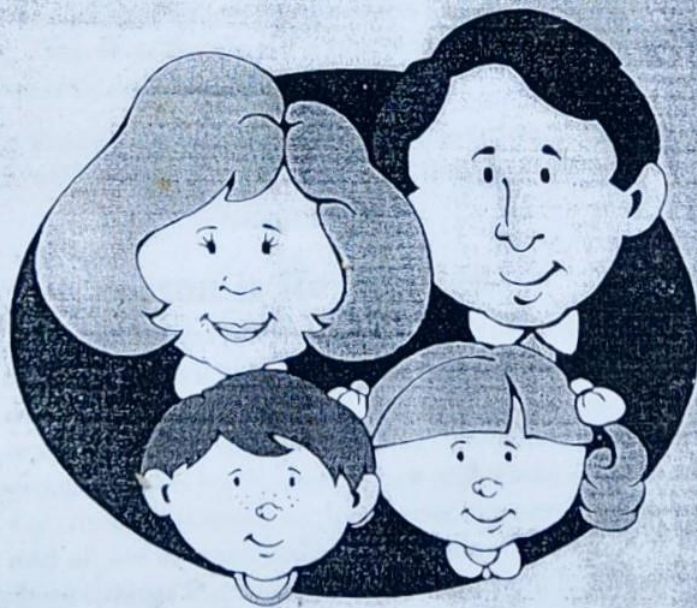




# YOU AND THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY MOVEMENT



A Movement  
Of Families  
By Families  
For Families

# The Christian Family Movement and You

The Christian Family Movement seeks to promote a strong and healthy family life within the Church and in Society. All couples of goodwill share this objective.

The CFM endeavours to promote family happiness in the home and in its environment even if one family is oppressed by circumstances moral, economic or social .... which make Christian living difficult, then Christians must be concerned. You are asked to consider whether your community is a friendly and pleasant place to live in and raise a family and whether you and your neighbours are alert to inhuman and therefore un-Christian influences.



## The Method is Practical

The CFM is, a practical way for couples to become aware of the community. All its members bring to a meeting information based on personal observation. Then by a process of group dialogue and reflection the members judge the situation in the light of Christian teaching. They then decide on a practical and attainable action which may be taken individually or collectively.

Family environment is therefore improved and consequent changing attitudes create an atmosphere which will prompt people to do the ordinary everyday things in a Christian manner.

## The Value of the Person is Recognised

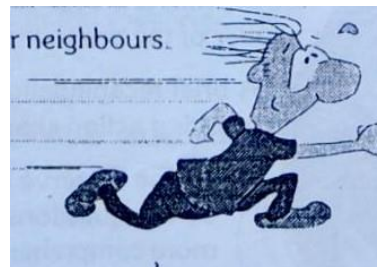


The goal of each meeting is ACTION. It is therefore necessary that the conviction which impels this action be felt by all members personally and is not seen as an imposition. For this reason meetings employ the group interaction method so that the group benefits by the experience and thinking of many persons. This method respects each member as a person. There should be no passive listeners and all are encouraged to participate. CFM believes that action begins with an attitudinal change Parenting is sometimes shouldered by one person. Therefore single parents are welcome to join.

## How to start

Personal contact by the chaplain or by a couple is the most effective way of introducing the CFM to other couples or to single parents. Interested couples may talk with their parish clergy and request for a chaplain. The priest may also suggest the names of couples. However it may be noted that the CFM is a movement of married couples, their families and their neighbours.

It is a lay movement in which the clergy do play an active role but in keeping with the lay character of the movement. It has been recognised as such by the Catholic Church. Hence the field of apostolate is the home and wherever the family lives and interacts and has its being, The CFM is not just another parish organisation.



## Suggestions for the first meeting

These suggestions are for couples who are going to lead the first meeting. If there are existing groups in your locality or diocese, a couple from there will be happy to help you lead the first few meetings.

## The CFM Meeting

### Preliminary Remarks

The CFM aims at helping Christian parents to discharge their responsibilities in the spirit of the Gospel. It brings a deeper understanding of the Word of God and a greater awareness of the influences of the world around on the family. Both aims are achieved by relating the topic of discussion to the Gospel. The method is that of Observe, Judge and Act, which trains the participants in improving the performance of their responsibilities.

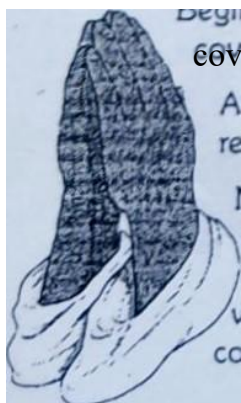


To make Scripture-reading relevant to the topic Observe Judge Act of discussion, the Observe is taken first, followed by reading the relevant scripture passage, and concluded with the Judge and Act part. Those who prefer to take up the Scripture passage first (with the questions attached) are free to do so. They can then proceed to the Observe - Judge - Act part.

It is between meetings in the family, in the neighbourhood, in the community, and in the parish that the real work of the CF&I is done. It is here that the mass character of the movement is made evident and tangible. Every one of us have our own circle of friends on whom we do have some influence. It is there precisely that the leadership potential of each one shows. Thus the training of the CFM is to prepare its members so that they and their friends and neighbours can make a practical contribution to the cause of the Christian Family.

Upon arrival for the meeting there is a short socialising over a cup of coffee /tea, so that all the participants will be present and ready to start the meeting.

### The CFM Meeting



Begin with a prayer to the Holy Spirit. This prayer is on the front inside of the programme book.

A brief recapitulation of the previous meeting may be made and the resulting action shared.

Now the Observe is taken up. The exchange of experiences, evoked by the questions on the topic, helps to develop in the members a more comprehensive understanding of the situation. The exchange will be all the livelier if the members know how to listen and how to contribute.

**This** exchange sets the background for the reading of Scripture. The chaplain can help to place the passage in its context and, guide the members towards the discovery of the relevance of the passage to the topic, Thus the ground is prepared for the evaluation.



Judge-part or the evaluation follows, It is meant to Make Christians aware of their responsibility in a given situation. What are Christian values are at stake in this situation and how can we defend or strengthen them This sets the stage for action.

The Act-part is important. Action may take place on the level of the person, or the couple or the family or even on the wider level of society or Church. We grow by putting into action what we have learned.

The meeting concludes with a preview of the next meeting. Set the time and place for the next meeting.

## Preparation Before Meeting

The following suggestions are culled and condensed from the experience of couples in the CFM. They are included here to help you continue to have interesting and productive meetings. Because this is a movement in which the individual is important, every member must prepare for each meeting. Preparation is necessary for two reasons:

1. So that the member will have a contribution to make to the group's inter-action and suggestions for action to be taken, and,
2. So that the members will be able to appreciate and see the worth of the ideas expressed by other members.

## Who Should Prepare

### Couples should prepare together

Not only the couples who are going to lead the meeting but every couple should go over the questions of the Social Inquiry and the Scriptures. This preparation should be made well in advance of the meeting. It is especially important that each couple do the work suggested by the Observe part of the Social Inquiry. Experience will soon point out that it is not possible to make a sensible judgement or suggest a practical action unless the group members have the essential facts of the situation.



### Preparation of the Leader Couple

The couple who is going to lead the meeting, or a part of a meeting should make the same preparation as the other couples. After making this preparation, each leader couple, if they wish to and can, meet with the chaplain and deepen and broaden their understanding of the topic to be placed before the CFM group at the meeting to be held.

### The CFM Chaplain

Though the CFM is a movement of married couples, the chaplain is an important resource of the groups. The Chaplain is a theologically trained person who can give spiritual guidance. He can train the leader couple and the group in making true moral judgements.

The role of the Chaplain is primarily a spiritual one. The chaplain, especially when he is an ordained priest, should never monopolise the meeting, but allow the members of the group to have a free exchange of views and insights. All members of the group are experts in their own field. If requested, the chaplain may summarise the main results of the discussion. During the meeting his role is that of guide and encourager. He listens and then corrects, amplifies and adds.



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### To the Members

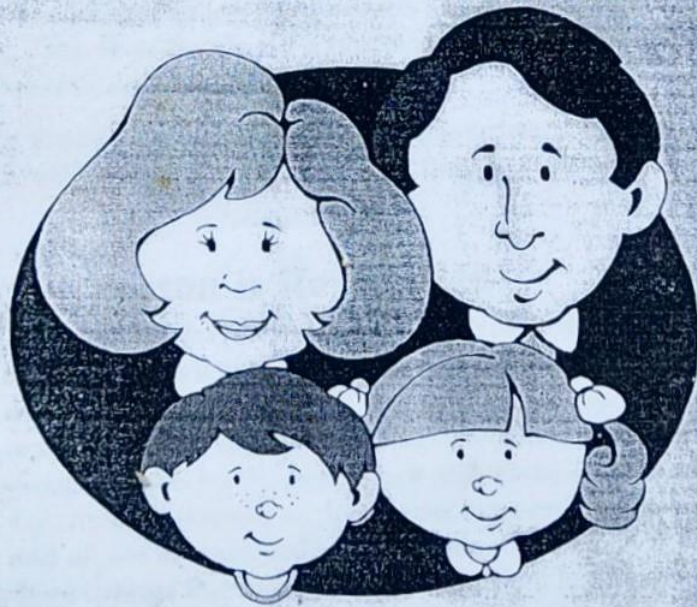
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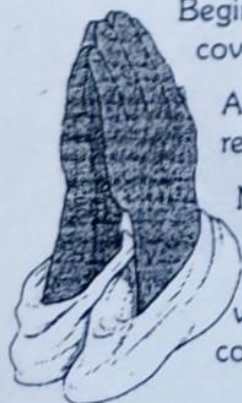


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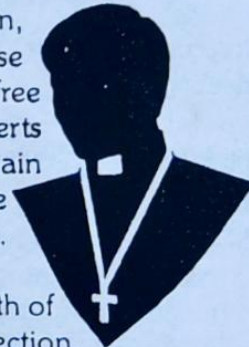
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