



## **PRINCIPLES ON FAMILY**

- 1. We affirm the intergenerational family as fundamental to society.**
- 2. We affirm the natural family to be the union of a man and a woman through marriage for the purposes of sharing love and joy, raising children, providing their moral education, building a vital home economy, offering security in times of trouble, and binding the generations.**
- 3. The natural family cannot change into some new shape; nor can it be re-defined by social engineering.**
- 4. We affirm that the natural family is the foundational family system, but we acknowledge varied living situations caused by circumstance or dysfunction.**
- 5. We acknowledge the tremendous contribution made by single, adoptive and step-parents in society. We wish to ensure they receive appropriate levels of assistance, without denying the clear empirical evidence that the best environment in which to raise children is the biological two-parent, husband-wife family.**
- 6. We affirm the marital union to be the authentic sexual bond, the only one open to the natural and responsible creation of new life.**
- 7. We affirm the sanctity of human life from conception to death; each newly conceived person holds rights to live, to grow, to be born, and to share a home with his or her natural parents bound by marriage.**
- 8. We affirm that the natural family is prior to the state and that the task of government is to shelter and encourage the natural family.**
- 9. We affirm that the world is abundant in resources. The breakdown of the natural family and the consequential moral and political failure, not human "overpopulation," account for poverty, starvation, and environmental decay.**
- 10. We affirm that the complementarity of the sexes is a source of strength. Men and women exhibit profound biological and psychological differences. When united in marriage, the whole becomes greater than the sum of the parts.**
- 11. We affirm that lasting solutions to human problems rise out of families and small communities. They cannot be imposed by bureaucratic and judicial fiat. Nor can they be coerced by outside force.**

*Adapted from "The Natural Family: A Manifesto" – World Congress of Families*