

European Assembly 2014

Cavallino Treporti, Venice, Italy, 13th – 16th March 2014

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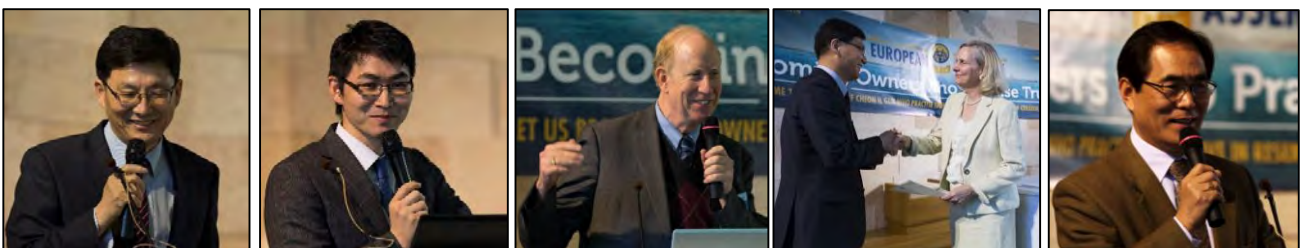


This Year's European Assembly had a special flavour as it welcomed keynote speakers from our global movement; enabling Europeans to benefit from a wider perspective and our visitors to get an impression of the European Movement through direct interaction.

We were welcomed by the nuns and staff of a Catholic Retreat Centre wonderfully positioned between the sandy beaches of the Adriatic and the lagoon of the magnificent city of Venice. They were impressed by the spirit of our community and we were

touched by their warmth and beautiful facilities including the lovely chapel, overlooked by a statue of Jesus resurrected, which provided our main meeting place.

Presentations from Sam Nagasaka, Vision 2020 project manager, and our own President An guided us into a vision connecting a strategic focus, clear analysis and development guidelines to an emphasis on national and local initiative and grassroots development.



European Continental Director Rev Young Shik An, Sam Nakasaka, Dr Thomas Walsh, Carolyn Handschin was appointed as Vice President of FFWPU Europe and Vice President Rev. Thomas Hwang

Plenary sessions were followed by lively working groups and eight very useful Mini-Workshops showcasing topics from 'Sharing the Word' to 'Health and Wellbeing' and delving deep into Tribal outreach, small groups, PR strategy, family support, impacting society and family policy. In addition Demian Dunkley and Koichi Nakai shared extensively about DP Life, the fresh new face of witnessing fit for the online era both in the Mini-Workshops and in plenary. Dr Thomas Walsh provided insight into the origins and mission of UPF while enabling all to catch a unifying vision of a family of NGOs rooted in the heart and teachings of our True Parents and Dr David Hanna overviewed the wide range of educational and support materials being made available internationally as we focus on strengthening support to families and youth through improved pastoral care.

Giuseppe Cali and Dieter Schmidt shared insights from their experiences in Korea at Foundation Day and Christa Kamga spoke of her work with Youth UPF, while Carolyn Handschin offered important insights into the role of women and family in the Cheon Il Guk era.

Refreshed by Saturday afternoon and evening in Venice we gathered on Sunday morning to share a moving time acknowledging many precious individuals and families through the distribution of Wonmo Pyeongae Foundation Scholarships and Foundation Day Special Achievement Awards from our True Parents and recognising those who had distributed 430 Autobiographies.

Carolyn Handschin was appointed as Vice President of FFWPU Europe to warm applause and President An shared his Closing Remarks concluding our Assembly and preparing the way for a wonderful Sunday Service in the beautiful Chapel embraced by the huge statue of resurrected Jesus and by the motherly heart and promise of prayers of support from the Mother Superior.

As part of his sermon International Vice President Rev. Thomas Hwang called the first and second generations to offer heartfelt words of love and repentance reminding us of the many significant ceremonies conducted by True Father as he guided us to resolve the past and build a future full of hope for God and Humanity. Rev. Hwang's explanation of the Cheon Il Guk Constitution and True Mother's heart to guide us forward to substantialise the dreams of our Heavenly Parent and True Parents brought our Assembly to a fitting conclusion.



Outing to Venice – plenary session – mini workshop – recipients of the Wonmo Pyeongae Foundation Scholarships
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