

REFLECTIONS OF THE COMMUNITY

“Be Holy in all that you do, just as a God who called you is Holy” 1 Peter 1:15

2nd Edition
Q2 2020

ONECFCUSA

Why are we ONECFCUSA? At the start of the year 2020, we looked ahead on a very promising year as we envision Couples for Christ USA to be more active and fruitful in its evangelization and mission work for God. The yearning and the deep desire to be one, to operate and function as one community gave the inspiration to call for unity under God. With the structures and infrastructures put together, the establishment of the new home office and the National Information Technology Team, as a community, we are geared to take flight to new heights in our service for God. Inspired and guided by the Holy Spirit, our vision is set clear to take a path guided by the acts of humility and obedience that will bring us together as a community embracing “ONENESS”. We often hear this motivation “United We Stand, Divided We Fall”, a great quote to fire up our spirits, however, it requires the virtues of “Humility and Obedience” from each one as God calls us to be united with Him and become a united family.

As Christians, we are to be one family under God, therefore, in all we do as a community, we are called to be one. How do we answer

**ANCOPUSA
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5000**

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the call to be one with God as a community? We are to be humble and obedient followers. Embrace the call to move as one and become "ONECFCUSA". Let us remember, though we are many parts, we are one body in Christ. We have one mission and that is to point others to God. As true and faithful believers, we have one God and with that, we become one family. If we are to be one community under God, we are to be "ONECFCUSA".

With our God being the ultimate foundation of all that exists, such as in a community, there is communion and oneness. Envision the world around you, among humans, other creatures or in God's creation, we find communion, a communion that leads to a oneness. In the very simple but powerful example of a family having meals together, there is a communion event that brings about oneness. Commemorating is a communion event that can bring oneness between the present reality and the past. And finally, our prayers and our worship to honor God is a communion event that can deepen the oneness that exists between God, us, and all that He has created.

Remember, we are His children "made in His image and likeness". In all His creation, His images reveal the divine presence and purpose. Every being in our world has its own voice that speaks of the Ultimate Mystery, the voice to call us His children to be united and be one with Him. Oneness in the Trinity! Our Creator, our Savior, and our Sustainer.

As we look ahead and no matter where we look out into this world or as simple as looking inside

our own hearts, we can sense the presence of the Trinity in one God. In our existence as faithful followers, God reveals Himself to us every day as we encounter Him, offering Himself to us and finally, drawing us closer into His love communion that makes us one with Him.

We are here to exist as a community and one with God. There is oneness in the Trinity, and we are to honor the calling and be inspired by the Trinity as one. By honoring the Trinity, we are called to value, nurture and celebrate this oneness. In this way we grow in wonder and in our love relationship with our loving and compassionate Father. We come to experience a communion and oneness with one true God. In our daily walks in life and our service in our community, in both the challenges and victories, let us open ourselves to encounter our God who loves, God who saves, God who inspires and invites us into a living of unity and oneness in Him.

Where is oneness in the current crisis? In the communication stand point, the essence of oneness has been brought around the world, from small or big establishments, from work to home, anything that requires tools of communication, or simply our community relied more on tools of virtual communication that allowed us to continue the work put on us. When things tend to be impossible or difficult, God has prepared us and has led us to be united from the start. Though it seems difficult and challenging, our community has survived the challenge and has developed our tools of



communication as the crisis continues.

To end the year of 2019, our new website was established to promote unity that will bring oneness. The National Council, side by side with the initiative of the National Information Technology Team, designed and created the new website called "ONECFCUSA". In the new website, we are called to be one in evangelization and mission, one in giving, one technology and in totality, united with God in our work for Him.

To start the year 2020, the pandemic has brought out the best in us. As we know God is ever present in our lives, and fear will not conquer and limit us in our mission. With God, the National Council, our new home office, and the guidance of our National Director, led by their passion and determination, came up with the "New Normal – E-manual" for Couples for Christ USA. The new road map of God has guided and inspired us to continue in new ways and new means of building a home of God, a family of God and a community of God in the virtual world.

In the light of oneness, the Pastoral Formation Office put together a formation teaching plan called the "Wings Stream" inspired by the "Wings of an Angel". As the diagram shows, the feathers display the teachings that can be used for the year. The "Wings Stream" is comprised of teachings to support the theme for this year "Called to Holiness" in the hope to inspire and equip our households to support our call to holiness.

We also have new beginnings in the field of technology. Our Pastoral Formation Office has worked hand in hand with NITT to bring the awareness as we become an instrument of God's healing to the world. The Pastoral Formation Office produced the video called "ONECFCUSA battle Covid-19" that helped ignite the fire in our hearts to reach out to all affected by the crisis. On the 39th year CFC Anniversary, the Pastoral Formation Office produced and released the video called "Carry Your Candle, Go Light Your World" to bring the light of Christ to the community and the world.

The formation of our new "Graphic Design Team" came into fruition this year making a more professional presentation of our "Reflections of the Heart" and "Reflections of the Community". Not to be forgotten, the many events this year thus far show the enhancements making it more inviting to everyone.

Our finance team also gave the pitch as they shared the wonderful news of the one giving initiative with the new Faith Direct Electronic Giving Program. The program is available for us to share our treasure to help our evangelization, mission, and work for the poor. The Faith Direct program has made it easier for our members to be involved in many ways they can extend help. Especially during this time of crisis when families suffer from loss of jobs, homes and the loss of family members. Our charitable effort has made the difference at this time when we unite together as a community.

Our evangelization and mission locally and internationally guided by the OP4OL program has made a tremendous push despite the challenges. We have heard the good news about our evangelization and mission efforts reaching out to every corner of the world to bring Christ to different areas. Unity continued with the challenges the community faced. The meetings at all

OPERATION ONECFCUSA "battle" COVID-19

levels and areas to support the programs, including CLP's, teachings, assemblies and most importantly, the households, continued to progress using the virtual platforms in all areas. God being the architect, paved the way making our community closer, united as we serve virtually around the world. With this experience, God has shown us that the gift of technology is meant for good use and for His greater glory.

Where there is unity, there is love. Answering the cry of the poor was very evident during this time of crisis. Our ANCOP team, together with our CFC USA home office, is always present every time there is a need. We are forever grateful to the "Love and Mercy Fund" established to answer the call to support some of the many needs of our brothers, sisters, and their loved ones. The overflowing of love from God is manifested in us by extending every effort that made us united and one with God.

Challenges will not stop us to build a strong family. Family is a gift. Our Family Ministries also had their strong push to call for unity and oneness to pursue their respective programs. Though limited in resource, their creative ways were introduced to fulfill and answer the needs of the members. They continued to charge and march forward. From SOLD ministry meeting their growing demand for online teachings, to HOLD ever strong with their formation teachings, and to SFC and CFC-Y collaboration in virtual meetings and online praise fest. Of course, CFC Kids with their family households. The

family ministries have focused on the call to holiness, which has brought a true family under God.

Life continues with or without Covid-19. Inspired by the call of oneness, our Mission Support Team has done an unbelievable job in delivering the major events to our community. Ablaze has established a new online platform called quick service to bring your favorite items in the comfort of your homes using the modern technology.

Together with the NITT and the continuing development of structure has brought us the Worldwide Rosary Challenge, the life changing experience of the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises (ISE), the 39th year CFC anniversary from around the world, of course the CFC Pre-Conference and the CFC USA National Conference. When things seem difficult, our God calls us to unite more to come together as one to be fruitful as He takes the lead. These events have brought unprecedented numbers that show unity.

What is new? With the growing population in our community and the desire to capture our audience from the young to the older generation, our community's need to adapt to the modern trend and techniques has brought the establishment of the two major platforms for streaming to stay afloat on the modern standards of technology. As our community embraces the value of oneness, we have opened our doors to the onecfcusa YouTube channel and Facebook channels. As we enter the world of virtualization using both platforms, it gives us the opportunity to

share a community built as one under God, where everyone is invited to belong and be a part of our family.

In response to strengthening our communication, on the 39th year anniversary, June 20, 2020 our official mobile app called "onecfcusa" was released. It is a token of appreciation to all CFC members for the hard work and sacrifice that helped our community stand where it is now, as one of the major evangelization ministries that exist in the world today.

With the mobile app powered by the finest technology in IOS and Android mobile devices, we have improved and bolstered our communication channels to all our CFC USA members by providing access 24/7 to get the latest and most accurate information available for CFC USA. As a reminder, our mobile app is a quick service application to bring the immediate resource, updates, news, and upcoming events in our community and will not have direct link to formal programs of our community.

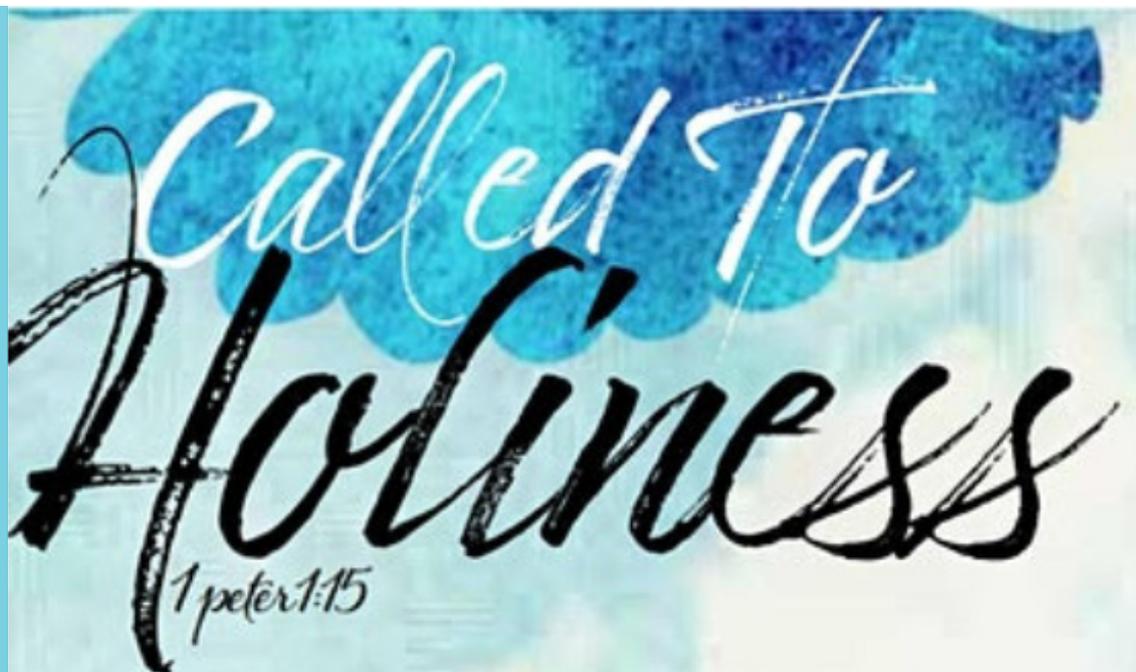
These are just the few developments we have in our community. As we continue to strive taking the challenge against Covid-19, we will not back down and we will grow better and stronger as a united community.

In everything, God is in control. With all the challenges we will still face, we can only look forward and continue to move as God has made this crisis a part of our call to holiness. He has made each one of us a step closer to Him and to each other as one united family. He gave us the opportunity to grow in our

prayers and made this a means to unite families together and mend relationships that have been long gone. This challenge made God's love more meaningful to us as our devotion to Him and our dear Mother Mary flourished, making our devotions a part and a way of our living.

Together as ONECFCUSA, the new technology, and most importantly, our community, we have been blessed with a new version of "oneness" fit to combat the trials that we are experiencing now as one world. Though we may all be far and unable to experience being in communion together in person, every step that we have taken thus far allows us to not only be closer to each other virtually, but closer to God, much like if we were to hold our regular meetings and conferences. Despite the challenge of Covid-19, our faith and calling to holiness cannot be stopped or abandoned, and through the resources that God has provided us with, we are able to recreate oneness, this time, with a new face. Today, we are continuing to put an emphasis on an integral part of our foundation as a united community, that being that we are one body in Christ, and we do not stand alone.

Let us continue to move forward in our mission, walking hand in hand with our brothers and sisters in Christ, knowing no boundaries or limits with the strength, love, and family of God on our side. We are ONECFCUSA!





ANCOP 5000 CSP SCHOLARS

GIVE THEM HOPE

ANCOP USA CHILD SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

Goal: 5000 CSP Scholars

ANSwering the Cry Of the Poor

BE INVOLVED, BE A PARTNER

You are familiar with this story in the New Testament: Mary (sister of Lazarus and Martha) pouring expensive perfumed oil on the feet of JESUS, and Judas Iscariot grumbling that the value of the oil could have been given to the poor. What struck me in that story was not Judas' seeming concern for the poor, but rather what JESUS had retorted to Judas. Jesus said: "You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

I was puzzled by that statement of JESUS. Was He being dismissive of the poor? Was He justifying our lack of urgency in coming to the aid of the needy? Or was He implying that whatever we do, we will not be able to solve the problem of poverty during anyone's lifetime? Sad if true.

Fortunately, none of the above was true. What Jesus simply meant to say was, unless we take seriously His command to love our

neighbor, we will always have the poor with us. That neediness can be remedied only if we begin to act like we are really our brothers' keepers. Jesus knew how hard our hearts are, how self-seeking we are, and so he concluded that we will always have the poor with us.

JESUS' concern and love for the poor is expressed many times in the New Testament. In fact, the above quoted statement was not the complete statement given by Jesus. In St. Mark's account of the story (Mark 14:7), he mentioned this additional statement of Jesus: "...and whenever you wish you can do good to them..." (Luke and John had their own accounts of the same story, but did not include this additional statement of JESUS.) JESUS was reminding His disciples and us, too, that if we only desire it in our hearts, there will always be an opportunity to help the poor. In Deuteronomy 15: 11, the command to help the poor is more explicit:

“The land will never lack for needy persons; that is why I command you: “Open your hand freely to your poor and to your needy kin in your land.”

The opportunity to open our hand freely to the poor in our midst is now presented to us, through ANCOP USA’s Child Sponsorship Program (CSP). Many have already responded to this opportunity, but many more have yet to act. ANCOP’s CSP is an ideal and truly impactful way for members of CFC USA to participate in our work with the poor. This program aims to help children from poor families who have the desire to go to school and the potential to achieve and make good in their studies. Thousands of children from poor families in the Philippines and other 3rd world countries need help. In 2019, ANCOP was able to provide assistance to some 1650 children in the Philippines. For 2020, ANCOP USA desires to more than double the number, with a target of 5,000 children! A tall goal, true, but something that is reachable.

Here is how we plan to achieve our target of 5,000 CHILDREN under ANCOP USA’s Child Sponsorship Program:

- Each CFC couple sponsors at least 1 child;
- Two Handmaid of the Lord (HOLD) members can partner to sponsor at least 1 child;
- Two Servants of the Lord (SOLD) members can partner to sponsor at least 1 child;
- Two Singles for Christ (SFC) members can partner to sponsor at least 1 child; and
- CFC Youth members in at least 5 CFC Areas (Socal, Norcal, Florida, Maryland, New Jersey,
- and other places which have a good number of CFC Youth members) can

sponsor at least 5 CSP scholars.

If fully supported by every member of CFC USA, we could have more than 5,000 poor school children being supported by the whole community by the end of 2020. Take a look:

# OF CFC MEMBERS	POTENTIAL SCHOLARS
7,699 CFC	3,850
1,934 HOLD	967
253 SOLD	127
1,097 SFC	549
2,346 CFCY	25 (5 Areas)
TOTAL 5,518	

5,000 ANCOP USA CSP scholars is a tall order indeed! Nothing though will be impossible with GOD’s grace, the full support of all ANCOP volunteers, and the generosity and trusting hearts of all CFC members. So, while we have the poor in our midst, let us grab the opportunity and avail ourselves of the very special blessing that comes with those who heed the Lord’s call of loving the least of our brethren. May GOD bless us all.