



GLC WEEKLY

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Guatemala Proclaimed Pro-Life Capital of Ibero-America & International PLF Summit Begins

Thomas W. Jacobson, Global Life Campaign

David Closson, Family Research Council

José L. González, Ibero-American Congress for Life & Family



In the midst of unprecedented attacks on the sanctity of human life and family worldwide, truly historic events occurred in Guatemala this week giving hope to people of all nations. It was difficult to find any honest news about it. On 9 March 2022, President Alejandro Giammattei hosted historic ceremonies at the National Government Palace in which he declared Guatemala the Pro-Life Capital of Ibero-American nations. Joined by his cabinet, members of the Guatemalan Congress, religious leaders, and an international delegation, he said:

“This is a great day to celebrate because Guatemala has been declared the Pro-Life Capital of Ibero-America and it is an invitation to unite to protect life from conception to natural death in its five stages. There are no excuses for not complying with what our Political Constitution of the Republic mandates, which protects life from its conception and today we send a clear message to the world.”



A monument proclaiming Guatemala as a light to the nations was placed in the palace garden. President Giammattei, a medical doctor, and the Congress have taken courageous measures to protect life and family, including changing 99 areas of government policy to ensure they respect and protect family. Also, on behalf of his nation, in October 2021, he signed the Geneva Declaration promising to protect life, family, women, and the rights of nations to govern themselves.

José González, president of the U.S. Advisory Board for the Ibero-American Congress for Life and Family (CIVF), which hosted their annual meeting in Guatemala City this week, praised the decision by the Guatemalan president:

“This is a historic moment for the international pro-life movement. For years, pro-life leaders have encouraged government leaders to recognize the dignity and personhood of preborn children. I am grateful for President Giammattei and the Guatemalan Congress for their courageous decision to declare their nation the Pro-Life Capitol of Latin America. My hope is that other countries will follow their example.”

Along with Wednesday’s celebration at the National Palace, the Ibero-American Congress for Life and Family met for their sixth annual meeting in Guatemala City. In addition to the regular gathering of Central and South American leaders, this year’s gathering featured an International Summit of Pro-Life and Family Organizations from the United States and 22 other nations. Over 100 leaders from U.S. groups including Alliance Defending Freedom, Family Research Council, Global Life Campaign, Americans United for Life, National Right to Life, Students for Life, and others, gathered for three days to plan, strategize, and collaborate. The summit was organized by Jose Gonzalez, the U.S. Advisory Board President for the CIVF.

On the first day of the Summit, there were three panels focusing on: (1) Defending Life; (2) Fighting for Family; and (3) Government and Legislatures. David Closson of Family Research Council moderated the first panel on “Defending Life: New Global Challenges.” Panelists were Carol Tobias, head of National Right to Life, Catherine Glenn Foster, head of Americans United for Life, Christopher Swanson of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, Taylor McGee of Students for Life, and Thomas Jacobson of the Global Life Campaign. Thomas gave a short PowerPoint presentation with global and Ibero-American overviews, showing that the most significant changes in policy in recent years occurred in South America – revealing the extreme international and coercive pressures being applied to nations in this region.

The three panels reported on challenges we face and good works God is accomplishing through them and their organizations, with optimism that we can win these great struggles. Like in the time of Esther, God is doing something great in bringing us together for such a time as this.

For the precious gift of every child and remembrance of children unborn,

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