

## A Message from our Convention Co-Chairs

Dear Chapter Leader,

It's hard to believe that 2014 is already over. But what an exciting year we have ahead of us! In this issue of *Fraternal Leader*, you'll hear more about our plans for engaging young adult members in 2015, information on new ways to promote your chapter activities, a preliminary list of regional member events planned for this year, and important news about one of the year's highlights – our Triennial Convention, to be held in Milwaukee, September 25-27.

The theme for this year's convention is “*Strong, Relevant, Vibrant*” – words we believe capture the essence of Catholic Financial Life.

- We are a **strong** organization, providing solid financial products to protect families for more than 145 years, and demonstrating an unwavering commitment to our faith through our support of Catholic parishes and schools.
- We are a **relevant** organization, providing opportunities for members to engage in fun and meaningful activities sponsored by our chapters, raising funds through our Match Fund program, and offering member benefits in a variety of categories.
- And we are a **vibrant** organization, planning to further invest in our technology, expand ways to communicate with our members, recruit more advisors, and develop new programs to engage the next generation.

In December, chapter presidents and secretaries received an initial convention mailing with information on the process for electing delegates and alternates, the number of delegates for which their chapter qualified, and key dates related to the convention. If your chapter did not receive this information, please contact Sally Krochalk in the fraternal department at [sally.krochalk@catholicfinanciallife.org](mailto:sally.krochalk@catholicfinanciallife.org) or (414) 278-6604. Once delegates have been elected, convention committees will be formed. If you are interested in serving on a committee, please contact John Borgen at the email address or phone number below.

Included above is the “Prayer for Our Triennial Convention Year.” We will be saying this prayer before meetings and functions at our home office throughout 2015. As co-chairs for this convention, we wanted to share this prayer with you and invite you to recite it both individually and together, at chapter meetings. May the Lord bless you with health, happiness, and success in all you do this year!

Fraternally,



William R. O'Toole  
Convention Co-Chair  
(414) 278-6700  
[bill.otoole@catholicfinanciallife.org](mailto:bill.otoole@catholicfinanciallife.org)



John T. Borgen  
Convention Co-Chair  
(414) 278-6608  
[john.borgen@catholicfinanciallife.org](mailto:john.borgen@catholicfinanciallife.org)

### Prayer for Our Triennial Convention Year

Almighty and Eternal God:

We give thanks for all the blessings You continue to bestow on us, especially on our fraternal family.

Help us to reflect Your loving kindness as we go about our daily lives; to forgive even when not forgiven; to be patient with weakness, whether the failings of others or our own.

Give us peace and strength to persevere through life's difficulties. Aid us in joyfully serving each other, for in doing so we serve You.

Lead us to use our Society's resources wisely for the benefit of our members and the common good.

Inspire us to boldly proclaim in words and action Your Gospel to a world in desperate need of good news.

We make this prayer through the intercession of the Holy Family.

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph – pray for us.

Amen.

# New Ways to Promote Chapter Activities!

Chapter leaders who attended our 2014 regional conferences received a preview of some new options for inviting members to attend chapter events. The first is a "Calendar/Brochure" that includes information on the benefits of a Catholic Financial Life membership, contact information for a member's advisor, and a list of upcoming activities. To be most effective, your leadership team should select the dates for your 2015 events early in the year, and provide us with as complete a list as possible -- including dates, times, and locations. Chapter presidents and secretary/treasurers are receiving a sample of the calendar/brochure with this issue of *Fraternal Leader*.

We've also added some new designs to the postcards available in place of flyers to notify members of upcoming activities. Over the last year, many chapters have transitioned to using postcards for events that did not require a reply coupon. The newest postcard designs include a coupon option. We will continue to cover the full cost of printing and mailing for up to six mailings per chapter, per year. If you have two events to promote, that occur within 4-8 weeks of each other, using the flyers is still the best option for piggybacking the notices. You also have the option to send additional mailings at your chapter's expense.



## Summary of Fraternal Leaders Advisory Group (FLAG) Teleconference Call - October 23, 2014

- The group received an update on the regional conferences that had been held to date.
- A tentative schedule of 2015 regional member activities was shared, along with plans for engaging young adults in the new year.
- Updates were given regarding the Code of Conduct completion and VIRTUS training requirement for all officers. Plans are underway to initiate background checks for volunteers in 2015.
- Key Dates for the 2015 Convention were reiterated, as well as the criteria for chapters to receive delegates.
- Dates were set for the 2015 FLAG meetings (see insert).

### FLAG Meetings for 2015

- March 12                      Teleconference
- May 7                              Teleconference
- July 16                            At home office
- September 25                At convention site

# Society Helps to Protect God's Children

Look into the eyes of a young child and you see optimism, hope, and uncompromising love. In childhood is found total and complete trust in the goodness of life. As we age we soon realize that the world is not perfect. However, reality should be a slow, understandable process and not forced upon the youngest and most innocent among us.



The impact of pedophilia on children in our country and around the world has had a devastating impact on generations. Unfortunately, some of those who children admire the most have been the cause of permanent damage because of acts of child abuse.

Although Catholic Financial Life chapters are some of the safest places for children and their families, as a service to our chapter officers, the Society has undertaken an in-depth program of training, through VIRTUS.

The process that has brought us to this point has been thorough and very intentional. It began more than two years ago, with the development of a Code of Conduct for chapter officers by FLAG (Fraternal Leaders Advisory Group), and initiated at the first Regional Conference held in St. Louis this past May. At all six Regionals held in 2014, chapter officers were given in-depth training by Crispin Kettlehut, national director of the VIRTUS Program. Officers who did not attend a Regional are now taking the training online. The next step, as explained at regional meetings in 2014, will be a criminal background check process, the details of which will be presented in the next *Fraternal Leader*.

Catholic Financial Life is providing the training for multiple reasons:

1. All volunteer organizations that involve children require their volunteers to undertake special training similar to VIRTUS
2. All Catholic parishes and schools require that any volunteer working in any way with children undergo a VIRTUS-type program
3. As a service to our chapter leaders the Society is underwriting the entire cost of the program

We are requiring our chapter volunteers to take the training not because the Home Office suspects anything criminal, but because we are serious in our commitment to protect our children, our organization, and our volunteer leaders. Catholic Financial Life and VIRTUS . . . working together to protect God's children! Should you have questions, feel free to contact Sally Krochalk at [sally.krochalk@catholicfinanciallife.org](mailto:sally.krochalk@catholicfinanciallife.org) or (414) 278-6604.

## Opportunities for Affordable Family Fun in 2015!

A full slate of activities for members is planned for 2015 – some sponsored by the home office and some with a local chapter taking the lead in organizing the activity. Chapters that do this are eligible to apply for “Big Impact Funding,” to help offset some of the costs associated with the “Big Impact” activity, or to fund other events sponsored by the chapter. Below is the tentative schedule of regional member events planned for 2015. For more information on any of these activities, please contact Sally Krochalk in the Fraternal Department at (414) 278-6604.

<b>Milwaukee Admirals Hockey Game</b>	<b>January 23</b>	<b>Portland Seadogs Baseball Game*</b>	<b>July 25</b>
<b>Snowtubing at Sunburst</b>	<b>February 14</b>	<b>Golf Tournament*</b>	<b>July 27</b>
<b>Disney on Ice (Green Bay Area)</b>	<b>February 15</b>	<b>Milwaukee Zoo</b>	<b>July 29</b>
<b>Green Bay Gamblers Hockey Game</b>	<b>March 28</b>	<b>Eau Claire Express Baseball Game</b>	<b>August 1</b>
<b>ProjectFAITH*</b>	<b>April 18</b>	<b>Bay Beach</b>	<b>August 6</b>
<b>Milwaukee Brewers Baseball Game</b>	<b>May 25</b>	<b>Paw Sox Sunday*</b>	<b>August 9</b>
<b>Madison Mallards Baseball Game</b>	<b>July 12</b>	<b>Wisconsin State Fair</b>	<b>August 16</b>
<b>Family Camp Out</b>	<b>July 17-19</b>	<b>Pilgrimage to Our Lady of LaSalette*</b>	<b>September 13</b>
<b>Timber Rattlers Baseball Game</b>	<b>July 25</b>	<b>Triennial Convention</b>	<b>September 25-27</b>
		<b>National Catholic Youth Conference</b>	<b>November 18-22</b>

\*Denotes New England Activities

Home Office Sponsored

Big Impact Chapter Activities

## Get to Know Jim

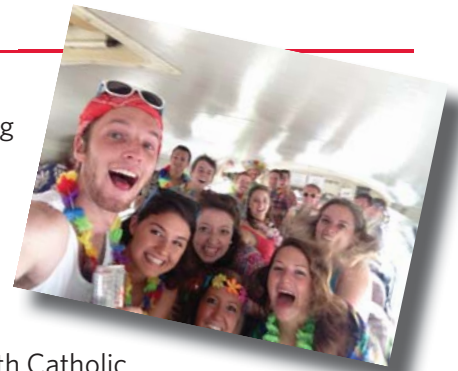
My name is Jim Love and I was born/raised on the South Side of Chicago. I am 24 years old and a proud graduate of Marquette University. I enjoy volunteering, hanging out with friends, sports and working with young adults. As you can see from the photos, I have a modest addiction with taking selfies. I hope you enjoy it!

### Updates on Young Adult Engagement

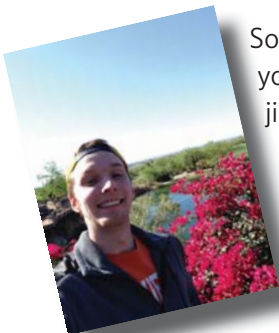
It's an exciting time here at the Home Office, as we develop opportunities to help our chapters engage young adults and their families in 2015. First, we are working with Catholic recording star, Michael James Mette, also a proud member of Catholic Financial Life, in offering his unique blend of music and ministry to various parishes in southeastern Wisconsin through free concerts sponsored by our chapters. Chapters that have active relationships with parishes in this area are being contacted to gauge interest levels. (It would count as a religious activity). Similar programs will be offered in September across the upper Midwest and New England.

For November we are also looking to fill a bus which will transport high school age members to the biannual National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis. Fully-escorted, the three-day convention has been described by former participants as a life-changing event. Chapters are being asked to show their support by helping raise funds to send a young person (perhaps someone from their chapter) to the event. More details will be shared in the near future.

All of this is being developed by the Fraternal Department with the input of a newly-formed advisory group of young adult fraternalists called "YAAS" (Young Adult Activity Squad.)



Sound like fun? Contact me to discuss any of these plans or other ideas you may have, don't hesitate to call me at (414) 278-6597 or e-mail me at [jim.love@catholicfinanciallife.org](mailto:jim.love@catholicfinanciallife.org).



If you have any questions regarding topics in this newsletter, please contact:

Sally Krochalk, Editor, *Fraternal Leader*  
[sally.krochalk@catholicfinanciallife.org](mailto:sally.krochalk@catholicfinanciallife.org)



**Catholic**  
Financial Life®

1100 West Wells Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53233  
(800) 927-2547 | (414) 273-6266

[catholicfinanciallife.org](http://catholicfinanciallife.org)