

## **Couples For Christ 2017: Stand Firm in the Faith**

Stand Firm in the Faith is the Couples For Christ theme for this year 2017, where all CFC teachings, functions, and activities during the year will be geared towards the realization of this theme. The theme is also more fitting for all CFC members in Winnipeg – to remain strong and steadfast amidst some changes in the CFC structure and leadership due to its growth in size.

The year 2017 marks the beginning of CFC Winnipeg as a sector and the new Area/Sector Leaders are Romy & Loyda De Luna. As a sector, it is composed of two (2) clusters: Cluster East, headed by Ben & Pinky Manarin (for those serving in parishes under the Archdiocese of St. Boniface) and Cluster West, headed by Ronnie & Josie Licsi (for those serving in parishes under the Archdiocese of Winnipeg).

A good blessing at the start of the year was the CFC gathering Jan. 7 at St. Gerard's Church (for Cluster East) and Jan. 14 at St. Edward's Church (for Cluster West). This special offering is something that God can see as a portrait of one's covenant with Him. "Honour the LORD with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops" (Prov. 3:9). God is being honoured when the first fruit of one's increase is offered, which also shows that God is first and foremost in life. If God is our priority, He will also make us His priority. We will have more than enough of what we need today and in what we will need tomorrow.

In conclusion of this event is the Consecration of the whole CFC community to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. According to St. Maximilian Kolbe, "the Immaculate alone has the promise of victory over Satan. She seeks souls that would consecrate themselves entirely to her, that would become in her hands forceful instruments for the defeat of Satan and the spread of the Kingdom of God."