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*Convention
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Christian Family Movement

Jim Zogby High-profile position grounded in CFM

By Paul R. Leingang

You may have seen **Jim Zogby** on TV. "James Zogby emerges as Arab spokesman," was the headline of a report, Oct. 6, 2001, from the Washington Bureau of the Cox Newspapers. "Zogby has appeared on every network," said the news report, and "calls from Capitol Hill jammed James Zogby's phone lines after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11." This "unofficial spokesman" and other members of his Arab American Institute "met regularly, sometimes several days in a row, with the FBI, State Department officials, influential members of Congress and even President Bush," the article reported.

You may have read one of Zogby's columns or commentaries. He's a weekly columnist and a frequent contributor of letters and opinion pieces on American policies and the Middle East. What you may not know is that Jim is married to **Eileen Patricia McMahon**, that they have five children, and that they have been active in the Christian Family Movement since 1981. Not all of the Zogby labels seem to fit together. He is a man of Lebanese descent who battles for Palestinian equality. He is an Arab-American, a Catholic, a prominent Democrat, a man who is pro-life.

How did Jim and Eileen get involved in CFM? Their neighbors invited them. It was as simple as that. They found others in the group to be politically "progressive," active in social outreach—and they all had families. The Zogbys were a few years younger than the other couples, and they valued hearing the experiences of the other couples in such areas as raising kids and caring for aging parents, "and they were always like one step ahead of us." So the Zogbys were somewhat prepared for the challenges in their own family. "We'd had the opportunity of having . . . our older brothers and sisters in CFM sort of walk us through them." Zogby says the CFM group "really has become kind of an extended family network and a support network that's been very important for us, for 20 years now."

Jim and Eileen helped start another CFM group, and profited from the new relationships with younger families. The older and younger groups get together every year for a retreat, so they enjoy "even more generations mixing." The Zogby kids have joined their parents in marches in front of the White House. Zogbys as young as

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Presidents' Perspectives
by Peter and Jane Buchbauer

Lent: A Season for Families

Family life is replete with two constants: preparation and waiting. Think about it! So much of life within our marriages and families deals with these two activities. Waiting for a child to be born, waiting for an adoption process to finalize, waiting for the first steps, waiting for the first words...preparing for the first day of school, preparing for the dance recital, preparing for the big game, preparing for college...waiting to turn legal age to drive, to drink, to join the military...preparing for marriage, preparing for retirement. The cycle of preparation and waiting is endless.

As members of families, we live our lives in preparation and waiting. So this season of Lent is uniquely ours. It is a season of the year which we as families are uniquely prepared to celebrate. Some might think that "celebrate" is the incorrect term for Lent—but is it? We prepare for the glories of Easter by forming ourselves during Lent. We wait patiently, through weeks of prayer and fasting and almsgiving for that Easter morn. How different is that from preparation for a birth, with the baby showers and doctors visits, the excitement building as we approach the blessed day? How different is that from preparation for marriage, with the engagement party, the planning, the marriage preparation? We see aspects of celebration in the process of preparing and waiting for a birth or a wedding, why not for the process of preparing and

waiting for the feast of the resurrection of Jesus Christ?

So, the challenge for us as family is to rethink Lent as a time of celebration. We need to figure out how to make the preparation and waiting a time of anticipation and celebration.

*The goal here
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and to focus
on our
relationship with
the Lord.*

What will your family do this year to make Lent a time of celebration, a time of preparation and waiting just as fulfilling as the other family moments of preparation and waiting?

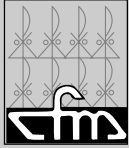
As families, we should strive to make this journey together. As couples, as parents and children, we need to find a way to prepare and wait together.

Just as different families have traditions or ways of preparing for

events in the family life cycle, so each family must find their own way to journey joyfully through Lent. Family prayer at dinner or bedtime, family rosary, attending Stations of the Cross, use of a prayer journal—all these are ways that we might increase or improve our prayer life during this time. Doing without a favorite food, giving up a movie or video night, turning off the television and spending interactive time with the family might be a more transforming experience than traditional fasting. The goal here is simply to change the routine and to focus on our relationship with the Lord. Volunteering at a soup kitchen, running a clothing or blanket drive, building a house through Habitat for Humanity—as a family—is more instructive for almsgiving than monetary donations. There is something all of us can do as a family regardless of the stage of family life we find ourselves in.

Whatever you choose to do: do it as a family this Lent. Make this time of waiting and preparation a time of transformation and relationship building. within the family, with our Lord, and within the community. The key to a festive Easter may well be a Lent celebrated fully as a family this year.

Peter and Jane Buchbauer, CFM Presidents, live in Winchester, Virginia. Their children are Joseph, 20; Peter, 18; Michael, 13; and Maria, 12.



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Parent to Parent
by Mary Lou Gorman



Choices Affect our Kids

Our lives are filled with choices: big choices, little choices. All of them have consequences, and some of them can have a big impact on the quality of our family life. Here is a little "examination of consciousness" on the subject of choices, and their impact on our families.

When you move, do you consider the schools and neighborhood your child will live in? We visited different parishes to see which ones had the best programs for our kids, and this helped focus our choice of neighborhood.

When you plan a trip, do you plan activities for your kids? Do you try to explore different parts of the city, state or country so your kids learn from your vacation experiences? Incidentally, Disney World is a very educational experience, especially for kids over seven, and a trip could tie into the CFM Convention this summer!

Are your weekends planned to include both chores and family fun activities? There are many seasonal activities close to home that only take a half a day to experience, such as nature centers and hometown museums.

Do you seek the opinions of your children on choices that can affect the family?

Are you aware of difficulties your children experience because of family circumstances and parents' choices?

When you are choosing activities for your children, do you keep the number small and realistic? Do the activities chosen reflect their preferences or yours?

When choosing work, do you consider your hours and how much time you'll have with your kids?

When planning meals do you pay attention to nutrition? Kids' own food choices aren't always the best. Do you teach your children to make wise choices, such as getting sufficient rest?

Do you plan household jobs for each child at an early age and continue to expect help as they get older? Children learn that hard work pays off from the parent who teaches them how to succeed in tasks with value to the family.

Do you make clothes purchases a joint decision, with the child aware of what is appropriate and affordable? Do appropriate rules accompany the privilege of using the family car?

Do you make your own choices of TV shows, computer games, and reading materials with awareness that your own choices will affect your kids for a long time?

Do you give your children the pleasure of receiving and the pleasure of giving? It is the wise parent who takes a balanced approach to gift giving. It is important for children to become aware of those in need.

Do you tell your children how you pray before you make a big decision?

Do you pray with them to help them make good choices?

No one said it's easy to be a good parent. We grow in our parenting skills and wisdom one choice at a time. May the Holy Spirit guide you as you teach your children how to make good choices, by word and by example.

Mary Lou and Phil Gorman have been married 52 years and have four daughters and thirteen grandchildren. They have been in CFM since 1953.

Have you thought of combining a vacation in Florida

with a CFM Convention?



by Irene Tomonto

Have you ever sat on the seashore and watched a full moon set? The sky turns wonderful shades of fuchsia and orange. The water seems inky black. The sight is an unforgettable tribute to the creativity of God. We have—on Florida's west coast in July.

Have you ever set sail on a drift boat with a dozen other fishermen eager to catch sea bass or grouper or dolphin, and then returned with great tales of "the one that got away?" I haven't, but **former CFM chaplain Fr. Sam Palmer** has. Ask him!

Have you ever breakfasted with **Mickey Mouse** and **Pluto**; seen some of the world's largest vegetables and flowers; studied history in the Hall of Presidents and geography in the pavilions of nations around the world, then careened down a water slide and toured the stage sets of movies past too numerous to mention? We have and you can too in Orlando. The next day, if you are lucky, you may even see a space launch at Cape Canaveral, or swim with the dolphins at Sea World.

Have you and your children ever driven cross country until you saw the golden dome of Notre Dame or the spires of St. Mary's; spent countless hours renewing friendships and making new ones; listened to the best speakers share their stories and vision about family life and social justice and returned home with a new song on your lips and a new passion for this thing we call CFM? Well if you substitute the skyline of Miami and the copper domes of **St. Louis Parish**, we can promise all the rest come July.

Admittedly, we are trying to lure you to Florida, July 4 through 7, for the 2002 CFM National Convention, "God Is In Our House." We cannot promise Mickey or sea bass, that is your choice as a vacation side trip, but we are promising some of the best speakers and experiences of a lived family-life spirituality we could conceive. Trust us.

Dr. David Thomas needs no introduction to "older" CFMers. We have read his books, listened to his stories, and shared his wisdom since he first burst into our consciousness in the 1980s. **Fr. Don**

Conroy once introduced him as "the best lay theologian in the country," and with his masters program at Regis College in Denver, the prime mover and shaper of a theology of family.

On a personal level, David was the keynote speaker at an ICCFM conference in **Guadalajara** a few years back. He was able to creatively assimilate the experiences of the Mexican Comunidades de Base and help international CFM leaders see how to place this new vision into their home settings. He will be doing some of the same in Miami. Our plans include a Saturday exposure program to introduce you to our multi-cultural city, but I am getting ahead of myself.

When you arrive Thursday night your whole family will be treated to a welcoming concert by **Scott Kaldahl, John Montenegro** and group. Scott and John, friends as well as talented artists, can be heard on the CD, "Speak Lord."

Come Friday, the theme of family spirituality will unfold, beginning with Mass and the **David Thomas** keynote. We will first look at the dynamics of our own families with a two-track program. The first track, for younger families, will feature a presentation by **Carol Farrell** the former Family Life Director of the Archdiocese of Miami, mother of six, grandmother of thirteen.

Carol will present an interactive workshop of skill-building, story telling and wisdom sharing to help parents create a happy God-centered home.

The second track, for those interested in spiritual growth, will feature **Dr. Barbara Rietberg**. Barbara, the coordinator of Contemplative Outreach for South Florida and faculty member of St. John

Vianney Seminary, bills herself as a “proud mother and grandmother”. She will share how spiritual growth is shaped by a person’s early experience of family, faith and culture and help us investigate the role of our personal history in our faith journey.

Wedged between these presentations will be a variety of workshops, and a talk on the legacy of **Canon Cardijn**, given by Executive Directors **Jane and Paul Leingang**, to remind us of our roots and of the importance our methodology—observe/judge/act. The day will conclude with a theme dinner and dance and a special reading of the

demands of a new century. Then we will board the buses to experience one of several exposure programs. You have read about the boat loads of Cuban and Haitian immigrants who come to the US only to be turned back to sea. We want you to meet some of them and hear their stories. You know of the stoop laborers who pick the vegetables we eat and live and work in great migrant streams driving the country in broken-down trucks unnoticed by most of us. We want you to meet them too. Then we want you to sit down with your family and see how all of this affects your life and your community.



Florida CFM families offer warm hospitality.

stories of **Edward Hayes** by actor and CFMer, **Matthew Cowden**.

Saturday begins with a talk by **Dr. Joe Holland** on the social dimensions of family spirituality. Joe was a founding member of the Center for Concern in Washington, D.C. Luckily he now teaches at St. Thomas University in Miami and will challenge us with a new vision of family to meet the changing

There is more, but we want to surprise you as well. So... come July pack up your van, or board a plane and head south to our house. You cannot get lost for ...

“God Is In Our House”
...and He knows the way.

For a brochure and registration form, visit our website, www.cfm.org or contact the CFM office.



—Zogby, continued from page 1

five and seven licked envelopes to help send letters encouraging action on behalf of Palestinian political prisoners. “When the person got free and came to the house, my seven-year-old felt, ‘I helped free this guy.’” Zogby’s faith is shaped by “the Berrigans and the Kings” – “it’s an ornery faith that we have and it calls us to do the hard thing and not the easy thing. As a Lebanese, a Catholic and a Democrat, Jim acknowledges there are conflicts among his activities. As a pro-life Democrat, a pro-Palestinian Arab-American of Lebanese origin, he insists that labels “don’t define you, you define yourself I cannot be reduced to any one of those [labels]. None of us can or should ever be.”

Has America changed since September 11? Maybe not, says Zogby. “My sense is that people have said we’ll never be the same. I am afraid that we will be the same.” As for the family, with or without September 11, Zogby says, the family is in crisis. There may have been an outpouring of kindness and civility after September 11, but families in the United States are in crisis. Zogby offers few words of hope for the family – but nonetheless retreats to his own CFM experience, concluding that “the best protection of the nuclear family is the extended family network.” That’s what CFM has been. And he wonders what his own family life would have been like, if the neighbors had not invited them to join CFM. “I dare not think of how we would have made it through certain situations.”



Taking the Time to Make a Difference

*For the hungry,
why don't we . . . ?*

"It was one of those "ah ha!" moments," said Joe. He was describing a recent incident at the supper table, during the season of Lent. "We were sitting at table for supper one evening when Joshua, our five-year-old, asked about the 'Rice Bowl' on the table. The "Rice Bowl" is a container that many families use during Lent as a reminder that many people in the world do not have the food or resources that many of us take for granted and a place to put small contributions. Catholic Relief Services distributes the "Rice Bowl" materials each year. "We proceeded to explain as best as we could the concept of the hungry of the world, and how our gifting is meant to help in some small way, hungry people." The device made a big impression on Joshua. "He took it all in, and sat pensively for a few moments. He then looked at Beth and offered the following: 'Well, Mommy, if they are poor and hungry and need food, why don't we just send them our credit card?' "We did our best not to laugh at him, but we really chuckled later. It was amazing that, for him, the problem and the world were so small. Then again, maybe he is not so far off base with his suggestion. After all, giving freely is what Jesus instructed his disciples to do."



I don't know how you responded to that story, but I immediately thought about the Gospel account of the miracle of the loaves and fishes. Thousands of people gathered to hear the preaching of Jesus. They are hungry, the disciples tell Jesus, but there isn't enough food. He asks what they do have, and when they tell him they have only a few loaves and fishes, Jesus tells them to feed the crowd. If

*Mommy,
if they are poor
and hungry ...*

*why don't we
just
send them
our credit card?'*

I understand what five-year old Joshua said, he and Jesus have a common understanding of what it takes to feed the hungry. It all boils down to this: If you have something, share it. You may have concluded—just as I would have done—that a few loaves and fishes are not even worth thinking about. One person's credit card, even with a high credit limit, will not put a noticeable dent in the hunger of the

world. Right? Wrong! Joshua instinctively knows better. With the wisdom of one who has not been corrupted by practicality, Joshua knows that one person can make a difference—even in a world full of hungry people. If every one person who has plenty would take the lead of this five-year-old, then all of God's people would have enough to eat.



Take the time today to examine what you have. Everyone has a surplus of some kind—money, or time, or an ability to help others in some way. Take a good look at your neighborhood or the city or town where you live. Who are the needy and the hungry? What do they need? And what do they hunger for? As you reflect on your surroundings, ask yourself, what would make a difference. Would a million dollars from one person help? Would a grant? Or government assistance? What difference would it make if each person with a credit card made his or her resources available to someone who was hungry? If you have something of value, share it with someone in need. If you and your neighbors can fill a basket with food—loaves or fishes or peanut butter and jelly—you can feed the world. If you and your neighbors know how to raise grain or livestock, share your knowledge. Take the time today to look at the world through the eyes of Jesus. If that is too difficult for you, ask a five-year-old to help.

Paul is director of communications for the Diocese of Evansville, Ind.; and editor of the Message, the diocesan newspaper. His weekly column Taking the Time to Make a Difference is syndicated in a number of diocesan newspapers. Paul and Jane Leingang are executive directors of CFM.

Your Marriage: The Great Adventure

by Lauri Przybysz



Marriage vows define vocation of marriage

*Every Easter,
we renew our baptismal vows.
They remind us of our call,
our vocation,
to be disciples of
the Lord Jesus.*

*We hear again what it is
we promised—or what was
first promised for us—
and we commit ourselves
to a mission greater
than ourselves.*

*Without grace
we could never succeed.*

*Newlyweds are usually
caught up in
the awesome promises
they are making
to one another,
but often don't connect them
with the vows made at
baptism.*

*Yet, as sacramental vows,
they flow out of
our baptismal call.*

*Reflect today on
how your marriage vows
call you to a mission
that is bigger than you
as a couple,
bigger even than you
as a family.*

“I”... my name; who I am; a total gift of myself; with all my gifts, talents and limitations.

“take you”... and no other; to enter into a sacred relationship with; to begin a life together.

*“to be my husband,
my wife”*...
my partner; becoming a team with shared goals and values; today and into the future.

“I promise”... a pledge in freedom and truth; as God has promised his people; in conformity with civil and church law.

“to be true to you”...
with fidelity of body, mind and of heart; trusting and trustworthy; exclusively committed to you.

“in good times”...
enjoying your company; sharing dreams and plans; when blessed with abundance of property and friends; in peace and prosperity.

“and in bad”...
bearing grief or loss, loneliness or fear, angry words or rejection, and moral or financial failure.

“in sickness”...
suffering physical and mental illness and impending death.

“and in health”... physical and emotional vigor and strength, beauty and passionate love.

“I will”... a clear and free decision to keep these vows, day by day; not based on romantic attraction alone.

“love”... wanting only the best for you, believing, forgiving, enduring care; a visible expression to the world of God's faithfulness.

“you”... as you are today and will later be; accepting and cherishing the unique and beautiful creation made in God's image.

“and honor you”...
affirming, esteeming, and respecting your dignity as my brother/sister in the Lord; not belittling, abusing, or controlling.

*“all the days
of my life”*...
discovering new delight in you throughout the years, until we are separated by the end of earthly life, to meet again for eternity in the courts of the Lord.

ACT warmly welcomes Lauri Przybysz, our newest columnist. Lauri and John live in Stevens Park, Maryland and are the parents of six children. Lauri is diocesan coordinator of marriage preparation and enrichment.

SPOTLIGHT

Gayle and John Wall and Elaine and Jim Everett are the new leaders at St. Thomas More in Glendale, Ariz. Former leaders Robin and Pat Hafey are relocating to Madison, Wisc., where they hope to continue in CFM. At St. Thomas, the pastor has assumed the role of chaplain.

The St. Lucy Christian Family Movement families in St. Clair Shores, Mich. prepared dinner and bag lunches for the next day as part of the Macrest Program for the homeless in February. A spiritual program was followed by an evening of games. The guests seemed to enjoy interaction with families.

CFM in Winchester, Va. conducted a Covenant Weekend, Feb. 1-3 at Sacred Heart parish. St. Pius X Parish in Des Moines, Iowa asks for prayers for the

success of their Covenant Weekend on the weekend of April 13.

The CFM group at Blessed Sacrament in Arlington, Va. had a day of reflection in December at a local retreat house, on the topic: "How do we deal with change as a people of faith?" Bob Smith reports, "The message I came away with is that God is with us in all circumstances, particularly in difficult circumstances."

Ted and Brenda Borek report that their group in Albuquerque, N. M. affiliated with the Church of the Risen Savior Parish in October. This group sponsors several annual events: kite-flying, Easter Egg hunt, pilgrimage to a local shrine, camping, hayride-pumpkin patch visit, bowling, and a Christmas Party. They also volunteer at a soup kitchen, providing food and serving help.

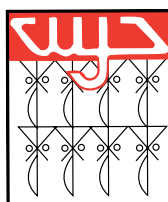
Tom and Mary Jonas of Bloomington, Minn. report that they will represent CFM at the Worldwide Marriage Day celebration in St. Paul's Cathedral on Feb. 22.

Brad and Julia Shanklin are starting a group at Our Lady of Angels Parish in Plano, Texas.

Jim and Diane Christie presented CFM to St. Aloysius parish in Yoder, Ind. near Ft. Wayne at a ministry fair on the weekend of Feb. 9-10.

Bob and Loretta Rafter of Our Lady of the Wayside CFM in Arlington Heights, Ill. learned of a Chicago charity that ran out of food just before Christmas. Within days, CFM families contributed 10 turkeys and hams and \$1000, which helped to feed 400 people.

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