

UPF Participates in World Congress of Families

Richard De Sena
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Salt Lake City, Utah—Over 3,000 people from more than 60 countries gathered for the World Congress of Families IX in Salt Lake City, Utah from October 27-30, 2015. Some of today's top researchers; academics; political, civic and religious leaders; and representatives of pro-family organizations presented and discussed the essential value of the natural family at the international conference.

On October 29, Ms. Lynn Walsh, director of UPF's Office of Marriage and Family, and co-chair of the UN NGO Committee on the Family, spoke at a plenary panel discussion on "Pro-Life and Pro-Family Victories for the Family at the United Nations," before an audience of 3,000. Mr. Austin Ruse, president of the Catholic Family and Human Rights Institute, moderated the discussion, which explored the difficulties in promoting the natural family and pro-life perspective at the UN. Among the other speakers were Ms. Sharon Slater, founder of Family Watch International; Ms. Theresa Okafor, director of African Cultural Heritage; and Ms. Susan Yoshihara, Center for Family and Human Services.

On October 30, UPF organized a session, "The Family: Consistent Across Faith Perspectives," moderated by Mr. Richard De Sena, president of UPF-USA. Different faith representatives spoke at the session, including Rabbi Benny Zippel, youth and family program director of the Chabad Lubavitch of Utah; Dr. Jennifer Roback Morse, founder of the Ruth Institute, representing Catholicism; Ms. Jana Scott of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; Dr. Soumia Benkhaldoun, minister delegate to the Minister of Higher Education, Scientific Research, and Professional Training in Morocco, representing Islam; and Ms. Lynn Walsh of UPF, representing Unificationism. The speakers discussed the similarities between different religious perspectives on the benefit of marriage; it is not only a commitment to one's spouse, but also to our Creator; the complementarity of husband and wife for the well-being of children; and how marriage and family provides the security and love essential for the spiritual growth of each family member, and provides stability in society.

