

MISSIONARY FAMILIES OF CHRIST

COVENANT RECOLLECTION FOLLOW-UP

This manual is for the use of household leaders in conducting their household meetings right after each of the four sessions of the Covenant Recollection (CR). The CR sessions cover a period of about four months, with one session and two follow-up households every month.

OBJECTIVES

Following are the objectives of the CR Follow-Up phase:

1. To help the participants to understand more the covenant of MFC.
2. To make the participants realize much more how MFC can be a blessing to them.
3. To impress upon the participants the importance of the covenant in their lives and thus to encourage them to commit to the covenant and become regular members of MFC.

ROLE OF THE HOUSEHOLD LEADERS

In general, the household leaders are to see to it that individual household members are understanding and appreciating the basic covenant more and more. More specifically, the household leaders are expected to do the following:

1. Develop such understanding of members by conducting discussions on the CR talks and clarifying questions they may have;
2. Develop more openness and trust among the household members by encouraging them to share more freely and openly about their growth, struggles and difficulties.

In couples households, men and women have separate discussions.

BEHAVIORAL CHANGES

Household leaders should have a clear understanding of what specific changes household members should begin to exhibit. As stated in the objectives, this phase intends to establish in the lives of the members the foundations for living out the MFC covenant and culture.

Household leaders should therefore be sensitive to how the household members are moving on and deal with them accordingly.

The following are behavioral changes that members should begin to exhibit:

1. In the area of personal relationships:

 - respect for each other's views and opinions.
 - being brothers and sisters in the Lord.
 - giving encouragement to members who may be depressed, feeling burdened or low.
 - verbalizing their trust for one another.
 - avoiding slander, gossip and negative humor.

2. As a people of faith, they:
 - share about how God provides, protects and cares for their needs.
 - share their experiences of God's providence and generosity in their life, home, office, relationships, parish and community.
 - give thanks to God for His bountiful blessings.
 - praise the Lord for either success or failure experiences.
3. On prayer and Scripture, they:
 - have scheduled a daily prayer and scripture reading time.
 - pray regularly as scheduled.
 - read scriptures regularly as scheduled.
 - pray together as a family.
4. In the area of life in the home:
 - husband and wife are sincere and honest to each other.
 - family has meals together at least once a week.
 - family has regular recreation together.
5. In the area of exploring the life of MFC, they:
 - attend the weekly household meetings, monthly chapter prayer assemblies and other gatherings.
 - are punctual in all meetings.
 - are not critical about the life and order of the body.
 - have respect for the members and leaders of MFC.

Given time, opportunities to share and encouragement within the period provided, household members are expected to exhibit the above behavior. It is expected that they will express the above in varying degrees; some may accept such a life without much difficulty, others may take time before they begin to start living it.

CONTENT OF THE MEETINGS

There will be 8 household meetings where each of the 8 topics of the CR will be taken up. Since there are two household meetings in a month, this CR follow-up will be over a period of 4 months.

Discussion starters are provided for each of the talks, per the Participant's Handouts. These starters are reproduced here. Further starters are provided here. The household leader may utilize any or all, or even opt to have starters other than these, as long as the basic objectives for this phase are met.

Meeting No. 1 (after CR#1-1)

Talk topic: Our covenant with God.

Discussion starters:

1. How has God initiated a relationship with you? How have you responded?
2. How can CFC-FFL help you in living out your covenant with God and with His people?

In addition:

3. Do you realize the seriousness of having a covenant with God?
4. Share about elements of the covenant that pose difficulties or challenges.

Meeting No. 2 (after CR#1-2)

Talk topic: The call to holiness.

Discussion starters:

1. Share about your personal prayer time and your Bible reading.
2. Share about your understanding of God's call to holiness and perfection. How can you grow as such?

In addition:

3. Get the members to commit to daily prayer. Ask them for their specific time and place for prayer.
4. Ask if they have been doing the daily Bible readings according to our Bible Reading Guide. If not, encourage them to do so.
5. Inform them about the books written by the founder. Encourage them to start reading these books.
6. Make sure every member is fulfilling his/her Sunday obligation of going to Mass. Encourage them to go to regular confession.

Meeting No. 3 (after CR#2-3)

Talk topic: Strengthening the Christian family.

Discussion starters:

1. Share about your understanding of God's plan for the family.
2. Are you building up your family life in accordance with Christian principles?
3. What are the ways of strengthening family life that you have not used?

In addition:

4. Share about family life, especially relationship with the spouse and with the children.

Meeting No. 4 (after CR#2-4)

Talk topic: Living a Culture of Life

Discussion starters:

1. Share about your understanding of what it means to be pro-life.
2. How do you intend to be involved in our pro-life ministry?

In addition:

3. Share about the joys of children (and grandchildren).

Meeting No. 5 (after CR#3-5)

Talk topic: Living in Christian community.

Discussion starters:

1. Is your life a reflection of Christianity, which is a counter-culture to the world's ways?
2. How are you trying to live out faithfully the culture of MFC in all its various expressions?

In addition:

3. Discuss and share about the ways you relate to the brethren in the household as brothers and sisters in the Lord.
4. How are you living out the culture of honor and respect, or loyalty and commitment.

Meeting No. 6 (after CR#3-6)

Talk topic: Financial stewardship.

Discussion starters:

1. Do you understand that everything belongs to God and you are just a steward?
2. How do you see yourself in terms of the measures of spiritual growth?

In addition:

3. Do you accept that it is your obligation to support God's work?
4. Any questions on the Financial Handbook?

Meeting No. 7 (after CR#4-7)

Talk topic: Being a Christian witness.

Discussion starters:

1. Share about how you think you might begin to evangelize those you know.
2. Share about any service you are doing in the parish.
3. Share about how you understand the Church's preferential option for the poor.

Meeting No. 8 (after CR#4-8)

Talk topic: The MFC Core Values.

Discussion starters:

1. Share about your appreciation of the MFC Core Values.
2. Do you now desire to fully become a member of MFC by making the covenant?

In addition:

3. Share about how you are beginning to appreciate the richness of the life and mission of MFC.

SG. April 18, 2011.