Established
in 1981

# Catholic Family Life Association

*(formerly National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers)*

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# BOARD MINUTES

February 5, 2026 - 2 pm EST

**Meeting Called to Order by:** President, Kathy Schmugge

**Prayer was offered by:** Kathy Schmugge

**Attendance: P = Present / A = Absent / E = Excused / V = Vacant**

| | |
|---|---|
| P | President – Kathy Schmugge |
| P | Vice-President – Ed Hopfner |
| P | Region I – Craig Dyke |
| V | Region II – Vacant |
| P | Region III – Damon Owens |
| P | Region IV – Stacy Golden |
| P | Region V and Secretary – Elizabeth Reha |
| E | Region VI – Terri Yohman |
| P | Region VII – Kelly Johnson |
| P | Region VIII – Sister Candace Fier |
| P | Region IX – Matt Selby |
| E | Region X – Luisa de Poo |
| P | Region XI – Linda Ji |
| P | Region XII and Treasurer – Bryce Herrmann |
| P | Region XIII – Deacon Michael McGrady |
| A | Region XIV – Diane Kledzik |
| A | Region XV – Ann Koshute |
| E | Diocesan Section Representative – Chris O'Neill |
| P | Parish Section Representative – Bill Coffin |
| P | Organization Representative – Daniel West |
| P | Hispanic/Latino Representative – Carla Ferrando-Bowling |
| E | Episcopal Liaison – Most Rev. Jorge Rodríguez |
| P | USCCB Representative – Andrew Buonopane |
| P | Administrative Assistant (interim) - Elizabeth Reha |
| P | Administrative Assistant (interim) - Crystal Painter |

**Minutes –** Elizabeth (Secretary)

Attendance: Chris O'Neill, Louisa DePoo, and Teresa Yeoman were unable to attend.
Motion to approve the minutes by Kelly J. and seconded by Bill.
Minutes were approved

**Treasurer Report –** Bryce (Treasurer)

No Report

**Old Business:**

Membership Ad Hoc Committee

Socorro will lead the committee after stepping away. Issues to address include communication, organizational member participation, staff limits, and membership benefits. Board members should send regional feedback directly to Socorro.

Renewal Communication & Membership Drive

Carla emphasized the importance of renewal letters. Elizabeth noted they are typically sent out in May. With multiple diocesan budget cycles, it was suggested exploring renewal timeline. Kathy suggested the Ad Hoc Committee evaluate offering two renewal cycles per year.

'What We Offer' Deliverables

Damon will lead the strategic deliverables effort, incorporating historical strengths and current needs. Kathy urged board members to submit feedback. Damon stated deliverables must be clear, compelling, and aligned with diocesan needs.

Website Automation

Crystal reported progress toward automated renewals, expiration notices, welcome messages, and regional introductions via the website.

Strategic Goals & Identity

Carla encouraged revisiting past SMART goals to clarify CFLA's value and mission. Kathy agreed this should occur after gathering regional feedback.

New Member Mentorship

Kathy proposed assigning each new member to a veteran mentor for early support. Damon stressed the importance of credible, structured onboarding.

2026 Conference Update

Kathy Schmugge

Conference dates confirmed: October 8–11. Venue searches are underway in Charleston. Shuttle access and affordability are priorities. Brooke and Tara will be chairing the planning committee. First committee meeting: February 27.
The Marriage Catechumenate will be the conference theme. Crystal compiled the suggested titles, and the Conference Committee will narrow them to three options.

The board discussed fairness in travel and recommended that the 2027 conference be held further west or northwest. Options mentioned: Denver, Las Vegas, Salt Lake City, Arizona.

Communio Collaboration Discussion

Damon outlined potential joint educational events with Communio. Carla highlighted broader collaboration needs across national organizations. Kathy emphasized unity and avoiding duplication. Craig noted ongoing USCCB/Peyton Institute initiatives. Damon stressed the importance of coordination to avoid redundancy. Kathy suggested further discussion once details are gathered.

Attendance & Alternates

Carla reinforced the importance of board meeting attendance. If you cannot attend please ask your alternate to attend. Kathy requested all board members identify alternates to ensure representation.

Region Reports

- Found at the end of the minutes.

**New Business**

None

Kathy closed the meeting.

Closing Prayer was offered Deacon Mike McGrady.

If you have a regional or section report, please send it to the secretary and it will be put into the minutes. Use this link to send reports. Please send by the 20th of each month.

If you would like to put something on the agenda for next month's meeting, please contact Kathy.

**Next Meeting:** – Thursday, March 5, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Reha, Secretary

**Regional Updates**
**Region 1**: No Report
**Region 2**: Vacant

**Region 3:** No Report
**Region 4**: Linda Ji / Alternate John Prust – Discussion of the topic: "Group weddings."
**Region 5:** Elizabeth reported that there was nothing new to report.
**Region 6:** No Report
**Region 7:** No Report
**Region 8:** No Report
**Region 9:** No Report
**Region 10:** No Report
**Region 11:** No Report
**Region 12:** No Report
**Region 13:** No Report
**Region 14:** Diane Kledzik / Alternate Luis Nieves Discussion of the topics: Many of the dioceses offered a Marriage Jubilee Mass during National Marriage Week, for those married a certain number of years. Varied diocese to diocese. Many offered photos with the Bishop who celebrated the Mass. One parish offered a date night for the Hispanic Community. Rediscovery Retrouvaille/Marriage Rediscovery has a monthly newsletter for ongoing dating ideas, prayer, and marriage support. A parish in Panama City Beach, Pensacola/Tallahassee diocese, is hosting a Men's Retreat - Ken and Maria Schaefer. St. Petersburg is hosting a Together in Holiness Conference on Saturday, March 14. St. Augustine will be hosting a Safe Haven Sunday.
Request: Does anyone have information or resources on Dating for Young Adults? Looking for Young Adults out of typical college age/years. Request from St. Augustine, but many were interested!
Questions for the Board: Any consideration on certification/formation for Marriage and Family Life Directors? How can we assist with the CFLA Conference that will be in our Region?
**Region 15:** No Report
**Diocesan:** No Report
**Parish:** No Report
**Organization:** No Report
**Hispanic Federation:** No Report