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Additional World Congress of Families IX Panelists Announced

Global gathering expected to bring thousands to SLC to promote the natural family

SALT LAKE CITY—Today the World Congress of Families (WCF) announced the names of four additional panelists who will attend WCF IX this fall to speak and answer questions on the topic of family. Hundreds of scholars, religious leaders, and entertainers from all around the globe will spend Oct. 27-30 in Salt Lake City, Utah, at the Grand America Hotel to affirm, celebrate, and encourage the natural family.

"With all the ongoing support from the local and global pro-family community, each additional name to the line-up for WCF IX only increases the excitement," said Janice Shaw Crouse, executive director of WCF IX. "WCF IX is quickly approaching, and we are doing everything we can to make the congress an unforgettable event."

The additional panelists announced this week include the following:

Chelsen Vicari serves as the Evangelical Program Director for the Institute on Religion and Democracy (IRD). She is the author of Distortion: How the New Christian Left is Twisting the Gospel and Damaging the Faith. Prior to joining the IRD, Vicari worked for Concerned Women for America, the nation's largest faith-based women's public policy organization. Her articles have appeared in TheBlaze, The Christian Post, and RealClearReligion. She holds a bachelor's degree in political science and history from Radford University and a master's in international politics from Regent University's Robertson School of Government.

Reverend Greg Johnson is the founder and president of Standing Together, which he founded in Utah in March 2001. Standing Together seeks to advance biblical unity among evangelical churches and pastors in Utah and spiritual



transformation throughout the community and state. Prior to founding Standing Together, Rev. Johnson served as a pastor in three local Utah churches from 1992 to 2001, in Ogden (Washington Heights Baptist Church), Ogden Valley (Ogden Valley Baptist Church), and Orem (Orem EV Free).

Stephen Phelan is the director of mission communication at Human Life International (HLI). Human Life International's mission is to defend the God-given right to life and dignity of all human persons from conception until natural death. HLI is a Catholic apostolate seeking to respond to our calling as followers of Jesus Christ by building a Culture of Life and of Love around the world through education, outreach, advocacy, and service.

<u>Christine de Vollmer</u> is the founder and president of the Alliance for the Family. She is also the founder and president of the Latin American Alliance for the Family. De Vollmer has been a member of the Pontifical Council for the Family for over 15 years and is a founding member of the Pontifical Academy for Life. She served as a member of the delegation of the Holy See to the United Nations from 1990-1995. As president of the World Organization for the Family and member of the World Congress of Families Planning Committees, de Vollmer has organized conferences on the family all over Europe and Latin America. In April 2010, de Vollmer was awarded with the Global Leadership Award, a recognition for her impact on the international pro-family movement and the unifying element between religious groups in the defense of the natural family.

World Congress of Families IX has a full lineup of speakers and participants that can be viewed on WCF IX's website, <u>wcf9.org/schedule/</u>. WCF will continue to announce four participants every week.

WCF is the largest gathering of pro-family advocates in the world. WCF IX will seek to provide participants with sound scholarship and effective strategies, as well as mobilize intellectual and advocacy resources to affirm and defend the natural family.

For more information, please visit <u>wcf9.org</u> or follow WCF on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Twitter</u>, and <u>Instagram</u>.