

World Congress of Families IV



Warsaw, Poland | May 11-13, 2007

THE ROAD TO WARSAW

REPORT FROM WARSAW

The road to Warsaw started in Rockford, Illinois at The Howard Center for Family, Religion and Society in October, 2005, when a group of pro-family leaders from Mexico, Switzerland, the United States, Venezuela and Poland chose Warsaw as the site for World Congress of Families IV (WCF IV).

Participants at the first International Planning Committee Meeting for WCF IV decided that demographic winter (population decline) would be the focus of our fourth Congress, with the theme: *Beyond Demographic Winter – The Natural Family as The Springtime for Nations.*

Of the ten countries with the lowest birthrates worldwide, 9 are in Europe. The European Union is exacerbating the depopulation of Europe by pressuring conservative countries to accept abortion on demand and the normalization of homosexuality, as well as other attacks on the natural family.

Poland was chosen as the site for World Congress of Families IV

because of its central location and strong pro-family movement. More importantly, almost alone among the nations of Europe, Poland has managed to maintain its traditions of faith and family. That makes it the special target of feminists, gay activists and other anti-family forces operating in the EU.

A second International Planning Committee meeting was held in Warsaw on May 5-7, 2006. Twenty-five pro-family leaders traveled to Poland from the U.S., Mexico, France, Kenya, Germany, Austria, Pakistan and Switzerland.

Besides meeting with Mariusz Blaszczak (chief of staff to Poland's Prime Minister) and the late Archbishop Majdanski (a survivor of Dachau and founder of the Institute for Studies of the Family, who died just a few days before the opening of the Congress), the International Planning Committee held joint sessions with the Polish host committee, developed a program and toured the conference facilities.

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WCF IV BY THE NUMBERS

Participants 3,900

Registered 3,300

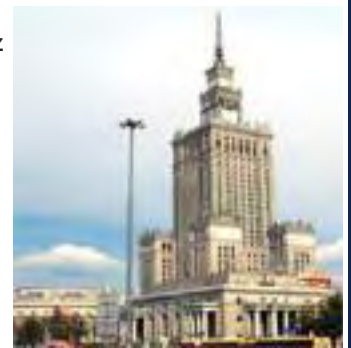
Countries represented 64

Speakers and Panelists 150

Journalists 140

Exhibitors 50

Co-Sponsors 45



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In November, 2006, another pre-Congress meeting, organized by Austin Ruse of the Catholic Family and Human Rights Institute, was held in Paris. It was attended by the leaders of 60 pro-life and pro-family organizations, and was held to promote World Congress of Families IV, to learn from experts about the pressing problems confronting Europe and to form a working coalition to address these problems on a continental level.

At World Congress of Families IV, the Polish host



Larry Jacobs, Katarzyna Mazela, & volunteers

committee, headed by Katarzyna Mazela-- including The Forum of Polish Women, The Polish Federation of Pro-Life Movements and the Association of Catholic Families-- did an exceptional job of organizing events, recruiting volunteers, fundraising, attracting local media, assuring a strong Polish presence and handling the thousand and one details that go into a successful Congress.

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A SHORT HISTORY OF THE WORLD CONGRESS OF FAMILIES

A report by Allan C. Carlson

The idea for the World Congress of Families first surfaced on a chilly January night in 1995 in the Moscow apartment of Russian artist and Orthodox layman Ivan Schevchenko.

I was visiting Russia at the invitation of sociologists at Moscow Lomonosov State University, who were trying to respond to the unraveling of family life in wake of the collapse of the Soviet Union. Tumbling marriage and birth rates and soaring divorce and death rates were unexpected legacies of the demise of communism.

To understand why, and to compare family trends in the East and the West, the first Congress convened in Prague, in the Czech Republic, in March 1997. About 700 scholars, journalists, and pro-family leaders attended.

Concern over another development surfaced at the Prague event: the recent turn of the United Nations toward the making of family policy. U.N. conferences in Cairo, Beijing, Istanbul, and Copenhagen had focused on promoting abortion rights and the deconstruction of natural families in favor of feminist and Malthusian/population-control goals.

This situation led to the convening in November 1999 of the World Congress of Families II in Geneva, Switzerland. This

time, the World Family Policy Center joined The Howard Center as a co-sponsor. Over 1,600 pro-family leaders, scholars, and parliamentarians took part in the Geneva Congress.

The Opening Session convened in The Palace of the Nations, where the Congress reaffirmed (in the words of the U.N.'s 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights) that "the family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the state."

Inspired by the Geneva Congress, six Mexican business leaders returned home to create The "Family Network," an alliance of over 140 pro-family groups in Mexico. Representing nine million people, this organization's leaders joined The Howard Center to host The World Congress of Families III in Mexico City, in March 2004. The primary focus of the Mexico City Congress was the natural family as the driving force in authentic economic and social development. Over 3,300 were in attendance.



We then turned to Poland. Meeting in 2005, our International Planning Committee resolved that:

“Europe is almost lost; to the demographic winter and to the secularists. If Europe goes, much of the world will go with it. Almost alone, Poland has maintained strong faith and strong families, though even Poland comes under severe pressure to change. ... On family and population questions, Europe is the battleground in the early years of the 21st Century, and Poland is the pivot point. We believe that it makes abundant sense that The World Congress of Families IV meet among the brave people of Poland.”

We were encouraged by the presence of a strongly pro-life and pro-family government in Poland. And we were inspired by the example of Archbishop Kasimierz Majdanski, who overcame both the Nazis and the Communists to co-found, in 1976, the Institute for Studies on the Family, in Lomianski. We were honored by the special blessing he gave at the

Congress; and we were saddened by his death only a few weeks before it convened.

Looking back on the Warsaw Congress after the passage of a month, I remain delighted by the overflow crowd approaching 4,000, by the small army of capable youth volunteers, and by the palpable energy of the event. I hope that the knowledge gained, the new alliances made, and the inspiration felt will lead to a Springtime of Nations.

*Allan C. Carlson,
International Secretary, World Congress of Families*



Allan Carlson welcomes a group of delegates from the



News Room Volunteers



Alberto & Christine Vollmer





"I cordially welcome all of you assembled at the World Congress of Families IV. I am glad that, for the first time, Warsaw was selected as the place of this important meeting of people of culture and science, political elites and religious communities, but most of all families from several dozen countries and continents. I accept with satisfaction the kind words of Secretary General of the Congress Allan Carlson about Poland as the bastion of strong faith and strong families in the increasingly laicizing Europe whose inhabitants are getting older." **Letter of welcome from Polish President Lech Kaczynski, honorary patron of WCF IV**

"Legalizing same-sex marriage will drain marriage of its social meaning." **Lynn Wardle, professor of law, Brigham Young University**



Due to Internet pornography, "we may be facing a tidal wave of lost intimacy, selfishness and crime." **Marie-Claire Hernandez, Family and Society (Mexico)**

"The vocation of marriage is written in the very nature of man and woman. The history of the 20th century demonstrates that those citizens were right who recognized the falsehood of relativism." **Letter from Cardinal Alfonso Lopez Trujillo, Pontifical Council on the Family**



"Today, we need a great charter for rights of the family and nations that defines the right to life — that would define abortion as murder. Whether three months before birth, whether 60 or 90 years old, murder is always murder. It is always a crime." **Polish Minister of Education Roman Gierch**

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"Every day, an American industry drops metric tons of toxic waste in your countries and homes. I refer to Hollywood, whose principle products ... are sex, violence, perversion, nihilism, attacks on religion and a thoroughgoing anti-family ethic." **Don Feder, World Congress of Families Communications Director**

"All too often, what comes out of the mouth of our entertainment-controlled culture are movies such as 'Kill Bill' and 'Saw 3.' As President Theodore Roosevelt said, if we educate a man's mind but not his heart, all we get is an educated barbarian. Cultural and media wisdom involves educating the heart so that it will make the right decisions, to choose the good, reject the bad and learn how to overcome evil with God's goodness, grace and love." **Ted Baehr, Christian Film and Television Commission**

"The family has a profoundly important connection to nature. This connection begins with the realities of reproduction, but extends to the forces that shape civilization itself. It encompasses, among other things, the positive personal, social, cultural and economic outcomes which current research suggests flow from a man learning to live with a woman — and a woman learning to live with a man — in a committed marital relationship." **Richard G. Wilkins, The Doha International Institute for Family Studies and Development (Doha, Qatar)**

"Feminists of Europe take note — The safest place for women is in the natural family. The most dangerous is cohabitating couples." **Patrick Fagan, The Heritage Foundation**



"The rise of European cohabitation leads ineluctably to increases in lone parenthood, and we know from recent social science research that lone parenthood poses a threat to the well-being of children in European societies such as Norway, Sweden and England." **Brad Wilcox, professor of sociology at the University of Virginia**

"We see a world restored in line with the intent of the Creator. We envision a culture – both local and universal – that holds the marriage of a woman to a man, and a man to a woman, as the central aspiration of the young. This culture affirms marriage as the best path to health, security and fulfillment. It casts the home built on marriage as the locus of true political sovereignty, the fountain of democracy. It holds the household framed by marriage to be the primal economic unit, a place marked by rich activity, material abundance and broad self-reliance." **Allan Carlson, International Secretary, World Congress of Families**

"When, in any society, the natural family is denied its basic rights to care for its members, or when it is deprived of its social and legal protections, it very soon becomes victim of the aggressive forces that promote killing on a massive scale and stands before these forces vulnerable to their depredations." **Fr. Thomas Euteneur, Human Life International**

"Today, more than ever before throughout the world, there is a need to think of the family, because when you protect the family, you are protecting society and the nation." **Letter from Mexican First Lady Margarita Zavala Gomez Del Campo**



"The state did not create the family; rather, families created the state," **Ambassador Ellen Sauerbrey**

"Some actively promote and implement a very aggressive anti-life, anti-faith, anti-family agenda behind closed doors." **Catherine Vierling, European Forum for Human Rights**

"The natural family structure represents the best familial structure science and the laws of nature can offer us. It is flexible and resilient. Its component members are complimentary and form an efficient ecology of service and support. ... its inter-generational bonds help to share the load of daily life." **Paul T. Mero, The Sutherland Institute**



"We see birthrates as low as 1.2 in Italy and 1.15 in Spain. Anything under 2.1 cannot even replace the current population. So we're really seeing an historical trend that will take us back to the Dark Ages, and really collapse Europe into another dark time, as far as population is concerned." **Larry Jacobs, Global Coordinator, World Congress of Families**

"Europe has espoused not only anti-natalist policies of all kinds, but policies of sexual permissiveness which are proven to create infertility on a wide scale. This is grave, but graver still is that the pressure, through persuasion and tax structure, to put babies massively into day care is creating a future generation of emotionally deprived, disturbed young people incapable of attachment or of facing the great challenges of an aging population." **Christine de Vollmer, Latin American Alliance for The Family**



"The left wants every aspect of life regulated except sex. Sex advances their reshaping of society." **Robert Knight, Culture And Media Institute of the Media Rsearch Center**



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THE PROGRAM

Scholars, authors, activists and officeholders all made their voices heard at World Congress of Families IV. They included Roman Giertych (Deputy Prime Minister and Polish Minister of Education), Marek Jurek (speaker of the Sejm – Poland’s parliament), Ambassador Ellen Sauerbrey (Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees and Migration), Margaret Ogola (executive secretary, Kenya Episcopal Conference), Carlo Casini (member of the European Parliament), Inese Slesere (member of the Latvian Parliament), Christine de Vollmer (president of the Latin American Alliance for the Family), Catherine Vierling (general secretary, European Forum for Human Rights) Dana Rosemary Scalon (former MP, European Parliament), Paul Mero (Sutherland Institute), Marie-Claire Hernandez (Family and Society, Mexico), Angela Conway (Australian Family Association), Gwen Landolt (Real Women of Canada), Ted Baehr (Christian Film and Television Commission) and Fr. Thomas Euteneuer (Human Life International), Patrick Kelly (Knights of Columbus), Anatoly Antonov (Lomonossov University, Moscow), Nigel Cameron (Center for Bioethics and Public Policy, United Kingdom), Janice Crouse (Beverly LaHaye Institute of Concerned Women For America), Farooq Hassan (Barrister at Law, Pakistan), Paige Patterson (Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary) and Austin Ruse (Catholic Family and Human Rights Institute).

There were letters of support from Polish President Lech Kaczynski, Cardinal Alfonso Lopez Trujillo (president of the Pontifical Council on the Family) and Mexican First Lady Margarita Zabalá Gomez DelCampo.

Break-out sessions included: “Media and The Natural Family,” “Pro-Family Initiatives,” “Marriage As a Social Good – Why Get Married,” “The Attack On Traditional Marriage,” “Impact of Pornography on the Family,” “Hollywood And the Family,”

“Promoting And Protecting The Large Family,” “Bioethics – 21st Century Challenge to Human Dignity,” “Beyond the Contraceptive Mentality,” “Legalized Euthanasia or Family Care” and “Faith and Family.”

For most of the plenary sessions, the 3,000-seat Congress Hall was filled to capacity. In fact, online registration was closed two days before the event because maximum capacity had been reached. Audience participation in the break-out sessions reflected a high level of enthusiasm.

On Saturday, May 12, a special Inter-parliamentary Forum was held at Warsaw’s Family Institute. Participants included MPs from Europe, as well as members of the Polish parliament. Participants discussed strategies for implementing pro-family and pro-natalist policies.

Additionally, the Virginia-based Leadership Institute held a student training session covering communications and political activism for 190 participants, including many Polish university students.

On Sunday morning, Latin American delegates met separately to discuss the implementation of a common pro-family strategy for their region.

Between sessions, delegates had an opportunity to browse the more than 50 exhibits (in a filled-to-capacity hall) operated by pro-family groups from Poland, Mexico, Italy, the United States and other nations.



MEDIA COVERAGE OF WCF IV



Media coverage of Warsaw 2007 was nothing short of spectacular, including a **BBC** interview with Allan Carlson, an **Associated Press** story, coverage on **Fox News** and stories in **The Los Angeles Times**, **Houston Chronicle**, **The Washington Post**, **New York Post**, **Newsday**, **Deseret News**, **The Guardian**, **Minneapolis Star Tribune**, **Denver Post**, **Forth Worth Star Telegram**, **Seattle Post Intelligencer**, **International Herald Tribune**, **WorldNetDaily**, **The Washington Times**, **The Baltimore Sun**, **Focus on The Family News**, **American Family Radio**, and **Associated Baptist Press**.

There was saturation coverage in the Polish media. A Google search on the first day of the Congress found over 140 significant news stories on WCF IV worldwide. Here are a few examples:



"Many prominent U.S. conservative groups are shifting their attention overseas this week, organizing a conference in Poland that will decry Europe's liberal social policies and portray the host nation as a valiant holdout bucking those trends."
The Associated Press

"Group Emphasizes 'Marriage is good for Society' ... It's a simple statement but one, in today's world, that needs defending. That's why the 3,000 attendees from more than 60 countries at the World Congress of Families are hearing that message again and again."

Family News In Focus

"In the late 1960s, warnings of a 'population' bomb that would doom Earth's inhabitants spawned movements of fervent activists prone to wag a finger at strolling couples with multiple offspring in tow. Nearly 40 years later, crunching the demographic numbers reveals a looming catastrophe – but of the completely opposite kind, some contend. The conveners of a major world gathering commencing today in the Polish capital argue Europe – the progenitor of Western civilization – is on a steep population *decline* that will make the continent increasingly hard to recognize in the coming decades." *WorldNetDaily*

"WCF organizers, including founder Allan Carlson, president of the Howard Center for Family, Religion and Society, view the 'natural family' – husband, wife and children – as the universal template, with other social influences and family forms either helping or harming it. The 3,000 expected pro-family leaders, activists, scholars and political leaders will hear about marital fidelity, abortion, pornography, cohabitating, work and religion. Session topics include 'Children as Treasures: Welcoming More Babies and Larger Families,' 'The Mother in the Home and the New Home Economics' and 'The Attack on Marriage as the Union of Woman and Man.'"

The Washington Times

"The World Congress of Families IV ended Sunday with delegates approving a declaration intended for international policymakers at the United Nations and elsewhere. The declaration calls on governing and political bodies to mainstream the family in public policy issues." *Deseret Morning News*



VOICES OF WORLD CONGRESS OF FAMILIES IV

Reflections on Warsaw 2007

Delegates offered insights into the proceeding and what World Congress of Families IV meant to them.

"Everyone here from all over the world recognizes the necessity of protecting the family as the cornerstone of civilization. Without the family, you have nothing." *Christine Carmouche, independent entrepreneur from Washington, D.C.*

"The Church has many family congresses, but this is one of the few that brings together people of many faiths and cultures under one banner – the family. This Congress is one of people who believe in the family – mom, dad, and kids. You might say, we are the family who believes in the family." *Father Bennett Tierney, native of Limerick, Ireland*

"I came to the Congress because I wanted to get an insight to start something new to help the family. The Congress showed me how active the pro-family scene is. I thought it was dead. The family is the basic, fundamental of the whole society. It's the foundation for happiness and fulfillment – your personal identity." *Johannes Humpert, student of international business at Vienna University of Economics and Business*

"As a volunteer, I was impressed by the huge contributions of the participants, their willingness to share experiences and pass on the knowledge they have. Instead of coming here just to talk, they are looking



for real solutions." *Jakub Kubica, student at Jagiellonian University in Cracow, Poland*

"I think the Congress is very important because it brings together people with a common approach to family issues. The Congress provides knowledge – up-to-date knowledge – of current family issues. The speakers are fabulous. Each of them was unique." *James Mbuyi Maina, Kenya, soon-to-be candidate for the Kenyan Parliament*

"When I go back to my campus in the fall, I'll be better prepared to confront abortion advocates and students whose lifestyles aren't preparing them for a healthy marriage and family life."

Andrea Summers, student at Arizona State University

"We thank you for all the work you are doing for the protection of families of the world," *from a Declaration of the Nordic Committee for Human Rights for Protection of Family Rights in the Nordic Countries*



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

With World Congress of Families IV – our most successful Congress to date – now behind us, we can look to the future with strategic vision and excitement.

Delegates left Warsaw determined to maintain the momentum of the largest, international pro-family gathering. At a number of side meetings, leaders from around the world pledged to continue networking and working together to counter anti-family initiatives in the European Union, United Nations and other international forums.



Among the projects currently being planned or considered are:

An Electronic Newsletter – This would be published monthly or twice monthly. The e-newsletter will allow the World Congress of Families leadership to maintain communications with pro-family leaders, activists, scholars and officials worldwide. The publication (which will be launched this summer) will contain news of upcoming WCF events, commentary on issues relevant to the family, book reviews, and links to research reports and scholarly papers.

Press Releases – From the months preceding the Congress through Warsaw, the World Congress of Families issued over 50 press releases and media advisories on developments affecting the family in the United States, Europe, Mexico and elsewhere. According to Google.com, over 150 significant news articles were published on the World Congress of Families in May. We will continue to make our voice heard in the media through regular press releases.

Regional Meetings – Our goal is to promote pro-family education and activism in Europe, Latin America, North America and Africa. Allan Carlson has been invited to address members of the Parliament of Latvia this fall. Preliminary interest has been expressed in having forums in Slovakia, Canada, Ireland and Mexico.

A Vehicle For On-Going Involvement of Co-Sponsors – We are creating a partnership vehicle through which our WCF IV co-sponsors can be involved with the Congress on an on-going basis. Our 45 co-sponsors added immeasurably to the success of Warsaw 2007.

World Congress of Families V

In the next few months, a special session will be held to develop a strategic vision, operating structure and process for selecting a site for World Congress of Families V. We invite you to submit suggestions or written proposals to **Larry Jacobs** (Global Coordinator of the World Congress of Families) larry@profam.org.



ANTI-FAMILY FORCES REACT TO WORLD CONGRESS OF FAMILIES IV

If you can gauge an organization's effectiveness by the response of its opponents, World Congress of Families is becoming a formidable force in the fight to preserve the natural family. Here are a few reactions from the other side.

"The weekend's The World Congress of Families in Poland will be a veritable who's who of homo-haters." on *"Queerfeed: The Gay News Wire"*

"It's a jamboree for people who very often find themselves outside the mainstream. They're living the fantasy for a couple of days of what the world would be like if their ideas prevailed." *Jon O'Brien of Catholics for Free Choice*

The World Congresses of Family's "objective is to reverse progressive social initiatives on reproductive rights, gay rights and population issues, particularly those negotiated at the United Nations." *Ms Magazine*

Allan Carlson is a "right-wing, 'family-values' ideologue," while the World Congress of Families "inveighs against abortion, same-sex marriage and secularism." *Katha Pollitt in The Nation*



"Rallying around the homophobic flagpole, World Congress participants cheered at the news that the Polish government would not be cowed by the European Union, which has warned Poland that its anti-gay policies might cost the country its voting rights." *"Exporting Hate," in Lavender Magazine*

WCF is "the most important manifestation to date of this new form of inter-doctrinal collaboration based on deeply conservative values which unite the most reactionary believers of different faiths." *The Guardian*



"There's also been an attempt to create an International Religious Right (through) the World Congress of Families, which is a group that brings together fundamentalists of different religions to form a common front against secularism and liberalism."

Michelle Goldberg (author of "Kingdom Coming: The Rise of Christian Nationalism") interviewed on secularhumanism.org

LEFTISTS IN EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ATTACK WCF IV

In a March 28th letter, 19 Members of the European Parliament urged Ambassador Ellen Sauerbrey— Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees and Migration — to withdraw from World Congress of Families IV. (Sauerbrey spoke on May 11, on "Promoting Strong Families As A Foreign Policy Goal")

In their letter, the MEPs charged that some involved in the Congress have "extremist and intolerant views," including "prejudiced attitudes toward foreigners, people from other religions, homosexuals, and the inclusive vision of what represents a family unit that has been developed by the United Nations and European Union."

"The arrogance of this letter is staggering,"

Allan Carlson, International Secretary of the World Congress of Families.

Among those singled out for censure were Steven Mosher of the Population Research Institute (for speaking of the "demographic destruction" of Europe) and Fr. Thomas Euteneuer of Human Life International.

The letter also attacked Cardinal Alfonso Lopez Trujillo, for allegedly making "dangerous and unscientific statements about condom use to prevent HIV and AIDS."

"The arrogance of this letter is staggering," said Allan Carlson, International Secretary of the World Congress of Families.

"Besides attacking the head of the Pontifical Council on the Family, a group of European politicians have empowered themselves as the ultimate authorities on hotly debated scientific issues."

The letter also urged Sauerbrey to boycott the Congress because Polish President Lech Kaczynski (honorary patron of WCF IV) had denied permits for gay pride parades when he was mayor of Warsaw.

Carlson (who called the letter "an act of desperation") observed: "On one point, the MEPs are correct: Our concept of the family differs markedly from their own. Ours is millennia-old, based on tradition and faith, and proven to work. Their vision leads to social dissolution, demographic decline, a failure to socialize the young, and a lack of hope in the future. No wonder they dread an open hearing for our ideas."



THE WARSAW DECLARATION

Adopted by the delegates to World Congress of Families IV, May 13, 2007

We the participants of the World Congress of Families IV commit ourselves to protect the Truth about the family, recalling its natural essence as a community of love and life, one bearing inalienable rights as it is written in the Charter of the Family Rights.

The natural family, creation of God, is the fundamental human community, based on the lifelong marriage between a man and a woman, in which new individuals are conceived, born, and raised.

"The future of humanity passes by way of the family" and "there is no more efficient way for the rebirth of the society than its rebirth through healthy families" that are faithful to their conjugal and parental vocations.

Such families bring to the world today:

- Faithfulness to the Divine Truth versus relativism;
- Real love, being the complete and impartial gift of oneself versus hedonism;
- Faithfulness in love throughout life versus lack of responsibility toward those closest to us;
- Respect for the life of every human being from conception to natural death versus discrimination against and extermination of the weakest;
- Joyful responsibility for every child-to-be, versus fear of the child expressed in the contraceptive mentality;
- A moral community in which young generations can grow versus false ideologies propagating demoralization;
- And, last but not least, the "springtime" of a civilization of love and life versus "demographic winter."

We are thankful for all religious communities which affirm these truths. Meeting in Warsaw, the capital of Poland, the motherland of Pope John Paul II, we especially thank God for this Pope's teachings about the Divine Intention towards marriage and family, love within families, and the protection of life, and for his prayers and suffering offered toward those ends.

And we thank his successor, Pope Benedict XVI, who continues to witness to the Truth about life and the family.

We thank all of those who serve the family and protect it.

We thank every caring family as a real sign of hope in the modern world.

We thank all spouses, fathers, and mothers who keep on loving and caring for each child.

We therefore call for:

- Churches and other Religious Communities to proclaim the truth about life, marriage, and the family, affirming the latter as the first community of faith and the school of all vocations.
- We call for all governing and political bodies to mainstream the family in public policy as a fundamental and inalienable social good, in order to serve their own nations. We call on them to protect every human being from conception to natural death, to stress the upbringing of children as the fundamental right of parents, to protect young people against demoralization, and to promote economic solutions that provide dignified living conditions to all families. Let the sequel to this call be to proclaim the year 2008 - the Year of the Family.
- We call for all academics of good will to place their knowledge at the service of the family.
- We ask health professionals to uphold freedom of conscience and to faithfully safeguard human life, especially when it is weakest and most threatened.
- We ask journalists to serve the truth, to remain objective, to reveal the real threats and needs of the family, and to offer young people positive values which build sustainable human development.
- We ask young people to seek wisdom, to choose life, to preserve their hearts and body, and to grow with a focus on truth and faithful love. We ask all people of good will to be at one with families and to help them restore hope and bring concrete assistance when difficulties occur. Let us pour special friendship on parents who love their children.
- And finally, we who are gathered at the World Congress of Families IV call upon all families in the world to: "Be not afraid!" Let us be as one! Let us be the sign of hope! Let us encourage each other and bring happiness and joy!

Let us inspire hope in all human beings, enabling them to contribute to the "springtime" of Europe and of the world: we commit ourselves to this beautiful task.



THE ROAD TO WARSAW *continued from page 2*

World Congress of Families IV owes its success to the Polish host committee, the hard work and dedication of the staff of The Howard Center, the support of 45 co-sponsors and major donors, and the commitment of the International Planning Committee and pro-family leaders around the world.

Our special thanks go to the following International Planning Committee members: Anatoli Antonov (Moscow Lomonosov State University), Kristie Bennion (International Campaign for the Family), Janice Crouse (Concerned Women for America), Patrick Fagan (The Heritage Foundation), Don Feder (Don Feder Associates), Farooq Hassan (Pakistan Family Forum), Marie-Claire Hernandez (Family and Society, Mexico), Larry Jacobs (The Howard Center), Thomas Jacobson (Focus on the Family), Christa Leonhard (European Federation

for the Family), Raymond Mutura (Voice of the Family in Africa, Kenya), Victor Medkov (Moscow Lomonosov State University), Paul Mero (Sutherland Institute), Patrice Pederson (The Family Caucus), Austin Ruse (Catholic Family and Human Rights Institute), William Saunders (Family Research Council), Lola Velarde (European Network Institute for Family Policies, Spain), John Vining, (Church of God), Brad Wilcox (University of Virginia) and Richard Wilkins (Doha Intl. Research Inst. For Family & Development, Qatar).

For a complete list of committee members from Poland and around the world, visit www.worldcongress.org and www.worldcongress.pl.



OVERHEARD IN WARSAW

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“By calling upon family members to sacrifice for each other, the family teaches the child how to be a future family leader and a member of society, and prepares the child for his life as a parent and as an adult citizen.” **Austin Ruse, Catholic Family and Human Rights Institute**

“In the United States, in the last three years, we have seen an unprecedented response by the community of faith, represented mostly by local churches and their pastors, to a very direct attack to the sanctity of marriage, namely, an assault on the definition of marriage.” **Tom Minnery, Focus On The Family**

“The greatest challenge confronting the West is a crisis of the proper understanding of the human person. The problem consists of faulty anthropology that detaches human freedom from the truth and values the person in strictly individualistic and materialistic terms.” **Patrick Kelly, Knights of Columbus**

“As families seek to protect their children, parents need to be reminded that children have specific needs which affect how they will respond to their families, communities and the world.” **Don Schmierer, His Servants**

We Need Your Help!

The World Congress of Families relies on the financial support of members and activists.

If you agree that these international gatherings of pro-family leaders, scholars and activists are essential to preserving the family globally, and fighting anti-family forces in international forums, please consider making a generous donation to the World Congress of Families online at www.worldcongress.org/donate or call 1-800-461-3113.

WORLD CONGRESS OF FAMILIES IV

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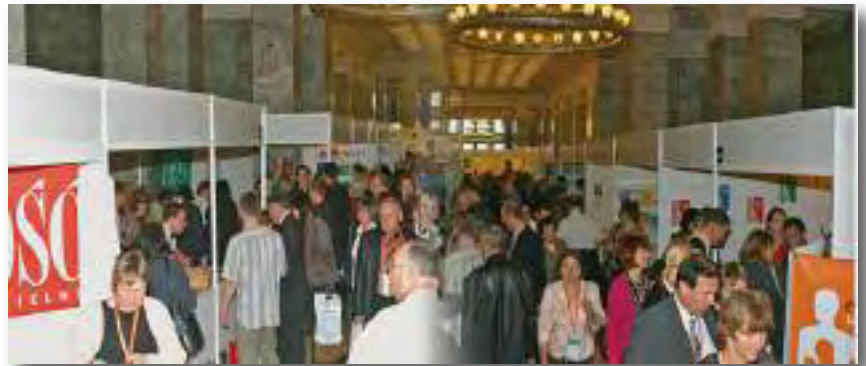
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William Andrews	Human Life International
Catholic Family and Human Rights Institute	In Defense of Christian Values (Italy)
Center for Spiritual Renewal	Carl Lindner
Central European Area, LDS Church	Media Research Center
Charles S. Carriker	Movieguide®
Christian Film & Television Commission	Latin America Alliance for the Family
Concerned Women for America	The Philadelphia Trust Company
Gil and Janice Crouse	Polish Federation of Pro-Life Movements
Defend the Family International	Population Research Institute
The Doha International Institute for Family Studies and Development	Real Women of Canada
Ethics & Public Policy Center	Religious Freedom Coalition
The Family Caucus	Warren Rothwell
Family First Foundation	Social Trends Institute
Family Network of Mexico (Red Familia)	Sutherland Institute
Family Research Council	Tradition, Family and Property
Family and Society (Mexico)	United Families International
Father Peter Skarga Institute (Poland)	Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia (Madrid)
Fieldstead and Company	Watchmen on the Walls
Focus on the Family	World Family Policy Forum
Forum of Polish Women	
Fellowship of St. James	



NATIONS REPRESENTED

Afghanistan	Botswana	Cyprus	Ghana	Latvia	Nigeria	Romania	Switzerland
Argentina	Bulgaria	Czech Repub	Vatican City	Liberia	Norway	Russia	Taiwan
Armenia	Cameroon	Denmark	Hungary	Lithuania	Netherlands	Slovakia	Thailand
Australia	Canada	Estonia	Ireland	Malaysia	New Zealand	Slovenia	Togo
Austria	Chile	Ethiopia	Italy	Malta	Pakistan	South Africa	Ukraine
Bangladesh	Congo	France	Japan	Mexico	Philippines	Spain	U.K.
Belarus	Costa Rica	Gambia	Kenya	Morocco	Poland	Sri Lanka	U.S.
Belgium	Croatia	Germany	Kyrgyzstan	Nepal	Qatar	Sweden	Venezuela

