



25TH CONFERENCE

REFLECTIONS

March 7, 2026

CMF NEO was founded in 2000 by a small group of committed Catholic men. They were inspired by the national Catholic Men's Fellowship, which was founded in 1986 in Cincinnati. They attended Conferences there and approached Cleveland Diocese Bishop Anthony Pilla about establishing a lay-lead organization for men. He fully supported their efforts and he, along with subsequent Bishops, have celebrated Mass at nearly every Annual Conference since its founding.

The foundational principal of CMF NEO was, and continues to be, for men to build a deep, personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

The Mission is two-fold. First, to encourage, promote and support men's groups at the parish level. This includes providing resources on the website www.cmfneo.com such as upcoming events in the Diocese, lists of men's groups, meeting guidelines, and helpful resources. Secondly, the Mission is to sponsor an annual conference to inspire men to grow in their relationship with Christ and one another.

Dozens of committed Catholic men have worked to further this Mission. There are currently sixty-seven CMF groups. Thousands of men have attended the Annual Conference to be inspired and encouraged to more fully live their Catholic faith.

HIGHLIGHTS AND REFLECTIONS

1. The First CMF Conference in Diocese of Cleveland was held in September 2000, at St Hilary church in Fairlawn. Subsequent locations (and number of conferences) were:
 - Regina High School, South Euclid (4)
 - Hoban High School, Akron (5)
 - University of Akron (1)
 - Villa Angela-Saint Joseph High School, Cleveland (4)
 - Saint Albert the Great Parish Life Center, N. Royalton (1)
 - Holiday Inn Conference Center, Independence (9)
 - In 2020, the Conference was cancelled due to COVID 19 pandemic. In 2021, the Conference was Virtual.

2. CMF NEO President and Conference Chairmen (and years on Board):
 - Dave Douglas, St Gregory the Great, S. Euclid (16)
 - Bob D'Aurelio, St Helen, Newbury (13)
 - Joe Kolar, Sacred Heart of Jesus, S. Euclid (22)
 - Jerry Cleland, St Barnabas, Northfield (8)
 - John Schneider, St Gabriel, Concord (11)
 - Jim Kilcoyne, St Hilary, Fairlawn (14)
 - Bill Prebel, SS Cosmas and Damian, Twinsburg (11)
 - Steve Chrzanowski, St Sebastian, Akron (8)
3. Bishops who celebrated Mass and, in some cases, gave presentations:
 - Bishop Anthony Pilla
 - Bishop Martin Amos
 - Bishop Roger Gries
 - Bishop George Murry (Youngstown)
 - Bishop Richard Lennon
 - Bishop Nelson Perez
 - Bishop Michael Woost
 - Bishop Edward Malesic
4. Thirty-five men have served on the Board (or as Spiritual Advisor) over CMF NEO's twenty-five year history.
5. Today, there are sixty-seven CMF groups in the Diocese of Cleveland. And CMF NEO has partnered with other groups, such as Knights of Columbus, to fulfill its Mission.
6. There have been over seventy-five speakers at the Annual Conferences. They have come from all over the country and from within the Diocese of Cleveland.

(For photos and bios of many speakers from 2008 to 2026, go to cmfneo.com Click "Conference" at top of home page. Then "past conferences" (blue button))
7. Current Board of Trustees and Officers (March 2026)
 - Steve Chrzanowski - President
 - Ray Andreas – Vice President and Treasurer
 - Joel Bollenbacher – Conference Registration
 - Jim Orack – Communications
 - Dave Deschler - Conference
 - Ty Tyjewski – Evangelization
 - Mark Henderson – Evangelization
 - Ron Snyder – Evangelization
 - Bill Prebel – Spiritual Advisor