

Donna Crilley Farrell, Executive Director, World Meeting of Families – Philadelphia 2015

Donna Crilley Farrell is the Executive Director of the World Meeting of Families, the global event that will bring Pope Francis and millions of visitors to Philadelphia in September 2015. Before becoming Executive Director of the World Meeting of Families, Crilley Farrell served as Manager of External Affairs at Independence Blue Cross beginning in 2012. At IBC, Farrell managed public relations and coordinated national and regional media coverage for the largest health insurer in southeastern Pennsylvania. Farrell first worked for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia in the Office for Communications from 1999 until she joined IBC, serving as Director of Communications from 2005-2012. In May 2013, she received the papal honor, Cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice, (Cross for the Church and Pontiff) for her service to the Church.

Crilley Farrell's dedication to the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and the Catholic faith was consistently evident through her efforts to highlight the good works of the local Church and promote Catholic values and teachings. Over the course of nearly 14 years, she devoted countless hours to managing internal communications and media relations surrounding many of the largest challenges the Archdiocese has faced in its history.

A career in television news preceded Crilley Farrell's work for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. She was a television reporter and anchor for several stations including WB17 in Philadelphia. She also worked for NBC News shortly after graduating from the University of Pennsylvania where she studied Communications.

Crilley Farrell is the daughter of Joan Crilley and the late Jack Crilley. She attended Saint Francis of Assisi Parish Elementary School in Springfield, Delaware County, and Cardinal O'Hara High School. She and her husband, attorney Michael T. Farrell, and their eleven year old twins, Connor and Christina, live in St. Kevin Parish in Springfield.