

Monday, March 3, 2008

And you think your husband's a wiseguy?

Morning Read Update.

By LORI BASHEDA
The Orange County Register
[Comments 2](#) | [Recommend 3](#)

So you've gotten your husband to quit leaving the toilet seat up?

Well, don't get too excited.

Cammy Franzese got her husband to quit the mob.

Cammy shared the stage Friday night with her ex-wiseguy husband before a packed house at Coast Hills Community Church in Aliso Viejo. About 1,100 people packed the church, including some local police and a former FBI agent whose job it once was to tail Michael, to hear Cammy, an Anaheim native once dubbed by Vanity Fair magazine "the woman who changed the face of organized crime."

The couple (he wore jeans and a sports jacket, she wore designer jeans and wedges) sat on a leather sofa on stage and answered questions by Rob Michaels, Michael's ministry partner and a retired cop.

"The last thing I thought I'd be doing ... was traveling the country with an ex-mob guy ... much less talking about Jesus," Rob said.



In the '80s, Michael was making more money for the mob than anyone since Al Capone, Rob told the crowd. "But something happened to change his life and that something was a 19-year-old girl."



The two met on the set of a movie Michael was producing in the early '80s. "Did you have any idea who he was?" Rob asked Cammy.

"God no!" she said, getting one of the biggest laughs of the night.

But as her husband's shadowy life slowly trickled out, she told the crowd, she was determined to stand by her man. Through prayer and forgiveness, she stuck it out – and convinced her husband, a captain in the Colombo crime family who earned the nicknames the "Prince of the Mafia" and the "Yuppie Don," to be the first man to publicly walk away from the Mafia and risk getting "whacked."

Now Michael speaks at churches and campuses across the nation. Friday was the first time his wife joined him. The audience loved it, often breaking into laughter and applause.

