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Historic World Congress of Families IX Announces Initial Lineup

Experts and advocates from around the world coming to United States

SALT LAKE CITY— Today the World Congress of Families (WCF) announced the names of its first high-profile speakers and participants, four among the hundreds who will speak at the ninth World Congress of Families this fall. For the first time in its near quarter-century history as a global gathering in support of the natural family, WCF will be holding a congress in the United States, with Salt Lake City as the venue for WCF IX, October 27-30, 2015.

"The response to our upcoming congress has been remarkable," said Janice Shaw Crouse, executive director of WCF IX. "Already we have dozens of confirmed scholars, ecclesiastical leaders, parliamentarians from around the world, renowned authors, and leading family advocates."

Among those confirmed and the first to be announced are the following:

<u>Nick Vujicic</u>, an Australian Christian evangelist and motivational speaker born with tetra-amelia syndrome, a rare disorder characterized by the absence of all four limbs. At seventeen, he started his own nonprofit organization, *Life Without Limbs*. Vujicic is known throughout the world for his motivational speeches that focus on life with a disability, the power of hope, and finding real meaning in life.

Charmaine Yoest, Ph.D., President and Chief Executive Officer of Americans United for Life, the legal architects of the pro-life movement. A sought-after political commentator, Dr. Yoest has appeared on all major networks and cable news channels. She is also the co-author of *Mother in the Middle* and is currently working on a second book related to modern feminism, with the working title *Women Alone*.



<u>Lila Rose</u>, President and Founder of *Live Action*, a new media nonprofit dedicated to ending abortion and building a culture of life. Rose is highly recognizable as a regular guest on national TV and radio programs, and her work has been featured on most major news outlets. She has also written frequently for *USA Today*, *First Things*, *Politico*, *The Hill*, and other publications.

<u>The Piano Guys</u>, an international music sensation, featuring Jon Schmidt, Steven Sharp Nelson, Paul Anderson, and Al van der Beek. The Piano Guys are best known for their bestselling renditions of popular and classical music in a high-energy presentation on piano and cello. One of the most popular global groups on YouTube, their first four major-label albums each reached No. 1 on the Billboard New Age Albums and Classical Albums charts.

Rather than releasing the full list of featured participants at once, WCF will be spotlighting four each week throughout the summer. Those interested in keeping track of the full slate are encouraged to visit the WCF website—WCF9.org—to view the aggregating list.

"We are incredibly excited about the lineup of speakers and participants at the Salt Lake City congress," said Crouse. "WCF IX is going to be a memorable event and important gathering point for pro-family advocates from across the globe. Everyone who comes will be inspired to champion the natural family and promote life in communities everywhere."

The World Congress of Families (WCF) is the largest gathering of pro-family advocates in the world. WCF IX will seek to provide sound scholarship and effective strategies and mobilize intellectual and advocacy resources to affirm and defend the natural family.

For more information, please visit WCF9.org or follow WCF on Facebook or Twitter.