

Lt. Governor Guadagno Attends Opening Ceremony of World Meeting of Families, Papal Visit

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More Than 1,800 New Jersey Volunteers Will Participate During Week-Long Conference



Trenton, NJ – Yesterday, Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno attended the Opening Ceremony for the World Meeting of Families – Philadelphia. The theme for the conference is “Love Is Our Mission: The Family Fully Alive.”

The World Meeting of Families will take place from September 22 – 27 at the Pennsylvania Convention Center in Philadelphia. More than 10,000 delegates from 150 nations are expected to attend. The conference will be followed by a visit from Pope Francis on September 26th and 27th. The Papal Visit, which includes Saturday’s Festival of Families and Sunday’s Mass, is expected to draw upwards of two million visitors to the city. The Lt. Governor will also attend the Festival of Families.

“Our residents, businesses, and religious and cultural organizations are ready to celebrate this incredible event and welcome millions of visitors to our region,” said Lt. Governor Guadagno. “New Jersey is particularly proud of its volunteers, who have worked diligently to ensure that all those participating in this week’s events will have a safe, enjoyable, and memorable experience.”

More than 10,000 volunteers have been registered to serve during the week-long celebration in Philadelphia, with most coming from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York. More than 1,800 New Jersey residents have volunteered to assist visitors during the conference.

Rowena Madden, Executive Director of the Governor’s Office on Volunteerism, has been deeply involved in the organization and training process for the conference’s volunteer corps.

“We want to express great thanks to the 10,000-plus volunteers for devoting their time and effort to the success of the World Meeting of Families and the Papal Visit,” Madden said. “Volunteers will provide guidance and support to the visitors from across the globe – helping with directions, language translation, supporting those who need rest or care – and doing it with a warmth and kindness that reflects the spirit of this unique experience for our region. Thank you to the volunteers in their bright orange shirts!”

The World Meeting of Families was founded by Pope John Paul II in 1994 to strengthen the bonds of family across the globe. The conference is held every three years, and this is the first time the conference has been held in the United States. In 2012, the 7th World Meeting was held in Milan, Italy, and welcomed 7,000 people to the conference, 350,000 people to the Festival of Families, and about one million people to the Papal Mass.

More information is available online at: <http://www.worldmeeting2015.org/>.

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