

World Congress of Families News



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IN THIS ISSUE

Vatican Conference Brings Faiths Together to Support Natural Marriage –p.2

Cry for Life Holds Silent March for Life In the Hague –p.3

CitizenGo Petition Defends Duggar Family –p.4

Calendar of Upcoming Events –p.4

Coming In February – Movieguide 2015 Faith And Values Awards –p.5

Human Life International Chapter in Belarus Launches “Weeks Without Abortion” Project –p.6

Population Research Institute Exposes World Vasectomy Day–p.7

Novae Terrae Foundation Surveys Italian Attitudes Toward The Family –p.7

2015 Summit to End Sexual Exploitation –p.8

WCF Profiles in Leadership –p.9

New WCF Partner Profiles –p.10

Peggy Hartshorn to Receive Defender of Life Award from Students for Life –p.11

WCF Partners –p.12

Jaime Oreja Recieves World Congress of Families “Family and Truth” Award at United Nations Transatlantic Summit

WCF International Secretary Dr. Allan C. Carlson presented the World Congress of Families “Family and Truth (Familia Et Veritas) Award” to Jaime Mayor Oreja on December 5, at the Political Network For Values’ Transatlantic Summit, at a special reception hosted by Hungary’s Permanent Mission to the United Nations.

The award recognizes Mr. Mayor Oreja for “distinguished civic service and public contributions to promoting a greater understanding of The Natural Family as the fundamental unit of society and as the vital source of a prosperous, stable, and free civilization,” and for “his lifelong efforts in favor of human life, marriage, and children, and his courageous defense of the Truths.” Jamie Major Oreja is a former member of both the EU Parliament and the Spanish government.

On the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family, policymakers from five continents gathered at the UN in order to recognize and strengthen the role of the family as the principal driver of sustainable development, as well as to promote core ethical, social and political values and human rights.

The Political Network for Values has been established at both at the national and international levels to concretize relationships that will lead to ongoing cooperation in coming years. The Network will assist all participants in utilizing their political, intellectual, and social capital, as well as in sharing good policy practices that recognize the sanctity and dignity of human life and human rights.

A Declaration on the Rights of the Family, signed by more than 200 elected representatives from around the world, was unveiled during the event. It stressed the urgency of protecting and strengthening the natural family and relating this to the UN’s Millennial Development Goals. This manifesto was handed to UN General Secretary Ban Ki-moon that same day by the Hungarian Ambassador to the UN.



Allan Carlson and Jaime Oreja

continued on page 2

Jaime Oreja Recieves World Congress of Families "Family and Truth" Award at United Nations Transatlantic Summit



Keynote speakers at the Trans-Atlantic Summit included Hon. Zoltan Balog (Hungarian Minister for Human Capacities), Rep. Jeff Fortenberry (U.S. Congressman from Nebraska), Oscar Ivan Zuluaga (President of the Democratic Center Party of Colombia), Dr. Helen M. Avare (Professor at the

George Mason University School of Law) and Luis Peral (Senator from Spain).

Zuluaga spoke of the consequences of family decline in Colombia, including a 55% dropout rate between the 10th and 11th grades, 45% of children under 11 victims of sexual exploitation, and rising rates of teen pregnancy and violence against women.

WCF Managing Director Larry Jacobs spoke at the U.N. event about the history of World Congress of Families and the importance of WCF Parliamentary Forums. "We're honored to be involved with this historic gathering at the United Nations, particularly because of its emphasis on the natural family," Jacobs said. "The UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights bears witness to the fact that the Natural Family is the vital source of a sustainable society and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) of 2015."

Other speakers and participants included World Congress of Families International Secretary Allan Carlson, CitizenGo and HazteOir President Ignacio Arsuaga, Sharon Slater (Family Watch International), Austin Ruse (C-Fam), Lola Volarde (IPFE – Spain) and Katharina Rothweiler (Red Familia - Mexico) – all WCF Partners.

[Click here](#) for more information about the Transatlantic Summit and the Political Network for Values

Vatican Conference Brings Faiths Together to Support Natural Marriage

Pope Francis opened a three-day Vatican conference on the "Complementarity of Man and Woman," November 17-19. Participants included prominent evangelicals (among them Rev. Rick Warren of the Saddleback Church), a former Chief Rabbi of the United Kingdom, Dr. Eugene Rivers, a Pentecostal minister from Boston, and an elder of the LDS Church, the first time a Mormon official has participated in such a gathering.

Many World Congress of Families representatives were present in Rome, including International Secretary Allan Carlson and Managing Director Larry Jacobs. At least a dozen WCF Partners were also present.

His Holiness set the tone in his opening comments: "We now live in a culture of the temporary, in which more and more people are simply giving up on marriage as a public commitment. This revolution in manners and morals has often flown the flag of freedom, but, in fact, it has brought spiritual and material devastation to countless human beings, especially the poorest and most vulnerable." The Pope continued: "Children have a right to grow up in a family with a father and mother capable of creating a suitable environment for the child's development and emotional maturity."

Rev. Warren observed: "It is a myth that we must give up biblical truth of sexuality and marriage in order to evangelize. In the end, we must be merciful to the fallen, show grace to the struggling, and be patient with the doubting. But when God's Word is clear, we must not – and we can not – back up, back off, back down or backslide from the truth."

Alan Sears, president of Alliance Defending Freedom, a WCF Partner, observed: "More than 30 faith leaders (among the principal speakers) who differ profoundly on any number of theological questions found that we all agree on this: marriage between a man and a woman is a source of grace and beauty; conforms with biology, science and natural law; offers a way out of poverty; and is a core teaching of all faiths, whatever our diversities on other doctrines."

Theresa Okafor of the Foundation for African Cultural Heritage and WCF Representative in Africa explained: "The colloquium was an unprecedented inter-religious



Larry Jacobs, Dmitry Smirnov, Rick Warren and Ignacio Arsuaga

Vatican Conference Brings Faiths Together to Support Natural Marriage

dialogue on the complementarity between a man and a woman. The films and presentations sensitized our conscience on the beauty and truth about marriage and reinforced our collective understanding about marriage and the family. As the Holy Father put it, we must not 'fall into the trap of being swayed by political notions.' Family is an

anthropological fact - a socially and culturally related fact. We cannot qualify it based on ideological notions or concepts important only at one time in history."

[Click here](#) for more information on the Vatican conference on the Complementarity of Man and Woman.

Cry for Life Holds Silent March for Life In the Hague

At 1 pm on December 6, more than 2,500 participated in a Silent March for Life in The Hague, the domicile of the Dutch government and of King Willem Alexander.

After the shofar sounded, the founders of Schreeuw om Leven (Cry for Life), Bert and Willy Dorenbos, welcomed marchers and asked the Lord's guidance over the 22nd Annual Dutch March for Life, first held in 1992.

A young woman named Nicole told her story. As a student she became pregnant due to a rape. The evening that she learned of the pregnancy, she consumed one bottle of wine, hoping the pregnancy would end. It did not. A friend suggested an abortion. Who would want a child conceived from rape? With all options against her, she despaired, she told those gathered for the march. "I was having a shower three times a day, that's how filthy I felt," she said. She repented and again started visiting her church, where someone read Psalm 23 with her. That was her tipping point. Now she is married and the mother of three. Her husband loves her first child as much as their two others.

Cees van der Staaij a Dutch politician in the House of Commons (Tweede Kamer) from the State Reformed Party (SGP) spoke, calling for redemption of the Dutch people from the sin of abortion, and said he's pleased more funds are reserved for girls facing a pregnancy crisis. Peter Schalk, who is an appointed member of the House of Lords (Eerste Kamer) cited Psalm 130. Johannes van Voorst spoke on behalf of the Roman Catholic Church.

Michael van der Mast from Cry for Life introduced the international guests, amongst others, Paul Genoux, vice-president of the French Choisirlavie (Choose Life), Laurel Hughes of the Leadership Institute in Washington DC; Daniel Becker president of the Personhood Alliance; Pat McEwen director Life Coalition International and Maaïke Rosendal of the Canadian Centre of Bio-Ethical Reform. A banner of the newly formed Federation One of Us was displayed and carried during the March.

The March set off at 2 o'clock, under police escort. Walking quietly in prayer, participants attracted people in the street, confronted with the silent scream of the baby in the womb, fleeing from abortion instruments.

The Silent March for Life is an annual event, held in December to recall the adoption of the pregnancy termination law in the Netherlands on December 18, 1980.

Michael van der Mast is responsible for international relations for Cry for Life. He also is a member of the executive committee of the EU Foundation One of Us. [Click here](#) for Cry For Life.



The next generation of Dutch pro-life activists



Calendar of Upcoming Events

January 22, 2015 – National March for Life, Washington, D.C.
www.marchforlife.org/details/

January 25 – Students for Life West National Conference in San Francisco
www.studentsforlife.org/

February 23-26, 2015 – National Religious Broadcasters' International Christian Media Convention, Nashville, Tennessee
www.nrbconvention.org/

February 26-28 – 2015 – Conservative Political Action Conference, Washington, D.C. www.cpac.org

March 9-20 – Committee on Status of Women meets in New York City. For information on NGO side events, contact Babette Francis
babette@endeavourforum.au

April 24 – WCF Regional Event in Belgrade, contact Srdjan Nogo for more information,
nogo.srdjan@gmail.com

May 10 – Marcia per la Vita (March for Life) in Rome, for more information,
www.marciaperlavita.it

May 13-15 – National Pro-Life Week in Canada, in Ottawa [click here for more information](#)

May 17 – WCF Regional Event in Tbilisi (Georgia), contact Levan Vasadze for more information lvasadze@yahoo.com

July 9-11 – National Right to Life Convention, New Orleans. [click here for more information](#)

September 10-12 – Coalition to End Sexual Exploitation Summit in Orlando,
www.endexploitationmovement.com/summit-2015

October 27-30, 2015 – World Congress of Families IX, Salt Lake City [click here for more information](#)

4

CitizenGo Petition Defends Duggar Family

CitizenGo, a WCF Partner, has a petition in support of the Duggar Family, addressed to the TLC Network, which reads:

"I stand firmly with the Duggar family as they express their values. Their freedom of speech, which they have exercised in a compassionate and winsome way, should not be infringed by your network.

The viewer base for '19 Kids and Counting' is made of individuals like me who share the Duggar family's values. The small minority that is asking you to cancel this show do not represent the values of most Americans. In fact, the majority of Americans support the Duggar family's position on this issue.

I urge you to keep '19 Kids and Counting' on the air and to respect their freedom of speech"

CitizenGo explains: "LGBT activists are trying to get the Duggar's popular reality show '19 Kids and Counting' cancelled. They're telling TLC to censor the Duggars because Michelle Duggar recently voiced her opposition to a radical 'transgender' bill in Arkansas. The bill would allow biological men (who claim that they are women) into women's bathrooms, locker rooms, and changing areas!

An obscure petition that only gathered a few signatures began to pick up steam thanks to the help of big, liberal media conglomerates like CBS and The Huffington Post. Now we need to fight back to protect our values, which the majority of America shares! After all, time after time, when the issue of marriage has been put before voters, states have overwhelmingly affirmed that it is a covenant between a man and a woman.

The Duggar family is standing up with truth and compassion against a small minority of sexual anarchists who want to redefine what it means to be a man or a woman.

These extremists are trying to censor any dissent against their radical LGBT agenda by taking '19 Kids and Counting' off television. The Duggars are heroes for using their platform to advocate for our values. Each week, they reach more than 2 million viewers through their show on TLC. That's a massive platform that should not be subject to political censorship!"

To sign the CitizenGo Petition in Support of the Duggar Family [click here](#).



Coming In February – Movieguide 2015 Faith And Values Awards

The 23rd Annual Faith & Values Awards Gala and Report to the Entertainment Industry, sponsored by Movieguide: The Family Guide to Movies and Entertainment and the Christian Film & Television Commission (a World Congress of Families Partner), will take place on Feb. 6, 2015 at the Universal Hilton Hotel near the heart of Hollywood.

Among the top contenders are HEAVEN IS FOR REAL starring Greg Kinnear and Thomas Haden Church, GOD'S NOT DEAD starring Kevin Sorbo and Dean Cain, Roma Downey and Mark Burnett's SON OF GOD, CAPTAIN AMERICA: THE WINTER SOLDIER starring Chris Evans, Robert Redford, Samuel L. Jackson, and Scarlett Johansson, TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES starring Megan Fox and Will Arnett, THE GOOD LIE starring Reese Witherspoon, and BIG HERO 6.

"Faith-based movies are having one of their best years ever," Movieguide Founder and Publisher Dr. Ted Baehr noted. "And, movies for families remain the most popular movies both here and overseas."

The evening's highlight will be the presentation of the two \$100,000 Epiphany Prizes for Inspiring Movies & TV, which honor the best movie and best television program in 2014 that "greatly increases man's love or understanding of God."

Another highlight will be the presentation of the \$50,000 Kairos Prizes for Spiritually Uplifting Screenplays by First-Time or Beginning Screenwriters, which honor the three best scripts from beginning screenwriters that "greatly increase man's love or understanding of God."

Both the Epiphany and the Kairos Prizes are supported by a grant from the John Templeton Foundation.

Last year, with additional support from the Templeton Foundation, the Awards Gala added another screenwriting competition, the \$50,000 Chronos Prizes for Inspiring Screenplays by Established Filmmakers.

Another major award that evening will be the Grace Awards for Inspiring Performances in Movies & TV given to the best performances by an actor or actress that best exemplifies "God's grace toward us as human beings."

Also, Crystal Teddy Bears will be given to the best family movies and the best movies for mature audiences of the year, where one winner also will be declared to take the top position in each field. Finally, special awards will be given to the winners of the two Faith & Freedom Awards for Promoting Positive American Values in Movies & TV.

Previous winners of Movieguide awards have included: **LES MISÉRABLES, UP, FINDING NEMO, THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST, MARVEL'S THE AVENGERS, THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE RETURN OF THE KING, THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE, FIREPROOF, AMAZING GRACE, AMISTAD, THE PREACHER'S WIFE, AMISH GRACE, TOUCHED BY AN ANGEL, 7TH HEAVEN** and **JAG**, Among the actors honored were *Robert Duvall, Stephen Collins, Whoopi Goldberg, Jim Caviezel, Chuck Norris, and Shirley Jones*.

At the Gala, Dr. Baehr will present highlights from Movieguide's Annual Report to the Entertainment Industry, which each year examines how well family movies and movies with faith-based, moral and spiritually uplifting content did at the box office and on home video compared to other kinds of movies.

Ted spoke at WCF Congresses in Warsaw, Amsterdam, Madrid and Sydney.



Willie Robertson receives Grace Award in 2014

[Click here](#) for more information on The 23rd Annual Faith & Values Awards Gala and Report to the Entertainment Industry

Human Life International Chapter in Belarus Launches “Weeks Without Abortion” Project

Vladislav Valakhovich, director of Human Life International’s affiliate in Belarus, is on a mission to end abortion. Armed with a growing network of 70 volunteers, the pro-life leader launched an initiative aimed at saving babies from abortion called ‘Weeks Without Abortions.’

The “Weeks Without Abortions” team sets up informational exhibits celebrating life inside clinics and hospitals that provide abortions. According to Mr. Valakhovich, many gynecologists in that region support the program, withholding abortion services during that week. The program’s success is gaining momentum as many clinics host the



Vladislav Valakhovich, director of Human Life International's affiliate in Belarus

program multiple times.

The pro-life exhibits are working well in the nine hospitals and clinics that allow the display. Volunteers also manage more than 30 stands, keeping them filled with pro-life and pro-family educational materials. The program has increased calls for counseling to the HLI affiliate’s crisis pregnancy hotline.

With an estimated 27,000 abortions committed in Belarus in 2012, the initiative dovetails well with legislative changes enacted to restrict abortion in 2013. The restrictions include limiting late termination of pregnancies for

social reasons.

“One of the changes supports the conscience clause which allows gynecologists the opportunity to refuse to commit abortions. They now have additional support to uphold the sanctity of life and family,” said Valakhovich.

While ending abortion is his primary focus, Valakhovich spearheads programs that support healthy marriage and families with a complete approach to the pro-life issues. HLI in Belarus not only fights against abortion but promotes natural family values through many programs: daily prayer at abortion clinics, pro-life messages in advertising, lectures, natural family planning courses and counseling, including hotline counseling. He says it’s an opportunity to share the truth about the dangerous contraceptive mentality which leads to abortion and IVF.

“I pray our initiatives will continue to save babies and families — and change the decades-old abortion mentality in this post-communist country to one that embraces the sacredness of all human life,” Valakhovich said.

[Click here](#) for the website of Human Life international, a WCF Partner.



Population Research Institute Exposes World Vasectomy Day

In its weekly Briefing for November 7, Population Research Institute, a World Congress of Families Partner, exposes World Vasectomy Day.

PRI observers: “World Vasectomy Day is touted as a means of population control. It’s also one of the few times when population controllers specifically target men and encourage them to undergo vasectomies.

Population controllers are manipulating away men’s desirable ability to use self-control by promoting vasectomies. Vasectomies permanently eliminate a man’s control over whether or not to procreate.

World Vasectomy Day has not been endorsed by

fatherhood organizations. Instead, it’s been endorsed by the usual suspects—groups like PopOffsets (an organization that seeks to minimize carbon output by minimizing people), Growth Busters, and Population Media Center. World



Population Research Institute
Putting People First for 20 years

Vasectomy Day is not about responsible manhood. It’s about population control. “

World Vasectomy Day is also supported by two of the leading organizations promoting abortion worldwide – Planned Parenthood and Marie Stopes International.

World Congress of Families Communications Director Don Feder noted: While World Vasectomy Day encourages men to voluntarily surrender their ability to procreate, the world is undergoing a birth-dearth. Worldwide, 57 countries, with 44% of the world’s population, have below replacement fertility (2.1 children per woman). Most countries of the European Union have fertility rates well below replacement – on average, 1.5. Many of these countries are already experiencing population decline, leading to rapidly aging societies and an inability to find enough young workers to maintain their industrial economies.”

Feder continued: “To combat this growing problem, Russia has a National Conception Day each year. That makes more sense than World Give-Up-Your-Ability-To-Procreate Day.”

[Click here](#) for Population Research Institute, a World Congress of Families Partner.

Novae Terrae Foundation Surveys Italian Attitudes Toward The Family

Novae Terra Foundation has produced one of the most comprehensive surveys on Italian attitudes toward marriage and the family. The scientific survey was conducted by the Milan-based Lorien Research Agency (from July 14-19) of over 1,000 Italian adults. Among other results, it showed:

95% and 86% of Italians respectively consider family and marriage to be irreplaceable pillars of society.

An overwhelming majority consider the natural family “much more than a simple sentimental bond” between adults “because it also concerns responsibility toward children.”

84% believe parents are very important to the physical and psychological development of children.

95% agree that the family is “a place of responsibilities.”

76% think marriage is “central to social development and development of the nation.”

66% believe “marriage has divine legitimacy.”

For a country with both low marriage and fertility rates, such finding are encouraging, showing that there is a natural base of support for both marriage and the natural family that pro-family advocates can tap into.

[Click here](#) for more information on Novae Terra Foundation, a World Congress of Families Partner.



2015 Summit to End Sexual Exploitation

The Second Annual Coalition to End Sexual Exploitation Summit will take place in Orlando, Florida, September 10-12, 2015. The Summit has been designated a World Congress of Families Regional Event.

Top speakers from around the world will cover pornography, sex trafficking, violence against women, the sexualization of children and other timely topics.

Besides issues-training, the Summit will include organizational training in media, digital outreach and fundraising. Those attending will also have an opportunity to network and strategize with leaders of the movement from around the country and the world.

Here's what some of those who attended the first summit last year had to say about the experience.

"I am telling everyone I see that it was the best conference I've attended—the speakers, the format, the food, the materials—all of it was so well done. Thank you!"
-Cathy Ruse, Family Research Council

"This was a remarkably successful summit, and a press conference with arresting impact. I was awed by the breadth of offerings at the summit, the numbers of people and organizations in attendance, and the zeal of the attendees. You brought forth a triumph. I think it will prove to have been a tipping point in marshaling a formidable and effective national coalition and movement in opposition to pornography." -Robert Cahill, Chairman of the Board of Morality in Media

"I was very impressed and encouraged by the Summit. For once, it seems as though we might be able to get in on the front end to actually effect change and reverse the trend of this culture—through our concerted, bi-partisan efforts—rather than dealing with tragedy

after it happens and being forced to pick up the pieces of shattered lives. Your effort to unite men and women of good will, no matter their politics or particular religion, seems to be the absolute right way to go.

I hope I might be able to attend the full conference next year." -Laraine Bennett, National Council of Catholic Women

"I want to add my thanks. It was a fantastic conference—and a tremendous accomplishment to bring so many diverse voices together. I learned a lot from many different types of organizations that I never realized shared so many common areas of agreement. I especially enjoyed the personal testimonies, which, though difficult, were very valuable in putting a 'face' on the many victims of these sexual crimes." -Mary Hamm, Archdiocese of Washington, D.C.

"The recent Coalition to End Sexual Exploitation was a remarkable meeting of individuals and groups who are dedicated to addressing the otherwise almost unopposed glorification of pornography. Voices of education, experience, and truth were heard, voices which will not be silenced, and which call for a return to human dignity. The friendships and relationships which were forged will generate action and energy which will change the direction of the cultural debate."
-Donald Hilton, MD

[Click here](#) for more information on the 2015 Summit to End Sexual Exploitation.



WCF – PROFILES IN LEADERSHIP

This continues our regular feature celebrating the women and men who have contributed to the growing success of the international pro-family movement.

Dr. Thomas Ward

Dr. Thomas Ward and his wife Mary have six children and thirteen grandchildren. He graduated from Glasgow University in 1966 where he subsequently taught general medicine and developed a department of medical education.

During his subsequent 35 years as a country doctor, he developed an academic, legal and political interest in defending the family from coercive social engineering by the State and the birth control lobby.

This culminated in a legal challenge to the government which in 1974 had forbidden doctors from informing parents when a child of whatever age requested contraceptive (The Gillick Case). In the first court the parents lost. In the Appeal Court they won and for the subsequent ten months doctors were forbidden to prescribe contraceptives to young girls without parental knowledge. In this period and uniquely for this age group the contraceptive uptake fell. The illegitimacy figures did not rise and the number of abortions fell slightly. Tragically, the judgement was reversed, holding, in effect, that parental rights did not exist.

The key issue, then as today, is the parents' primary and inalienable right to educate and protect their children.

In 1987 Dr. Ward founded the National Association of Catholic Families in the United Kingdom and Australia in order to help families bring one another mutual moral, spiritual, social and political support. The inspiration for the NACF was Saint John Paul the Great, whom Dr. Ward's family had had the privilege of meeting in a private audience.

In his 70s, Dr. Ward had had a career change and now teaches ancient history, Latin

continued on page 11



Dr. Tom and youngest grandchildren

Keith Mason

Keith Mason is the Founder and President of Personhood USA, the largest grassroots pro-life organization in the United States. He cut his teeth in pro-life ministry with "Survivors" as a campus activist, traveling to more than 1,000 high schools and 500 colleges across the United States to educate students about the humanity of the pre-born. Through dozens of federal lawsuits, Keith helped break down speech restrictions silencing pro-lifers on campus.

Keith met and married his wife Jennifer, a fellow pro-life activist, at the age of 21. After several years as pro-life missionaries in California, Keith relocated his young family to Wichita, Kansas, where he worked to expose the barbarity of the notorious late-term abortionist Dr. George Tiller.

When the nation's first-ever personhood initiative was launched in 2008, Keith returned to his home state of Colorado to lead the campaign. Though that initiative did not pass, it changed the conversation about abortion across the country. Keith recognized the extensive opportunities to change public opinion and save lives through the dialogue and social tension created by Personhood. Immediately following the election, Keith founded Personhood USA, an organization dedicated to abolishing abortion state-by-state while raising public awareness on the plight of pre-born children.

Since its inception in 2008, Personhood USA has grown exponentially, attracting thousands of volunteers across the nation and receiving unprecedented media coverage. After a positive profile of Keith and Jennifer appeared in Newsweek in 2012, pro-abortion vigilantes obtained the Masons' home address, lobbing a cinderblock through their front door and leaving vulgar messages and symbols spray-painted on their house. The Masons were undeterred by such violence, remembering the intimidation tactics faced by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and others

continued on page 11



New WCF Partner Profiles

Institute for Family Policies

The Institute for Family Policies (IFP) is a Non Governmental International Civil Organization founded in 2001. It has special consultative status with the ECOSOC of the United Nations.

Its mission is the promotion and defense of the family institution and helping its components. IPF is focuses on the European Union and Latin America. In this way, besides having offices in several countries, it has developed alliances and contacts with like-minded organizations worldwide. IPF's headquarters are located in Madrid, Spain. The IFP was an initiative of a group of people aware of the gap between the field of promoting and helping the family before the public opinion and the decision makers, highlighting the need for developing synergies with different family organizations both at a national and international level. Its mission is to defend and promote the institution of the family. It aims at sensitizing society and public administration through social strategy propositions, cooperative ventures and the development of a coordination between organizations focusing on these objectives.

The Institute intends to become a driving force for the adoption of an authentic family policy at every level (local, regional, national and supranational). With this aim, it studies and analyzes the family institution and its diverse challenges, threats and opportunities, contributing proposals and alternatives to solve their main difficulties.

The Institute's activities include: contributing up-to-date analysis and proposals to different governments, parties and political administrations; offering consulting on-line services; organizing courses, seminars and training sessions to share experience and good practice. Also:

- To study and analyze the family as an institution contributing proposals and alternatives to its diverse challenges, threats and opportunities
- Family empowerment: to impel a greater sensibility both in society and in the public administrations on the role of family, addressing national and local priorities to deal with family issues
- To expose transgressions against family and its members
- To develop cooperation projects with private or public institutions, of a national and international scope with special emphasis to the European Union and America
- To promote intercultural dialogue between people, associations and either national or international organizations, creating networks for this purpose"



CitizenGO

CitizenGO is community of active citizens who work together, using online petitions and action alerts as a resource, to defend and promote life, family, and liberty. It work to ensure that those in power respect human dignity and individual rights.

With CitizenGO's online petition platform, individuals are able to send their petition to decision-makers in local, national, and international government bodies and businesses. Likeminded individuals from all over the world will join them in winning causes. CitizenGO offers campaigns in 7 languages: English, Spanish, French, Portuguese, Italian, German, and Polish, and influences institutions, governments and organizations in 50 different countries.

The headquarters of CitizenGO is located in Madrid, but it has team members in fifteen cities on three continents. Technology makes it possible to cooperate in a "virtual (international) office." CitizenGO's work is only possible thanks to a large network of thousands of volunteers all over the world.

CitizenGO is wholly financed through small online donations made by thousands of citizens throughout the world.

Under no circumstances does CitizenGO accept financial support from public institutions or private entities. You will not find ads on CitizenGO. CitizenGO's core values are:

Innovation. CitizenGO is passionate in developing new ways for citizens to participate in public discourse. Innovation allows it to provide a vehicle to boost citizen activism for those seeking to bring change in their communities by utilizing the newest tools the Internet has to offer.

Transparency. Open and honest communication with everyone makes CitizenGO a good leader. CitizenGO also administers its resources with transparency. CitizenGO wants to be an exemplary organization, guided in everything with this value in mind.

Agility. CitizenGO quickly takes actions on issues that matter most to its members: right to life, marriage and family, religious liberty, and human dignity.

Credibility. CitizenGO strives to be truthful in everything it does, and corrects errors as soon as they're called to its attention..

Commitment. CitizenGO distinguishes itself by its commitment to the causes that are important to its members. CitizenGO acts on things based upon the conviction that they are just causes and that promoting them will improve society.

Charity. CitizenGO puts people, their dignity, their potential, and their expectations in the center of its activities. For CitizenGO, each person is unique and deserves individual respect and consideration.

CitizenGO manages its relations with groups (teams, community of members, institutions, press, suppliers...) treating people as free and valued individuals.

Independence. CitizenGO is the shared result of the entire community of its supporters and volunteers. It does not depend on any organization, political party, company, or lobby group. And it is this independence that guarantees its credibility and the effectiveness of its mission. The way CitizenGO acts makes it clear that its criteria and decisions do not depend on anything other than its community of members.

Passion. CitizenGO is distinguished by its conviction. CitizenGO cherishes the work it does. It believes it is acting for the good of society and that changing the world can be an exciting venture. Interest groups will be able to perceive the way CitizenGO manages its affairs as indicative of its special way of doing things.

Rationality. CitizenGO differentiates itself from other groups in seeking truth by way of reason. It does not resort to ideological dogmas or formulas to communicate the causes on which it acts. Everything CitizenGO proposes has its basis in science, law, and anthropology. Interest groups should see that CitizenGO is a rational organization that acts and communicates reasonably.



continued from page 9

Dr. Thomas Ward

and German to his home schooled grandchildren.

In November 2012 he was responsible for the British stage of the Pilgrimage of the Icon of the Black Madonna from Vladivostok to Fatima in defence of life and the family. This joyful journey became by far the largest pro- family/pro- life event in the United Kingdom for many years attracting unprecedented cooperation of Catholics and Orthodox throughout the country..

He is a corresponding Member of the Pontifical Academy for Life in the Vatican.

For forty years he has lectured on the Parent as the Primary Educator in many European centers including the Warsaw World Congress of Families in 2007, the Moscow Demographic Summit (2011) and the Moscow Large Family Forum 2014.

He studies Italian and modern Greek, collects Byzantine glass and has taken Callum, his eleven year old grandson, to a weekly luncheon club for eight years.

[Click here](#) for the National Association of Catholic Families

Peggy Hartshorn to Receive Defender of Life Award from Students for Life

Celebrating her nearly 42 years of hands-on involvement in the life-saving ministry of pregnancy help, the last 21 of which as President of Heartbeat International, Peggy Hartshorn, Ph.D., will be honored as a Defender of Life by Students for Life of America.

The award will be presented at the group's West National Conference in San Francisco, Calif., on January 25, 2015. Students for Life of America has also announced Professor Robbie George of Princeton University as its East National Conference recipient.

"It is truly an honor to be recognized by an excellent pro-life organization like Students for Life," Hartshorn said. "The work they are doing among high school and college students around the country is remarkable, and I am so thankful to commend with them the great work that pregnancy-help organizations are doing every day in every region of the world."

Jolted by the announcement of the U.S. Supreme Court's infamous Roe v. Wade decision on Jan. 22, 1973, Hartshorn immersed herself in pro-life , almost immediately, becoming involved in Columbus (Ohio) Right to Life in the following weeks. She and her husband, Mike Hartshorn, then began housing pregnant women in 1974, which led to their realization of a call to begin a pregnancy help organization in 1978.

That call led to the 1981 founding of Pregnancy Decision Health Centers, in Columbus, Ohio, which now serves over 15,000 clients annually in eight locations throughout Central Ohio.

Peggy joined the board of Heartbeat's predecessor, Alternatives to Abortion International, in 1986, before taking the reins as president in 1993. During her tenure, Heartbeat International's umbrella has expanded from around 100 centers to over 1,800, comprising the largest and most expansive pregnancy-help network in the world. Previous Defenders of Life Award winners include Congressman Christopher Smith (R-NJ), Jim Bob and Michelle Duggar, Father Frank Pavone, Abby Johnson, David Bereit, and Phyllis Schlafly.

[Click here](#) for the website of Heartbeat International, a World Congress of Families Partner.

continued from page 9

Keith Mason

who campaigned for civil rights and human dignity.

Under Keith's direction, Personhood USA built the one of largest pro-life databases in the world containing over 7 million identified individuals. Because of Keith's educational background in marketing, he is especially interested in developing strategies for digital media that propel social change. Keith's vision is to introduce entrepreneurial innovation to the pro-life and pro-family movement that will help it succeed.

Keith and Jennifer have five children and are committed to defending the cause of Christ and the personhood rights of unborn children.

[Click here](#) for Personhood USA



Peggy Hartshorn

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