

## VIII World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia

**Love is our mission:** This is the title of the [8<sup>th</sup> World Meeting of Families](#) (WMOF), which will begin with a Congress (from September 22<sup>nd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>) held by experts from all over the world and which will take place at the Pennsylvania Convention Center, a structure which can hold up to 50,000 people.

In the meantime, Pope Francis will travel to the headquarters of the UN in New York City and to that of the U.S. Congress in Washington, D.C., having been invited, for the first time in his pontificate, to speak in such important civil locations.

The Holy Father will arrive on the stage of the WMOF, which will be set up on the spectacular stairs of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, on Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>. With this evocative backdrop, he will meet with families from all over the world, in a sequence of life experiences interposed with performances by international artists: a Festival-Testimonial which will be shown on TV worldwide and will culminate with the words of the Pope.

The WMOF will conclude the following day, Sunday September 27<sup>th</sup>, with the solemn Eucharistic celebration, at which the pope will preside. More than one million people are expected to participate.

Besides the numerous families of the [Focolare](#) from all over America, Marly and Hans-Peter Stasch from the International Office of [New Families](#), and Anna and Alberto Friso, members of the [Pontifical Council for the Family](#), will participate at the event.