



Marianist Family Ministry, Inc.

The Christian Family Living Center

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For Immediate Release

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Christian Family Living Center Receives Grant to Host Retreat for Military Families

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge, Bishop of the Diocese of Raleigh, has approved a \$5,000 grant for the Christian Family Living Center (CFL) to host a special weekend retreat for active military families. The grant is a part of *God's Work ~ Our Challenge Endowment for the Poor*. The retreat will take place during the summer of 2007 at CFL located on North Topsail Beach, NC

Retreat Theme:

"Being a family retreat center, CFL wanted to offer a special retreat to somehow serve our active military families. Since this region is uniquely surrounded by military bases we thought of a weekend theme of '*Young Adult Military Families: Tools for Successful Re-entry into Family Life after Being Deployed*'. With a generous grant from the Diocese of Raleigh we will be able to offer up to 15 families a weekend retreat to help as they work through the process of entering back into daily family life." Comments CFL Director, Marilynn Shackelford.

"Special presenters, familiar with military life, deployment and re-entry, will share successful techniques for a smooth and compassionate re-entry into family life. Structured adult and peer group activities and discussions help reinforce family bonds through affirmation, reconciliation, and commitment. The role of communication will be emphasized as this is an ongoing issue for military families – especially during war time. We hope that the attending families will then share their new skills, for working through this re-entry process, to help their military friends and neighbors who are going through similar circumstances. These are the pillars of helping families grow in Christ by respecting self and others, communicating more effectively, listening more attentively, forgiving more readily, and playing more creatively as a couple and as a family."

This retreat is open to military families, of all faiths, who have a spouse returning from deployment. This weekend is open to families of all military branches stationed at the following North Carolina military bases including: Cherry Point, Camp Lejeune, Fort Bragg, Seymour Johnson, and Pope Air Force Base.

About CFL:

The Christian Family Living Retreat Center is owned and operated by the Marianist Family Ministry, Inc., a Catholic lay organization focused on sharing the values of the Society of Mary, who helped establish the center. The retreat center is situated on the quiet shores of Topsail Island and is the ideal environment for spiritual renewal and relaxation.

CFL is a smoke free facility with handicap access. There is a chapel, large conference room, 22 bedrooms, commercial grade kitchen, peer-group/breakout rooms and generous decks for outdoor relaxation. Each bedroom has a view of the ocean, private bathroom and a/c controls. The campus grounds include a basketball and volleyball area, large fenced-in sand pit for young children and coin-operated laundry facility.

CFL is open to all faiths, and offers a broad range of spiritually-based retreats throughout the year. Retreats are modestly priced and include healthy meals & snacks and program materials. CFL has been hosting retreats for individuals and families since 1973.

For more information please contact CFL at **910-328-1584** or visit **ChristianFamilyLiving.org**

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