



Vol 55 • No. 7  
November 2002



## Christian Family Movement

# CFM Commemorates September 11 Anniversary at U.S. Capitol

On the anniversary of terrorist attacks on the United States, members of the Christian Family Movement called for a new initiative among families throughout the country to take action to affirm the value and the dignity of family life, within their own family and within small groups of families.

“Do not let this day be an anniversary of the death of love, the loss of hope or the day we first felt fear,” said CFM representatives in a draft statement prepared for delivery outside the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.

“Let this day be the day we take action as individuals, as families, as towns and cities, to support measures that affirm family life and the dignity of each and every family member.”

The CFM delegation participated in an event, *Today's Children, Tomorrow's World*, convened by the Masters Group, and co-sponsored by Global Mothers, American Mothers, and other organizations.

“We are Christian families that acknowledge the sacred nature of every family,” including “Jewish and Muslim families and families of other traditions,” said the statement.

“Today, we encourage you to take action. Within your homes, do



CFM representatives standing on the Capitol lawn are: Jane Buchbauer, Father Donald Conroy, John and Lauri Pryzbysz, and Paul and Jane Leingang.

not let this opportunity pass without telling each other of your love.

“Jesus told us to love our neighbor,” said the CFM statement. “Today, we say, love your neighbor’s children as well.

“Do not let this opportunity pass without an assembly of neighbors — families together offering support to one another each and every day.”

**Jane Buchbauer**, one of the

—continued on page 3

### IN THIS ISSUE

Presidents' Perspective .....	2
Parent to Parent .....	3
From the Chaplain .....	5
Taking the Time .....	6
Your Marriage .....	7
SPOTLIGHT .....	8



## Presidents' Perspective

by Peter and Jane Buchbauer

### *Observe...Judge...and Act*

One of the true charms of the Christian Family Movement is its methodology. Each year, for more than 50 years, members of the Christian Family Movement gather together to Observe, Judge and Act. Members are provided with a program book, actually an inquiry module, to help guide their discussion and suggest action. But for us to get the most from our membership, OJA (Observe, Judge, Act) must become a regular part of our meetings, and our lives.

How often have you looked at your calendar and noticed that the CFM meeting is tonight and you have done nothing to prepare? How often have you opened the book to review the chapter on the way to the meeting? How often do you sit at the meeting and quickly review the Acts suggested for the last meeting to see if you have done any of them? These are things which certainly have happened in our lives and our groups over our 18 years as CFM Action Group members.

The foregoing are situations we want to avoid in order to give us and our groups the maximum benefit of the process and the gathering.

OJA, at its origin, was meant to transform the person and society. The methodology, used with Young Christian Students and Young Christian Workers, was adapted for use by Christian Families. Its transformative abilities remain today.

To get the maximum benefit, we must come to the meeting prepared. We should have reviewed the Observes in advance of the meeting, and not just in the car on the way to the meeting. OJA requires you to bring facts to the meeting—facts from outside the group itself. Too often, we replace the facts with our experiences or opinions. Observes usually seek to bring into the group information from outside the group. They frequently ask us to read, research or inquire. Certainly, all would agree that you need to know the facts before you can judge them.

During the meetings, the purpose of the Observe section is to report to the group the facts you have discovered about the topic. It is not the opportunity to comment upon them. We know from experience how difficult that is, but we would liken the Observe reporting to the brainstorming process where people place ideas on the table without comment. In the Observe section of the meeting, you should simply report the facts and only the facts.

With the facts on the table, the group should then judge what they have learned in light of the teachings of Christ and his Church. However, group members need to be aware of what those teachings are in order to judge in light of them. This formation process helps all CFM members to grow in their knowledge of their faith and Holy Scriptures. The Judge questions should ideally guide the members to honestly relate the facts observed

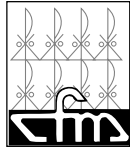
to the teachings of Christ and cause the members to ascertain whether the reality reflects Christ's desire for all people.

Finally, with that judgment in hand, the group is called to explore what can be done to enhance a positive situation or correct a negative situation. This is a concrete action. And whether it is done as a group, as a family or as an individual, it should stretch you in some way and lead to a positive experience for you, your family and your community.

So, then, Observes are the facts, Judges are when we evaluate the facts and the Action is the goal of the whole process. Each part is indispensable. Each part is necessary to truly gain all that OJA and CFM offer us as individuals, spouses, families, and communities.

By learning how to implement OJA in your meetings, you will hopefully implement OJA in your daily life. By facing every situation we are confronted in with a process that calls us to learn the facts, judge them fairly in light of our values and truths and then act on the judgment made, we can transform society, our families and ourselves. It works.

So, as many of us begin another year of CFM, let us all pledge to truly work the program of OJA in our meetings and in our lives for happier families and a more Christian society.



ACT is published up to eight times a year by the Christian Family Movement.

CFM National Office  
P.O. Box 925  
Evansville IN 47706-0925

Telephone: 812-962-5508  
Fax: 812-962-5509  
E-mail: office@cfm.org  
Web page: <http://www.cfm.org>

Presidents  
**Jane and Peter Buchbauer**

Executive directors  
**Jane and Paul Leingang**

Newsletter editor  
**Kathleen Miller**

Webmaster  
**Andy Pozdol**

CFM news articles and photos welcome. Subscriptions are free to members and \$8.00 for non-members.

Want to touch base with CFMers around the country? Join CFM's e-mail exchange by contacting [cfm-exchange@cfm.org](mailto:cfm-exchange@cfm.org)

### CFM's Mission

- ◆ to promote Christ-centered marriage and family life;
- ◆ to help individuals and their families to live the Christian faith in everyday life; and
- ◆ to improve society through actions of love, service, education and example.

## Parent to Parent

by Mary Lou Gorman



### Setting a School Routine

Take some time to sit down with your children and talk about your school day routine. First talk with them to hear their ideas on morning, after school and evening, homework, chores, and bedtime routines. They need to have some input, so don't just dictate to them what will be done. You get better cooperation when they themselves are involved in planning their day.

If everyone leaves at a different time, it's important to plan shower and eating times. When lunches are made and clothes are laid out the night before, morning runs smoother. "One wake-up call" rule will help build a more responsible child and will help in the teen years when they might tend to ignore your voice. Everyone clearing their own dishes is another good habit to encourage.

Every child should have one chore to do before school, such as making his own bed; and one after school, such as taking out the garbage.

It's important that children have some free time after school, time for themselves to enjoy what they like to do. In our house, the best time for homework was right after dinner. A bedtime routine should be fixed for every age level. Some reading time before lights out might be relaxing.

This all sounds easy, but it does take follow-through by parents to create a productive routine. Prayers in the morning, at mealtime and in the evening need parent initiative, just as tooth brushing does.

Prayers help children focus on others rather than themselves. Prayers remind children to be grateful for the good things God has blessed them with.

Remember, the "hardest thing you have to do in life is raise a child." Train him in the ways of Jesus.

*Mary Lou and Phil Gorman have been married 55 years and have four daughters and thirteen grandchildren. They have been in CFM since 1953.*

#### September 11

—continued from page 1

CFM speakers, recalled her actions of a year ago: "When I saw the news, I called my family. Millions of us did the same," she said.

"Among our haunting memories are the phone calls made from planes in the last moments of flight, phone calls made to family members," she continued.

Buchbauer noted that "two things gave us unity that day — the horrible events that drew us to the news coverage — and the deep down impulse in all of us to seek and to give assurance within our

own families."

She encouraged families "to work and pray that the horror of that day never be repeated" but also to "work and pray to keep the value of family foremost in our society."

"We believe in practicality, and taking action, by implementing our time-proven process of observing the world we live in, reflecting on what we see there in the light of our faith, and acting to make a difference," said the CFM statement. "We encourage the regular gathering of small groups of families, and initiating dialogue among families' faith traditions."

## Book Review

### *Raising Kids who will Make a Difference*

by Jane Leingang

**Susan Vogt** is a brave woman. She is a committed Christian who has tried to put her faith into practice in every aspect of her life: work, marriage, parenting. Here she shares the results, especially in regard to parenting, and she is brave enough to have her quite independent grown daughter Heidi give her side of the story. It's an honest book that shows that parents don't always succeed when they try to pass on their own faith, but affirms that the effort is worth its price.

Susan is the director of the Family Ministry Office of the Diocese of **Covington, Ky.** She and her husband have worked for many years with the Parenting for Peace and Justice Network. She has four children ages 15 to 27. Her book reflects this professional background, her social justice convictions and the wisdom gained in raising four children.

When the Vogt kids were embarrassed by the "Feminists for Life" bumper sticker on the car, the family compromised by adding a favorite rock band sticker for balance. In another entry Heidi Vogt gives her side to living with a parent who didn't approve of Barbie and wouldn't buy one for her. She survived. Her aunt bought her an occasional Barbie that Susan allowed her to keep, and Heidi understood that her mother wanted her to know that a woman is more than her looks. Heidi concludes with a charming story of how she and her mom enjoyed watching the Miss America pageant together the year Miss Kentucky won. Despite her reservations about the proceed-

ings Susan didn't lecture, and Heidi saw her mother in a different light.

Perhaps the most poignant chapter is the one on spirituality. After Susan shares her principles and strategies, the kids have their say. They were not all that happy about the Vogts' insistence on Church attendance, and it is clear that they don't all go regularly on their own. Heidi shares her search for a faith like her parents, one that is "active" and "alive." She hasn't found it yet, but she has discovered her parents are not unfamiliar with the search. They support her on her quest, even though they would have wished her to be spared some of the more heart-rending aspects of it. It is interesting to note that Heidi's contributions came from Africa where she served in the Peace Corps. Heidi has obviously absorbed some of her parents' values even as she finds her own.

"Actions trump words" in parenting, says Susan Vogt. This book recounts actions parents can take to make lectures about the values they hold unnecessary. No family will be able to do all the things she suggests, but she offers much to choose from. She concludes her book with a plea for parents to be forgiving of their efforts that are less than wholly successful and an affirmation of parents who try. There is much wisdom here.

*Raising Kids Who Will Make a Difference*

By Susan V. Vogt  
Loyola Press, 2002, 296 pages,  
\$13.95.



Chuck and Jan Rogers

## *Observation leads to Action on Taxes*

Applying CFM principles in the community

by Jane Leingang

"I'd never done anything political, except perhaps sign a petition or write a letter," reflects **Jan Rogers**, CFM past president from **Winchester, Va.** That changed in the summer of 2001 when the chairman of the school board and members of the city council approached Jan and another woman from the community to head a campaign to increase local sales tax to benefit the schools.

The request challenged Jan to put her CFM training into action. She realized that "I had been doing 'Observes' for a long time." She had volunteered in the schools, written grant applications for "Reading is Fundamental" for eight years, and seen the number of children qualifying for free or reduced lunch increase from 32 percent to over 50 percent during that time. The population had changed dramatically. There just wasn't enough funding to meet the needs."

Jan considered her own priorities: "My causes are marriages, families, children, schools and church," and went into action. She petitioned the city council to have the measure put to a vote and

# From the National Chaplain

by Father Don Conroy

## The Search for Meaning



On September 11, 2002, the Christian Family Movement was well-represented at the first anniversary observance of the terrorists' attacks in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania.

As CFM leaders stood in front of the United States Capitol, we thought of how these events affected so many families. Some directly experienced the impact on family members who were working or traveling that day. Many more of us in the U.S. and throughout the world reached out to family as we heard of these terrible events and were worried what they meant for us and our times.

As CFM leaders stood on the platform remembering that day and

searching for its significance for our times, **Jane Buchbauer** touched on a central aspect of our experience; "A year ago, you may well have done what I did. When I saw the news, I called my family. Millions of us did the same." Jane also noted: "Among our haunting memories are the phone calls made from planes in the last moments of the flight, phone calls made to family members." We also learned from other reports how people trapped in the Trade Towers or the Pentagon also called to their loved ones.

The other widespread experience reported by so many was turning to God in prayer. This great outpouring of prayer occurred in homes and churches as well as in

other places, including synagogues, mosques and civic centers. This happened because in times of crisis we search in the sacred traditions of our faith for meaning and for the spiritual power to go on.

CFM has much to offer us at times like this. Our CFM process of "Observe, Judge, and Act" helps us find our way through these difficult times. We can share with others how to reflect on life events, discern God's will and engage in meaningful action to find healing and peace in our own families and throughout the global family.

*Father Conroy is President of the National Institute for the Family in Washington, DC.*

### Rogers, cont.

then she organized support through parent-teacher organizations, civic clubs and "anybody who would listen."

When she spoke before the ministerial association, she used "observe, judge and act" as her outline and shared how her faith had called her to act to improve education for the children in her community. Not everyone agreed with her proposal, and though it garnered 67 per cent of the city vote, it failed to win approval from the state assembly.

Despite the disappointment at the state level, Jan earned a lot about politics through the campaign, and feels that progress has been made. "We were able to change the way people think about providing additional funding for schools."

## Where Do the Dues Go?

CFM is a national organization with members all over the United States. Annual membership dues pay for the office that serves those members and helps the movement grow and develop.

We have two employees, an executive director and a part-time office assistant, and we pay a small stipend to the ACT editor. We pay state and federal employment taxes, workers compensation insurance, office insurance, telephone and rent. We contend with rising postage costs to deliver materials to our membership. In short, CFM has expenses like those of a small business. CFM also supports the international movement by donating \$1 per member to ICCFM.

Most of our income comes from annual membership dues,

which have remained at \$30 since 1997 despite increasing expenses. Currently, expenses average about \$48 per member family. Fortunately, donations make up most of the difference, but, unfortunately, CFM is currently operating on a deficit.

We are grateful for the many volunteers who give time and travel at their own expense for the movement. A conservative estimate of the value of these contributions would be over \$50,000 per year. For example, the value of the donated service of our excellent webmaster, **Andy Pozdol**, is inestimable. Without Andy's generosity, and the generosity of the board members and other volunteers, CFM would not be able to deliver the quality programming our members have come to expect. Dues are a bargain: Have you paid them?



## Taking the Time to Make a Difference

by Paul R. Leingang

### Prayer and actions at the start of a journey

"The teacher's always right" – that's the way some new, young college students seem to think. "And mom and dad are wrong" – that's how a campus minister described what can happen to a young person away from home and family for the first time.

Or as an uncle of mine said one time when he was unhappy with a decision made by his son: "He just got too \*\* much education."

My uncle's comments were made years and years ago. My conversation with campus ministers happened just a few days ago. The fear persists – and there are certainly enough facts to support the fear – that young people leaving home will leave behind their family's faith and morals too.

New ideas can be challenging. Old ideas can be, too, especially when they are advanced by those who speak with the authority of a "professor" or a "doctor."

Life away from home offers the possibility of freedom from all of the old familiar restraints. If this may be a tough time for a young person, I thought, it may also be tough for the parents.

Take St. Francis of Assisi, for example. Maybe we think about him mainly as the saint who prayed to God to be "an instrument of your peace." It had to be like war at home.

I found the following account on the web, a version from The Catholic Encyclopedia, Volume VI,

Copyright 909 by Robert Appleton Company, with the Online Edition Copyright 1999 by Kevin Knight.

"[W]hilst Francis was praying before an ancient crucifix in the forsaken wayside chapel of St. Damian's below the town, he heard a voice saying: 'Go, Francis, and repair my house, which as you see is falling into ruin.'"

Francis went to his father's shop – his father was a wealthy cloth merchant – and he "impulsively bundled together a load of coloured drapery," sold it all, and

*"an instrument of your peace."... It had to be like war at home.*

gave the money for the restoration of the church.

His father "was incensed beyond measure at his son's conduct, and Francis, to avert his father's wrath, hid himself in a cave near St. Damian's for a whole month. When he emerged from this place of concealment and returned to the town, emaciated with hunger and squalid with dirt, Francis was followed by a hooting rabble, pelted with mud and stones, and otherwise mocked as a madman. Finally, he was dragged home by his father, beaten, bound, and

locked in a dark closet."

How would you like to be the parent of that one?



I can't help but reflect on the disciples who followed Jesus – those who left father and mother and fishing boats, and went away to an uncertain future. What did their families think?



Take the time today to list the families you know who are separated by an attraction to a new life, a new call, an uncertain future.

On one side of that question might be the college student who is caught up in new ideas. On the other side may be a young person who steals and runs, or commits some other act that leads to injury and confinement.

Reflect on your own family and friends. Which rebel among them is destined for sainthood?

If you are in a group of Christian Family Movement members, support the families of young people who may have been listening to unexpected voices. Some possible actions:

- ◆ Send a "Care" package to a college student. Keep in touch with a niece or nephew, or someone you coached or babysat.
- ◆ Start a support group for the families of the imprisoned.
- ◆ Pray for those who follow the voices only they can hear.
- ◆ Become an instrument of God's peace.

*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

## Every Marriage is a Mixed Religion Marriage



Brian and Holly are planning to marry early next spring. He is Catholic; she is Jewish. Barbara and Stan are also engaged. She is Baptist and he is Catholic. Pam and Joe are also marrying soon. Pam is an active Catholic attending Mass every Sunday, while Joe comes from a “Christmas, Easter, and funerals” family. They are both Catholics, but theirs is also a mixed religion marriage. Although they were both baptized in the same faith tradition, they are coming to realize that the similarity of their religious practice ends there.

“Mixed religion” usually refers to a marriage in which the couple is of two different faith traditions, but actually each person approaches God in a personal as well as in an “institutional” way. While some people have no religious tradition, they may be curious about religion and open to learning more. Some, often with reason, are hostile to organized religion themselves, or may be mystified that church means so much to their spouse. Still, the religion and conscience of each partner is to be treated with respect.

Successful couples, whether same or interfaith, have found common spiritual values—common ground—to celebrate and pass on to their children. **Cokie and Steve Roberts**, in their recent book exploring marriage in America, *From This Day Forward* (Perennial/HarperCollins Publishers, [www.harpercollins.com](http://www.harpercollins.com)), tell how a Catholic bride and Jewish groom dealt with faith and family issues in their own marriage. Cokie, a nationally-known journalist and a Catholic, decided to learn all she

could about Steve’s Jewish heritage. After 30 years of marriage, Steve says that his parents wouldn’t miss Cokie’s Seder meal. They tell how they raised their children to appreciate both faith traditions, and other faith traditions as well. Each partner became a better member of his or her own religion in the process of building spirituality as a couple, and as individuals.

The way a person, and a couple, decides to grow closer to God – to be holy – will vary from family to family. Every couple that enters a Christian marriage (where at least one is a Christian) takes on four spiritual tasks:

- ◆ To form a community of persons
- ◆ To serve life
- ◆ To participate in the development of society
- ◆ To share in the life and mission of the Church

Most of us will recognize that we indeed have been doing the first three tasks to some degree, for better or worse.

The last task may sound specifically “religious,” difficult to relate to if we don’t have the same traditions. However, with humility, we can find common ground. How? “By showing your children a model of life based on truth, freedom, justice, and love and by active involvement in social causes and support of groups that work for such issues.” (Apostolic Exhortation, *Familiaris Consortio*, 1981)

Practice CFM spirituality. Observe your neighborhood, parish or school. Judge a real need, no matter how small, and decide to Act to make a change for the better.

Involve children if you can. Band together with other CFMers or couples of like mind – though maybe not of like religion – to work on an issue of justice or truth in this election year.

Stretch yourself. Investigate your own or your spouse’s faith tradition and learn about one custom or prayer practice that is new to you. Try praying with your spouse in his or her tradition. Invite your spouse to pray with you.

Build bridges of understanding. Learn about a religion that you know little about now. Ask a neighbor or friend whose religion is different to tell some stories of their own religious upbringing.

Work on improving in the first three “Tasks” of the family, above. Observe how you are doing on them, Judge what you need to change, and do something!

Study recent Church teaching on family life and ecumenical affairs: “On the Family” (*Familiaris Consortio*), Apostolic Exhortation of Pope John Paul II, 1981 [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va), or “Follow the Way of Love,” U.S. Bishops Pastoral Message to Families, 1994. [www.usccb.org/publishing/familylife/](http://www.usccb.org/publishing/familylife/); “Interchurch Families”, and many more articles and books, US Bishops Secretariat for Ecumenical and Inter-religious Affairs, <http://www.usccb.org/seia/index.htm>

*Lauri and John Przybysz live in Severna Park, Md., and are the parents of six children. Lauri is coordinator of marriage preparation and enrichment for the Archdiocese of Baltimore.*

SPOTLIGHT

**Mary Buscher** at St. Francis parish in **Des Moines, Iowa**, says that their CFM community helps at the Churches United homeless shelter there. Each group takes a night at the shelter helping to prepare and serve meals. Ten volunteers serve each night. Older children are able to help.

**Linda and Gene Nuccio**, **Broomfield, Colo.**, made a CFM presentation at the weekend Masses of Guardian Angels parish in **Denver** September 21. The same weekend **Frank and Pat Gacnik** coordinated a booth of CFM materials at the fall festival of St. Louis parish in **Louisville, Colo.**

**Linda and Mike McClure**, of Holy Trinity in **Bloomington, Ill.**, report that their group provided most of the staff of the

parish vacation Bible school this summer.

**Andy and Mary Simmons** report their group at Immaculate Conception parish, **Fulton, Ill.**, sponsors a parents' night out each year. Adults and teens baby-sit the children of couples in the parish so that they can enjoy some time alone.

**Pat and Anne Laughlin** are forming a CFM group at Holy Name of Jesus parish in **Wayzata, Minn.** A pilot group will use *Taking Time to Make a Difference* this fall. There will be a parish-wide effort to invite additional membership in the spring.

**Rosemary and Jim Fagan**, leaders of St. Edna parish in **Hawthorne Woods, Ill.**, informed us that their group sponsored a reception after Thanksgiving Day

Mass last year. They also had a hayride in the fall and a Seder meal in the spring.

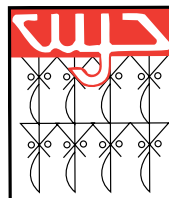
St. Lawrence the Martyr, **Redondo Beach, Calif.**, had their kickoff on September 21. Visit the St. Lawrence the Martyr CFM website at [www.stlmCFM.org](http://www.stlmCFM.org) to see some creative ideas for community building events (all with a California flair, of course.)

**Bernice Opila** passed away on August 5. She had been a leader of the **Chicago** Federation in the late 80s and 90s with her husband **Harry**. She was a member of St. Cletus parish CFM for 25 years.

Tim and Louise Grant are starting CFM at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parish in **Coconut Creek, Fla.**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Christian Family Movement  
P.O. BOX 925, Evansville IN 47706



NONPROFIT  
ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
EVANSVILLE, IN  
PERMIT #1072