To manage the integration of total SPLA team to work in unity on the plans and programs that arise for the strengthening of the families and of the structures of the National Movements that integrate the MFC in Latin America in accordance to the Statutes."

DATE: 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30 January 2006

PLACE: Convent of the order "Daughters of Santa Ana," Corregidora, Qro. Mexico.

PARTICIPANTS: The total SPLA team for the period 2006-2009 and the MFC Latin America Presidents for the period 2001-2005.

2. Attendance at the following:

"FIRST MEETING OF ECCLESIASTICAL MOVEMENTS AND THE NEW COMMUNITIES IN LATIN AMERICA"

Bogota of Santa Fe, Colombia

9 - 12 March of 2006

Convenor: PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR THE LAITY
EPISCOPAL COUNCIL OF LATIN AMERICA (CELAM)

2.1. Panama, presentation of the project "Evangelical Solidarity" 8 March. Attendance of 28 people of the national and the diocesan teams.

2.2. - Colombia, Presentation of the project "Evangelical Solidarity" 11 March. Attendance of 40 people.

3. Attendance at the following:

"ENCOUNTER OF PEOPLE IN CHARGE OF THE FAMILY APOSTOLATE OF THE EPISCOPAL CONFERENCES AND SOME LATIN AMERICAN DIRECTORS OF MOVEMENTS THAT WORK IN FAVOR OF THE FAMILY"

Theme: "The Family, First School of the Disciples of the Lord"

Bogota of Santa Fe, Colombia. From 2 to 4 May 2006

Convener: LATIN AMERICAN EPISCOPAL COUNSEL - CELAM

With the purpose of taking advantage of the economic resources, we implemented two courses on sensitization to the change, on the project "Evangelical Solidarity."

3.1. - Panama, 29 and 30 April 2006.

Empowerment for the introduction of the project "Evangelical Solidarity"

3.2. - Colombia, 6 and 7 May 2006.

Empowerment for the introduction of the project "Evangelical Solidarity"

4. Pastoral Visit. This has been carried out taking advantage of our participation at the EZO Zone I and the countries that were visited that are indicated next:

4.1. Costa Rica. In this country we visited the offices of the MFC, which are very comfortable, since they use the area for empowerment training, Board meetings, for an office with a small warehouse and for services. In the conference room, the National Presidents Argerie and Víctor Castro did an excellent presentation to us, very clear on the situation of the MFC in Costa Rica. We presented the "Evangelical Solidarity" project to them.

4.2. Nicaragua. In this country we were received by the members of the Movement of the Marriage Encounter (MEC) since the Christian Family Movement does not exist as it is. Nevertheless we presented to the priest in charge of the Family Apostolate and to the members of the MEC of Nicaragua the "Evangelical Solidarity" project. We gave to them a CD of the project and a program of values for children and adolescents (for primary school and secondary school) that was prepared in Mexico.

4.3. Honduras. In this country SPLA Vice-Presidents Ceci and Raul Ortega assisted. The rest, Rosi, Jorge and Father Juan Marcos went to El Salvador with the purpose of taking advantage of the time. The SPLA Vice-Presidents were received by National Presidents of Honduras Ondina and Santos Roque. Ceci and Raul gave a presentation of the "Evangelical Solidarity" project to the national team and other members of the MFC, besides to listening to the situation of the MFC of Honduras on behalf of the Presidents. After the visit, the vice-presidents SPLA along with the other participants traveled from Honduras to El Salvador for "EZO I 2006."

4.4. El Salvador. In this country we were received by Ricardo Castaneda National President of the Marriage Encounter Movement of the MFC. Once we were located in our place of lodging, we dedicated ourselves to visit the site where "EZO I 2006" would be convened, and we had review meetings with the coordinators of the different services in the EZO, as well as with the coordinators of the different workshops. The site of the event is MEC property, including on chapel, a multiple-purpose hall for 600 people, independent rooms for the service team on duty, rooms for retreat participants, offices, parking space, etc. In summary it is an installation that fulfills what is necessary for an International Congress.

The vision and the leadership that MEC Presidents Nohemy (RIP) and Ricardo Castaneda had were the reasons that such on a worthy

place was constructed, with all the facilities to hold marriage retreats, marriage formation and marriage encounters in El Salvador. They had the material support, mainly the work of an organized, affluent team, committed to the Kingdom. "Seek first for the Kingdom of God and its justice, and the rest will be given you in addition."

5. Encounter of Zone I: Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and México.

22, 23, 24 and 25 June 2006, in El Salvador, San Salvador.

Objective: That the members of MFC Latin America interpret the results of the XIII ELA and the pre-EZO's, evaluating them in the light of the sign of the times, to propose the actions necessary to adapt their structures, processes and methodologies so as to confront family disintegration.

All the countries attended except Cuba.

6. Encounter of Zone II: Panamá, Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru and Dominican Republic.

29 June to 2 July 2006. Bucaramanga, Colombia.

Objective: That the members of MFC Latin America interpret the results of the XIII ELA and the pre-EZO's, evaluating them in the light of the sign of the times, to propose the actions necessary to adapt their structures, processes and methodologies so as to confront family disintegration.

All the countries attended except Cuba.

7. Encounter of Zone III: Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay.

15, 16, 17 and 18 July 2006.

The development of this event was in the City of Curitiba, Brazil, which is in the south. The encounter was carried out in an atmosphere of incredible brotherhood, and the facilities of the Catholic University where it was held included all the expectations for success.

8. Visits:

8.1. Paraguay. We attended the National Encounter in the city of Villarrica at an invitation we received at the EZO III in Brazil: we propounded on the necessity of an organization such as the MFC to participate as an civic organization in the different countries where it is present and to influence in the decisions of the legislature with respect to the laws that affect the family.

Pastoral Visit in the Diocese of City of Este, Paraguay:

We had work meetings with the general membership and the coordinators of the formation team. We introduced the project "Evangelical Solidarity" and listened to the life experiences of the MFC Paraguay members.

We participated in two radio programs of radio, with the Bishop Emeritus of the City of Este in one of them. What beautiful efforts are being done in this diocese!

8.2. Ecuador. In this country we were received by National Presidents Jorge and Magdalena Merino. Jorge had been operated and was in recovery; nevertheless, this did not prevent him from being present in two meetings in his house: one for the presentation of the project "Evangelical Solidarity" and another one of coexistence. Other meetings were held the parish of Our Lady of Fátima. We participated in a meeting of the National Family Apostolate, at which the MFC participated.

Pastoral Visit to the Diocese of Ibarra: We participated at a meeting with MFC members of this diocese one afternoon. In this diocese one work carried out are study meetings with the children, which produce very rich results.

8.3. Chile. In this country only we only had one day for the meeting as the SPLA Presidents could stay only a single day. Nevertheless we had time to listen to the plans of the MFC Chile National Presidents Peter and Angelica Viertel and the result of its recent meeting resulted a Serenade with an attendance of 100 people. Its challenges among others are to double its membership and the number of Dioceses with MFC presence in Chile, and to restructure the MFC according to the times and to the geographic situation of the country. The request of the SPLA in face of the needs of incomplete families was to develop formation materials specifically aimed at the reality of families of widows and widowers, a challenge that was accepted.

9. Pastoral Visit, Mexico. The participation in a pastoral visit to Mexico were carried out in the two following events:

Meeting of Full National Team in Mexico City on 4, 5 and 6 May 2006. This meeting aimed to evaluate the work of the regions and the

bibliography of the formation material for "Mothers Responsible for the Family" and to define the basic cycle of formation of this service, as well as its processes of formation.

National Assembly for the Election of National Presidents of MFC Mexico. on 3, 4 and 5 November 2006

We participated in the Assembly for the election of National Presidents. The importance of these events is significant since the change in leadership bring an MFC renewal with leaders who arrive with new ideas and with new energy to work on them effectively. It was very emotional to see that 25 couples "leave" and another 25 couples "enter," showing MFC formation in action.

First Half of 2007

1. Second Latin American of Youth Encounter (ELAJO). It was held on 2, 3, 4 and 5 February 2007 in the City of Panama, Panama. The topic was on the young Christian and his vocation to the love. It was attended by 210 young people from 11 countries.

2. National Encounter of MFC Mexico. The change of MFC National Presidents was held in Oaxaca City, Oaxaca on 11 to 15 April 2007. Two thousand members attended.

3. Attendance at the "Second World Congress of Families" in Warsaw, Poland. We attended as the MFC Latin American representation in coalition with the Family Network of Mexico. The meeting promoted the natural family, the defense of the life from conception to natural death and the respect of human values.

4. Visit to Bolivia. We presented the project "Evangelical Solidarity" at the Santa Maria de Guadalupe Mission. The MFC accepted and initiated with this new methodology and spread it to the cities of Cochabamba and Santa Cruz.

5. Empowerment Retreat for the National Team of Panama on "Kerigma" on 22, 23 and 24 June 2007. It was held at the Retreat House Panama and was also attended by a couple from Costa Rica to present to their country, particularly the project "Evangelical Solidarity."

6. Empowerment and Retreat Qualification of the "Youth Kerigma," gathering young people for the MFC according to the project "Evangelical Solidarity." It was held from 29 June to 1 July 2007 and attended by young people of Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala itself.

7. Participation in a meeting in Peru to present the project "Evangelical Solidarity" and to empower the National and Diocesan Team to initiate it. It was held from 28 June and to 1 July in Lima and on 6 July in the diocese of Cuzco.

PROMOTION OF RELATIONS AMONG THE MFC IN LATIN AMERICA

A. Frequency and intention of the communications with the countries

We sent to all the countries a CD with the complete report of the year 2006, by means of mail to make sure of its reception. We wrote all the countries every fifteen days sending them reports on relevant situations and motivating them. To the countries that have accepted the project "Evangelical Solidarity" we give permanent support as required.

B. Number of countries (MFC groups) visited and number of visits:

| | | |
|--------------|------------|---------------|
| Bolivia 2 | Brazil 1 | Chile 1 |
| Costa Rica 1 | Colombia 3 | El Salvador 1 |
| Guatemala 2 | Honduras 2 | Mexico 3 |
| Nicaragua 2 | Panama 4 | Paraguay 1 |
| Peru 1 | | |

TOTAL: 22 visits to the countries.

C. Continental Meetings

In accordance with the statutes we convened five meetings which are the following:

First Meeting of the Full Team, in Querétaro, Mexico, on January 2006, with the attendance of the complete team.

Meeting of Zone I with the countries of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico with the exception of Cuba in June 2006.

Meeting of Zone II with the countries of Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, Peru, Republica Dominicana and Venezuela in June 2006.

Meeting of Zone III with the countries of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile,

Paraguay and Uruguay in July 2006.

Second Latin American Youth Encounter (II ELAJO). It was held in Panama from 1 to 4 February 2007, with the attendance of 200 young people and 35 marriage counselors for the youth from 11 countries.

PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE LIFE AND THE SPIRIT OF THE MFC THROUGH THE NATIONAL TEAM

A. Actions were taken to fortify family spirituality throughout the continent. It was proposed to spend a Holy Hour once a month for the unity of Latin American families. This was not passed on the part of the countries.

B. Social actions committed to the family apostolate on a continental scope, including pre-marriage catechism and formation immediately before marriage.

TO REPRESENT THE CONFEDERATION ON A CONTINENTAL LEVEL

A. Frequency of communication with other continents is almost nil, except for official notices that we receive from the International Team.

B. Benefits acquired from communication on a continental scope: at the moment, there have been none.

TO REPRESENT THE MFC CONTINENT AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLIES OF THE CONFEDERATION

A. There were important resolutions at the last Continental Assembly, not at general level but all were internal to the countries.

B. Presentation of the progress of its implementation. It has been possible only to follow up the commitments of the countries.

TO PROCESS APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP TO THE CONFEDERACIÓN OF THE MFC LOCATED IN ITS GEOGRAPHIC AREA. THESE APPLICATIONS MUST BE SENT TO THE PRESIDENTIAL TEAM OF THE CONFEDERATION TO BE PRESENTED TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

There are no new member countries.
We visited Nicaragua but there was no answer.

TO COOPERATE WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS RELATED TO THE FAMILY, ESPECIALLY WITH THOSE ASSOCIATED OR SUPPORTED

A. We are affiliated with Federation of Continental Bishops Conferences.

We attended two functions to which we were invited by CELAM: the first one to the meeting at Aparecida Brazil, relating to the action of laity; and the second to a meeting of family movements. We consider that the making connections with our Episcopal Conference of Latin America is beneficial and we tried to attend to its pastoral lineaments.

B. Connection with FIRES.

We do not have connections with this organization.

C. Connection with other family organizations. We are part of a national network of civic and social organization in Mexico known as the FAMILY NETWORK. In our official communications and visits to the countries, we motivate our members to integrate with this type of social and civic network in their countries. We support the initiatives in favor of life by means of letters of support sent by electronic mail to those countries that ask for it.

III. Sharing of Ideas

A. Funding strategies

- Effective system for membership contribution

The system for country contribution is appended to the decision made by the Latin American General Assemblies, which is not fulfilled by a 40% of the countries. A table of contributions is sent to the countries but there is no response.

- Sponsored projects

We count on the project "Evangelical Solidarity" Mission Santa Maria de Guadalupe, which consists of supporting countries that accept to adopt a change in their basic cycle of formation, with a new methodology, systematic and integral to the formation material realized as an organizational structure agreed in the proposed methodology. A great majority of the funds are provided by the MFC of Mexico. Our commitment is to empower our members and to accompany them in the implementation of the project.

B. Continental actions for family spirituality (Continental Day of Prayer) and for social service.

We celebrate the MFC Latin America Day of Prayer every first Sunday of October with a Eucharistic Celebration and a fellowship among families. We put into practice, as an expression of solidarity with the SPLA, the giving of a free and voluntary contribution from the families of the dioceses of the countries.

APPENDIX VI

PROJECT EVANGELICAL SOLIDARITY

Presented by MFC Latin America Presidents Jorge and Rosalinda Carrillo

ICCFM General Assembly

July 28, 2007

ANTECEDENTS

Why this project?

During the MFC XIII Latin American Encounter and the XXI Latin America General Assembly in Costa Rica in 2003, we reflected that the MFC members needed to develop internally, as responsible missionaries in the family apostolate, through periodic formation meetings and encounters of groups, at the same time conforming with the four pillars of the MFC: Solidarity, Spirituality, Formation and Promotion. What resulted was that in the XXI AGLA, the theme chosen for the Zonal Encounters was "The MFC Confronting Family Disintegration," reflecting on the reality of the families in Latin America, beginning with a positive vision of the family.

Starting off with the results of the analysis of the four pillars of Solidarity, Spirituality, Formation and Promotion, the results take us to a revision of the general and specific missions of the MFC, motivating to us to see inside ourselves as we walk, and in consequence, if we are individually living our charisma. Analyzing the consolidated conclusions of the Pre-Zonal Encounters 2006, "The MFC Confronting Family Disintegration," we proposed among other studies study of present the subjects, to awake the critical spirit, evangelization of our structures, etc.

INTRODUCTION

This project seeks to integrate to the MFC of Latin America with an actual dynamics that are committed to the principles and the vision of the Compendium of Social Doctrine of Church (3,2):

"It tries to promote a new commitment which is able to respond to the demands of our time, adapted to the necessities and the resources of man, and

above all, to the yearning to value, in new ways, the vocation proper to the diverse ecclesial gifts, oriented towards the New Evangelization which has a social scope because all the members of the Church participate in their secular dimension."

It consists of the application of reorganization with a prospective vision of the MFC after the analyses of the four pillars of Solidarity, Spirituality, Formation and Promotion in addition to the challenge of the MFC confronting family disintegration.

OBJECTIVE

Its objective is to apply a new form of Evangelization and Formation of the MFC internally, that facilitates it to inspire, individually and collectively, behaviors and options that allow it to expect the future with confidence and hope, making its gift useful and fruitful.

The Power Point presentation included the following:

1. Antecedents, Introduction and Objectives
2. Basic cycle of formation (Married Couples and Youth)
3. Processes and Systems in the formation.
4. Structure of Service for the formation in the action.
5. Books of study for basic Cycle of formation (Married Couples)
6. Books of study for basic Cycle of formation (Youth)
7. Books of support for the formation and service to the community.
8. Books of the Christian Family Movement in Latin America

The Project Evangelical Solidarity has been introduced and implemented in the three zones of MFC Latin America.

APPENDIX VII

CONTINENTAL NORTH AMERICA REPORT

14th ICCFM General Assembly

Fatima, Portugal

July 28, 2007

We are Gary and Kay Aitchison from Ames, Iowa USA. We are the North American Continental Representatives to the ICCFM.

The Christian Family Movement in North America is comprised of two countries, Canada and the United States. There are three organizations that represent the movement in North America. They are CFM USA with membership of 1500 active families, MFCC USA with a family membership of 2500 and the MFC LA with 500 families in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles CA. A total of 4500 families are members of the movement in the USA. The CFM USA is English speaking and the MFC are Spanish speaking. Each of the movements support the ICCFM with a \$1 donation per family membership. There are 23 members of the movement from the USA in attendance at this Assembly.

CFM USA will celebrate 60 years of Christian service to families in the year 2009. The Christian Family Movement began in the United States and expanded worldwide under the leadership of Pat and Patty Crowley and many others. The University of Notre Dame in Notre Dame, Indiana, USA has established a permanent collection of the Apostolic Movements of the 20th Century. The collected documents from CFM are quite extensive. Kay Aitchison maintains collaboration with the University Library staff at Notre Dame University.

We would like to say that we have lost several leaders since we last met in 2004 especially Patty Crowley who with her husband Pat Crowley formed the movement in the late 1940's. Juanita Figueroa also died in 2006. Juanita and her husband Mario were Presidents of the MFC USA at the time of her death.

And more recently Fr. Sam Palmer who was the formerly the International Chaplain for ICCFM and NA Chaplain and a long time supporter of the movement died of ALS in September of 2006. To these leaders, who attended the Assembly in CA, and many others we express our gratitude for their love and efforts to bring Christian values to the families of the world.

We would like to encourage you to use the resources of the ICCFM website at www.iccfm.org. The website is in English and Spanish and is managed by Andy Pozdol who is in CFM in Chicago, Illinois. The most challenging opportunity for the movement in the USA is the substantial increase in the immigration of Spanish speaking families to the US. This not only is bringing large numbers of Spanish speaking families that need the support of the MFC but it also impacts CFM USA as

the families begin to integrate into the culture of the US. There will be more on this positive opportunity as the MFC reports are presented. We are very pleased that the Presidents of the three movements in the USA are attending this World and General Assembly of the ICCFM. We want to thank them for attending and each of them has consented to present a short report for their movement in North America. The individual report follow in this order: CFM USA John and Lauri Pryzbysz, Presidents Baltimore, Maryland; MFC USA Juan and Theresa Rodriques, Presidents Houston, Texas; MFC LA Erwin and Nora Lopez, Presidents Los Angeles, California.

Submitted by: Gary and Kay Aitchison and CFM and MFC Presidents from NA ICCFM North American Representatives

APPENDIX VIII

WORDS OF ELECTED PRESIDENTS

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Our Lord Jesus Christ:

We thank God that through you, He has chosen us to serve Him. This time as World Presidents of the ICCFM. Thank you for your confidence.

In the same manner as the apostles, we have to convey the Good News to every place the Lord takes us. We are aware of the situations of injustice, poverty and pain in which many of our brothers live in all continents. Something has to be done. We cannot just cross our arms as simple spectators, waiting for others to act and allowing the sects and the clericalism to continue growing before our indifference. A Christian is a man of faith and hope; he is dynamic and, with the grace of the Holy Spirit, is not afraid to proclaim that Jesus lives, that He is among us and gives us the strength to convey His message, His project of life and humanization every where.

We make ours the words of John Paul II when he stated: "Today more than ever, we need to understand these words of the Risen Christ: Do not be afraid." It is a necessity for the man of today... who does not stop being afraid interiorly and not without reason. It is likewise a necessity for all the people and all nations of the world. It is necessary to strengthen in the conscience of each human being the certainty that there is... One who has in His hands the future of the world to come; One who has the Keys of Death and of Hades (Revelations 1, 18); One who is the Alpha and the Omega of the history of mankind (Revelations 22, 13) being its individual or collective; and most of all the certainty that this One is LOVE. LOVE made man, LOVE crucified and is risen, LOVE always present among men. Jesus is the Eucharistic Love. The inexhaustible fountain of communion, He is the only one we can openly believe when He asks us: "Do not be afraid!"

Brother and Sisters, it is very important to know where we are working, how we really stand and how many we are in each continent, in order to make a reality the objective of the Confederation to promote, empower, and help the Christian Family Movements; so that their members may live their human and Christian vocation. That they be witnesses of the family essential values based on the faith proclaimed by the Gospel and strengthened by the Catholic Church Teachings. In this manner, we will be able to support the expansion of the Christian Family Movement in the countries where it is established and try to create it where it does not exist. How shall we do it? With the help of each and everyone, reinforcing and intensifying in the programs of formation The Confederation needs that its members know Christ, love Him and serve Him. He is the way and we need to show it to the rest; and although He, Himself, can do it, He prefers to count on each one of us.

We would like to meet with the Presidents of all the Continents so that together we may adequately plan our programs.

We conclude by asking the help and inspiring force of the Holy Spirit, since with God everything is possible. May He fill your hearts with peace and joy so that together we may fulfill the mission He has placed in our hands today.

We love you dearly. Thank you.

William and Esilda Cheng

July 2007

