



NEWSLETTER



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Have an idea for the newsletter? Then drop a line to Janae Spencer at janae@janaespencerphoto.com.

Welcome CFAC Families

Happy Easter! Alleluia!

Around us, we can see new life blooming. I've seen so many azalea flowers and dogwoods blooming, and the trees are turning green again. Although my nose isn't loving it (hello, pollen allergies), I have to admit that it is so beautiful outside. It reminds me that we, too, are called to new life. We welcome God into the open spaces we created during Lent with fasting and prayer.

Christ is risen and there is so much to celebrate. We even had some members come into the Church this Easter season and receive the Sacraments for the first time. How amazing!

In this edition, we're excited to present a "Year in Review" that provides a comprehensive overview of the state of our club. From highlighting our collective wins and milestones to sharing updates from our various committees, this newsletter offers a snapshot of the progress we've made and the goals we've achieved together.

Thanks for being part of our CFAC family. Have a blessed Easter season.

- Janae Spencer
Newsletter Editor

Reflecting on Last Month

Last month was filled with memorable events for our community. Our tweens and teens came together for service projects at Elijah's Retreat and assembled hygiene bags, spreading kindness and support. We explored the great outdoors at Tyler State Park with Ranger Sanders and celebrated St. Joseph Feast Day with Mass and a festive dinner. Finally, we came together for Children's Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, reflecting on Jesus' Passion with prayer and participation. The bonds our children have developed throughout the year have made each event more fun than the last!



Upcoming CFAC Events

Eclipse Party- Science, field trip, fun with friends...why have just one when we can do all three? Bring a picnic lunch and your solar eclipse glasses for this once-in-a-lifetime event.

Annual Planning Retreat- Moms, don't miss this important opportunity to play a role in the planning of events for next year. Help us help each other nurture our children's homeschool experience by bringing your ideas for field trips and events and leave with a full cup of friendship and camaraderie! This event is particularly important for our long-range plan, so please make a special effort to attend.

High School Teen Social- This is a great opportunity for high schoolers to mingle and connect in a relaxed and welcoming environment at a local family's home. High schoolers, come join us!

Field Trip- Hop aboard for a day of history and adventure as we explore the Palestine Railroad and Sacred Heart Parish! Get ready to soak up the stories behind these local treasures and make memories with friends along the way. After the field trip, we'll go to the park for lunch and fellowship.

Mom's Night Out at the Grove- Join us for a well-deserved night out at The Grove—an end-of-semester celebration where you can enjoy dinner without the hassle of cooking, uninterrupted conversation with friends, and the chance to relax and celebrate this year's homeschool journey.

Members can view more details, RSVP for events, and see the full calendar in the member portal.

Year in Review: Our Wins + Milestones

This section offers a comprehensive overview of the state of our club, highlighting key achievements and milestones from the past year. From membership growth to financial stability, effective communication strategies, and the development of engaging programming, we'll delve into the various facets that contribute to the thriving community we've built together at CFAC. Join us as we celebrate our collective successes and reflect on the progress we've made in advancing our shared goals and mission.

2023-2024 Overview

by Melissa Reaves, Director

As we began planning for this programming year, the Leadership Team had identified a specific membership goal: 25 families. Our systems, budget, and programs were all geared towards the idea that we could realistically serve one another in community if we met this specific goal. With a little less than half of the programming year to go, we have 39 families, **exceeding this goal by a whopping 56%**! This type of growth is a testament to each of our member families- your joyful involvement, generous volunteering hearts, and desire to serve each other has made CFAC a co-op like no other.



As our Patron Saint, Pope John Paul II, stated, "A community needs a soul if it is to become a true home for human beings. You.. the people must give it this soul."

As a community that functions as a cooperative, we all have an opportunity to define the soul of our community by way of our contributions to the group and how we interact with individual members of the community. With great growth comes many opportunities such as hosting larger programs and events for the greater community like the Homeschool Blessing Mass, Used Book Sale, and new this year, Craft Fair. It also brings challenges as we learn together how to organize and communicate about our events and respond to the challenges facing The Church here at home in Tyler and beyond, all the while helping assisting each other in this wonderful vocation of homeschooling.

CCC #340 - God wills the interdependence of creatures ... Creatures exist only in dependence on each other, to complete each other, in the service of each other.

Our upcoming annual planning retreat will focus on this idea of service to one another so that we can truly be a community with soul; a soul whose mission is to support Catholic Homeschooling Families. All member mothers are encouraged to attend so we can spend the day getting to know one another better and make plans for next year. We know it's a lot to ask of you and your families, and we hope that the fruits of our time together will more than make up for the time that is lost by having mom away from the house for the day. We look forward to seeing you there!

Membership

by Chelsea Lockman, Membership Coordinator

CFAC has experienced tremendous growth over this past year, not only in membership but also within our very own community. As of April 2023, CFAC was comprised of just 18 families and we were hoping to add just 7 actively involved families this academic year. Much to our surprise, as of April 2024, CFAC has grown by 116%, bringing our membership up to 39 families with over 127 children!

As with any new organization, our retention rate is at 67%. We look forward to seeing this increase through our onboarding process, continued surveys and volunteer engagement. Our volunteer rate is at 70% and will only increase as our members find where they can best share their skills and experience.

CFAC has positively impacted not only our immediate community, but also the surrounding areas and our scope continues to grow. With members from over 10 parishes ranging as north as St. Peter the Apostle in Mineola going as far south as Sacred Heart of Jesus in Rusk, we are truly strengthening the Domestic Church and building up the Kingdom of God.



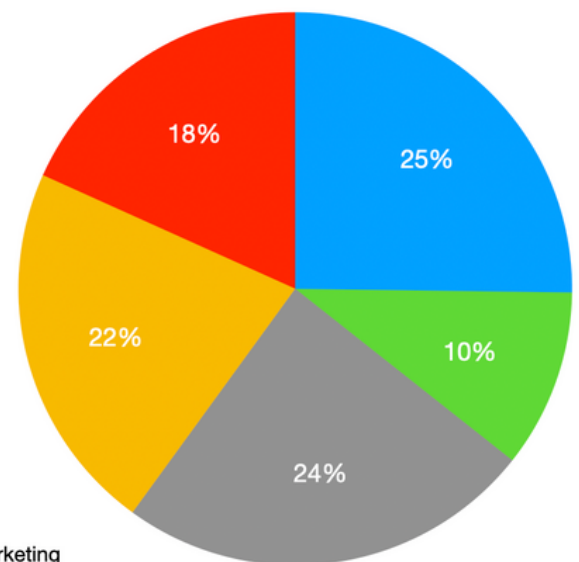
Finances

by Kristina Christian, Financial Coordinator

What a great year it has been!

Our registration fees are working well at keeping us properly balanced. On the right, you can find a breakdown of where our fees have gone. We are anticipating acquiring insurance as we officially become a 501 (c) (3), which will utilize much of the healthy buffer seen in the red (18% of our fees).

We have been pleased to keep registration fees within reason while also ensuring we can provide a safe and enjoyable variety of events for our families. We hope you appreciated the value of CFAC this year!



- Website and Marketing
- Supplies
- Facility Donations
- Retreat costs (Advent and Spring Planning)
- Anticipated Administrative Costs

Communications

by Brynn Turner, Communications Coordinator and Janae Spencer



External Communications

As Catholic Family Adventure Club continues to grow, our relationships are expanding throughout our diocese and beyond! CFAC's greater than 100% growth rate this year shows that there is a desire for authentic Catholic community among our families. Presenting a consistent message of who we are and who we serve allows us to ensure we are meeting the needs of our current and future families, as well as those who join us for the occasional CFAC-sponsored events. Our capable communications team is made up of volunteers with so much joy to serve this mission!

Thank you to Janae, Cheyenne, Melissa, Mike, and everyone who has put forth such amazing effort this year to create beautiful newsletters, flyers, and more to showcase this wonderful program!

Internal Communications

This year marked significant strides in enhancing our internal communication channels. We successfully launched our inaugural newsletter, providing members with a comprehensive source of updates, event highlights, and important announcements. Additionally, we transitioned to using the "Signal" app for text messaging communication, streamlining our communication process and ensuring timely and efficient distribution of information to our members.

We continue to utilize the online forum, and we're excited to see so many of our families taking advantage of the discussion forums to support one another outside of attendance at events. The classified section has also seen an uptick as families have begun to use it to share their resources with one another.

Programming

by Melissa Reaves, Jennifer Seppi, Mikah Bowden, and Jennifer Pacheco

If growth is the word to describe our community, then busy would be the one to describe our programs! Since August 1st, the start of our 2023-2024 programming year, there have been 40+ opportunities for members of the Catholic Family Adventure Club to come together in fellowship.

Our spring program survey respondents overwhelmingly indicated that they enjoyed the many diverse opportunities to spend time with fellow Catholic homeschoolers. The monthly field trips were the most attended events with usually at least 30%, if not 50%, of our membership in attendance. The family potlucks were a favorite for our families. Those who attended appreciated the opportunity for the whole family to come together and dine with friends; the yummy food does not hurt either!

Speaking of food, our tween and teen programs have been developing more structure throughout the year. We are very excited to announce that next year's programs for tweens and teens will be held on a more frequent basis thanks to the contributions of our newly minted Teen Programming Committee and Tween Programming Committee being led by Christine Squires and Katy Trejo, respectively.

We can always use help, whether in the form of volunteers or good ideas, to add to our programming for the coming year- and the best place to bring your ideas is the **upcoming retreat- April 13!**

Tweens and Teens/Service Projects (Jennifer Seppi)

We have had a variety of activities for our tweens and teens this year. The youth experienced enjoyable social evenings at Holy Family in Lindale and later at St. Mary Magdalene in Flint playing games and getting to know each other, as well as an afternoon of bowling. Our teens and tween participated in services projects to the benefit of others - through assembling hygiene bags that contained toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, etc. along with handwritten notes of greeting and encouragement which the recipients appreciated, and through helping to create more useable areas outside for families at Elijah's Retreat. Keep an eye out for some teen-only gatherings in the coming months! It has been a pleasure to have the opportunity for the tweens, teens and parents get to know each other this year.



Moms' Events (Mikah Bowden)

The moms' events are meant to provide a time for moms to take a break and get to know each other better. In order to meet the diverse scheduling needs of our group, we have had coffee dates, lunch dates, and this month we have our first dinner. We are actively looking for ideas on how we can get to know each other and support one another as Catholic moms. We are all in different seasons of motherhood, and input and suggestions are always welcome.

Liturgical Events (Jennifer Pacheco)

Living a liturgical life is such an important part of our Catholic identity, and we've had a lot of fun doing just that this last year.

In fall, we celebrated the month of The Rosary with Mass and homemade Rosary making; although the Rosary made out of cupcakes was probably the biggest star of that event. We also came together to celebrate good ol' St Nicholas on his feast day. We decorated oranges with cloves, ate yummy dessert items...for breakfast, and even played soccer outside (thank goodness for Texas in December). We hope to have St Nick join us for next year!

We started off the spring semester with a surprise addition to the schedule when we celebrated 3 Kings Day/Epiphany. After mass, the older kids stayed for adoration while the younger kids started their arts and crafts. The older kids played an epiphany board game that had them getting super competitive. Afterwards, king's cake was had by all!

In addition to celebrations during the day, we had several evening events to ensure the whole family could participate. In fall, we celebrated our patron Saint, John Paul II, with a dinner on his feast day. This semester we celebrated St. Valentine and Mardi Gras with our breakfast for dinner potluck and card exchange. Most recently, we honored St Joseph on his feast day with Mass, an Italian dinner that would make your nonna jealous, homemade Italian creme soda and a St. Joseph Altar. I only wish we could have had more time because we didn't want the dinner to end so soon!

Liturgical events remain one of the highlights of this group and we welcome your input at our upcoming **retreat-April 13!** Please bring your ideas and service heart with the intention of making next year the best yet!



**Catholic Family
Adventure Club**

Registration is open

April 13	Members Retreat and Planning Session
May 4	Student Entrepreneur and Craft Fair
June 1	Used Book Sale

Register for events at:
www.catholicfamilyadventureclub.com



St. Joseph Altar 2024

Thank you

A special thanks to the Liturgical Programming Committee for planning such a beautiful and faith-filled celebration for our community on the Solemnity of St. Joseph.

Around the Diocese

SAVE THE DATE

MARCH 29, 2025

DIOCESE OF TYLER WOMEN'S RETREAT



Worship Leader-
Lauren Moore



Katie
Prejean McGrady



Sister Josephine
Garrett



Mari
Pablo

HOMESCHOOL FAMILY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

FEED MY LAMBS

"Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me."
Matthew 25:40

THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH
CATHEDRAL CENTER
10:30AM-12:30PM

[HTTPS://WWW.SIGNUPGENIUS.COM/GO/8050F49A4AC2DA57-FEED#/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050f49a4ac2da57-feed#/)

VBS

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

JUNE 10 - 14, 2024
8:45AM-12:15PM

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- Arts & Crafts
- Check In Crew
- Station Leaders
- Snack Helpers
- Stage Hype
- Outdoor games
- Crew Leaders
- Decorating

AGES 6TH GRADE TO ADULTS!

To sign up fill out the Volunteer Clipboard in Peaches Hall or Email us at Communications@catholicflint.org



Stabat Mater Foundation
Advancing the Culture of Life Through Prayer and Art

Upcoming Events
Saturday, April 27th Adult Art Class
Saturday, May 18th Teen art class and family potluck

Location
Stafford's Meadow Farm
The Vogeler Cross
15500 Anderson County Road 2418, Montalba, TX 75853

Contact
Robert Puschautz
robert@stabatmater.org or (773) 726-4976



Bishop Thomas K. Gorman
Catholic School
Tyler, Texas
July 14-19, 2024

"I SHALL SHOW YOU A STILL MORE EXCELLENT WAY." St. Paul

EAST TEXAS PRO-LIFE
Teen Leadership Camp

where teens strengthen in love, knowledge, and virtue

Early Registration
Deadline May 1st