



Hnutie kresťanských rodín na Slovensku (HKR)
Christian Families Movement in Slovakia (CHFM)
Ústredie HKR, ~~Právnická 2, 831 02~~ Bratislava, Slovak Republic
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CHRISTIAN FAMILIES MOVEMENT IN SLOVAKIA

The Movement of Christian Families (MCF) arose in the pale of Catholic Church in Slovakia in the year 1969 as a desire of Christian families for sanctification and deepening of life in all its dimensions. The founder of the Movement is Prof. Dr. Vladimír Ďurikovič, PhD. who is its leader. The spiritual father of Movement is Cardinal J. CH. Korec and Slovak Bishop Conference.

CFM was active more than 20 years as an underground movement under difficult conditions during the persecution of the Church. Nevertheless, CFM has constituted a successful organizational structure and has contributed significantly to Christian formation of Slovak families. The Movement actually associates Slovak families of both Catholic rites but is open also for all Christians of other forms of denomination.

In January 1990 the Movement in Slovak Republic was legalized.

The main aim of the Movement since its beginning is:

- to create conditions for spiritual renovation and formation of married couples and families on the principles of evangelization, freedom, love and unity tending to a harmonious family life,
- to rise the educational level of married couples and families in a way that would enable to practice their faith and transfer it to their children (studying literature during meetings, listening to lectures, having spiritual exercises, spiritual recollections etc.),
- to help developing good relations between husband and wife in realizing matrimonial inseparableness and in accepting the conceived children.

A special help for the Movement is the Family Centre which is working in Bratislava and providing consultation service of psychologists, organizing lectures for families and youth.

In this field a significant help for families are spiritual exercises - Original Marriage Encounters (OME) – with a special aim to the problems of marriage. More than 5000 married couples have participated in those exercises.

The Movement realizes its program also in Family communities which are created by 5-8 families. Besides the common daily contacts these families meet once-twice monthly at spiritual programs where they pray, read and meditate the Bible and educate themselves. Family communities provide mutual help in education of children and in other fields of life not only by spiritual support but also by material help. They spend together with their children the holidays, vacations and leisure time.

Other weekend programs are concentrated to Engaged couples, Sons and Daughters Encounters, Family Encounters with Children, Priest Encounters and other activities, called FIRES programs. CFM realized 10 FIRES programs.

The vacation exchanges Slovak and foreign children living in families and the preparation of summer and winter family trips are very attractive for the participants.

CFM organizes of educational courses for animators, moderators, coordinators, and leaders of FIRES programs, Family Communities and all CFM programs.

CFM realizes spouse and family seminars, conferences and general family assemblies.

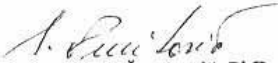
In frame of the edition work it publishes the unique family Christian periodical: Family Communities continuing as periodical FAMILY.

CFM as internal Church organization coordinates its activities with the Bishops' Conference, with the diocese bishop and the priests.

The structure of the Movement follows the structure of the Church – diocese, sub-diocese, deanery, parish, family community. The highest organ of CFM which meets as required but regularly at least once in 4 years is the Slovak Congress of CFM. The Congress consists from delegates of the dioceses. The activities between two conferences of the Congress are coordinated by the Council of CFM which consists from the president and the vice presidents of the diocesan and town centers. They accomplish this task in their own free time. Because of many new activities it was necessary to establish diocesan secretariats and a Centre of CFM with constant workers.

The Movement has many years contacts with pro-family movements in all Europe and other continents. The contact with Euro-children Movement is interesting, too; within its framework there are organized holiday stays for our children in Belgium and of Belgian children in Slovakia.

At present, under the conditions of plurality, freedom and not too favorable attitudes of the society towards religions, faith and the Church, when liberalism, egoism, individualism, rationalism and many other opinions are oppressing the spirit of wisdom, hope, forgiveness, love and Lord's authority – the activity of our Movement seems to be especially necessary for our whole society.


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