



Meet the Serapios - HFNs Couple for Christ

Mike and Shay Serapio were born into the ministry known as Couples for Christ (CFC). Their parents were one of the first CFC members in their Philippine province back in the 1980's. As children, they were initiated through the kids and youth ministries by their parents. Shay and Mike met in the youth ministry program, Youth for Christ (YFC). YFC taught them to understand the importance of a PERSONAL relationship with Jesus. They were "prayed over" in the youth camps and YFC retreats and that allowed them to go beyond themselves and begin participating in missions for the youth. That is how they met, fell in love and began serving Christ together. As they got older, they moved on to the singles ministry. In 2007, they got married and officially joined Couples for Christ.

In 2012, three missionary families from the CFC Global Mission Center based in the Philippines were deployed to International missions. One in Africa, one in Europe and one in the United States. Mike and Shay responded to God's call and came to the United States to help the missions of CFC. Their first deployment was in Maryland, where they did missions all over the east coast. In 2013, they were transferred to Irving, Texas to continue their missions in the south central region of the US. They were certain they had arrived at the right destination when they learned they would become a part of the Holy Family of Nazareth Parish. Mike recalls saying "Wow! What could be more perfect than to serve in the "Holy Family" parish as Couples for Christ?"

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What is Couples for Christ and the Christian Life Program?

Couples for Christ is a ministry that aims to help the parish in its greater mission. This includes encouraging all parishioners to be active servants and intentional disciples. While the name indicates that it might be only for married couples, that is not the case. At the core, this ministry is all about the family. There are programs for kids, youth and singles over 21 years of age. The vision is *"Families in the Holy Spirit renewing the face of the earth"*.

To join Couples for Christ, which is open to all single or married adults, participants need to attend the Christian Life Program (CLP) conducted in the Holy Family Parish several times as year. A new session will begin in February. You are invited to attend the orientation on February 27 from 1:30-3:30pm in the Family Life Center. Kids Watch is available for children age 6 to 11 during this session. Please contact the Serapio's to let them know you want to attend.

The CLP is just the beginning of a life long journey of faith community building. There are various activities that are geared towards formation and spiritual deepening.

1. **Household Prayer Meetings:** : Bi monthly we gather in members' homes for prayer, worship and faith sharing based on various Catholic teachings and Lectio Divina relevant to the family.
2. **General Prayer Assemblies:** Monthly family gatherings where we have teachings for the adults and fun-filled activities for the youth and kids. Conducted at Holy Family of Nazareth.
3. **Marriage Enrichment Retreats:** Retreats to help married couples strengthen their marriages.
4. **Active Volunteering in parish Ministries:** CFC is assigned to help the Saturday 5:30pm Mass choir, Children's Liturgy every last Sunday and the Eucharistic Ministry. Feel free to approach them if you want to volunteer in these various parish ministries.
5. **CFC National Conference:** They are excited to announce that the upcoming conference will be in Irving this year on July 8-10 at the Westin DFW Hotel. Volunteers are needed.
6. **Mission Trips:** CFC DFW supports mission areas as established by CFC. At present, they are supporting St. Agnes Catholic Church in Fort Stockton, Texas where they conduct the Christian Life Program and CFC start-up activities.

What will you do in this Year of Mercy?

The CFC Mission is two-fold: 1) Build the Church of the Home: Building and Empowering the Domestic Church; and 2) Build the Church of the Poor: Helping the poor and the needy. Both of which fit perfectly into what Pope Francis has called us to do in this Year of Mercy.

Spiritual Works of Mercy: *"From the Individual, to the Spouse, to the Family"*. This is CFC's core value in Building the Church of the Home that is found in its various formation programs. They are called to love more, take time to understand their spouses more, and love and care for their children just as God loves and cares for each of us. These works of mercy are lived out by members as they in turn support each other in this mission.

Corporal Works of Mercy: CFC supports fundraising for ANCOP, ANSwering the Cry Of the Poor, which raises money for poor children in the Philippines so they can attend school for free in the elementary, high school or college/vocational level. Additional local fundraising activities for the poor are ongoing throughout the year and include walks, dinner dances and Filipino festivals.

Contact Mike or Shay at mikeserapio@yahoo.com and 516-301-0979

or for more information go to www.couplesforchristdfw.org