

# Holy Blessing Ceremony

Frankfurt, Germany, 11. December 2016



By Claus Dubisz

To inherit and pass on God's Blessing' was the theme of the celebratory worship service on the third Sunday in Advent, which included a Holy Blessing ceremony.



Semi and Anna, the couple who were to receive the Blessing, absolutely wanted the ceremony to take place in the old year, because their second child was expected in January. (On 10 January, the healthy and lively Jana, was born). Their desire was that she be born into a 'very beautiful and as holy a family atmosphere as possible', as expressed by the husband to the smiles of his wife.

Originally, they wished to participate in the Blessing ceremony scheduled for 3 October in the Neumühle, but because this did not take place, our couple did not wish to wait any longer, even if they were the only couple to be blessed. So great was their desire to raise their

marriage and family up to a new, 'godly level'!

Many members helped to prepare for the ceremony. Already on Friday some sisters decorated the hall and dining room with flowers, and on Saturday the couple's spiritual mother, Irene Di Gangi, magically produced a 3-tier wedding cake. The music team diligently practiced their pieces. And Gabriel Lindemann ran through the technical background support of power-point and video. Claus Dubisz met the couple again to go over the external schedule of the Blessing and its internal significance.

On Sunday, all those involved met for final preparations one hour before the ceremony was to begin. Claus Dubisz was the program coordinator, and Karl-Heinz and Monika Kunde took on the role of representative couple. Our Blessing candidates and their young daughter Nora were full of anticipation.

There was a beautiful, almost holy atmosphere, tangible to the members and friends as they entered the room. One sister said: 'it was a special atmosphere, such as I have never experienced!' Shortly before the ceremony began, as we were preparing ourselves internally, one sister felt that God was there and deeply moved, our heavenly Parent said: 'It is my Blessing that is being given, my children'.

The songs and readings in the service were appropriate for the occasion; 'behind every blessing are many tears' is especially true for True Parents' life course, on the foundation of which the





The couple exchanged rings and the representative couple proclaimed gratefully: 'hereby we declare, that by the heavenly calendar on the 13th day of the 11th month in the 4th year of Cheon Il Guk, Semi and Anna Hemandi, who have participated today in this ceremony of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification, have received the Blessing in the name of True Parents!'

All the around 70 guests supported the couple with enthusiastic applause.



After a bouquet of flowers was offered to express gratitude to True Parents, the newly- blessed couple were congratulated by an Elvis Presley song, 'Can't Help Falling in Love' performed by Nicole Turner.

The closing ceremony, to 'overcome resentments and for forgiveness between man and wife', symbolized by three blows on the back, was performed according to the wishes of the couple straight away and in public.

Now the cake could be cut and after three shouts of 'Mansei' and official photos, the informal festivities began.

Blessing can be given. And to pass on the heavenly Blessing is the ongoing mission of all who are now connected with the original lineage.

Then followed the Holy Wine ceremony. Semi and Anna, along with their small daughter Nora, joyfully received the Holy Nectar, and a prayer by the representative couple sealed the change of lineage.

The central part of the ceremony-the Holy Blessing, was next. Each participant was draped with a white shawl. Father's words were read: 'to return joy to God, the ceremony takes place in a holy and splendid atmosphere. The Divine Principle explains that our wedding ceremony eases the pain that God experienced through the fall of Adam and Eve.' We

followed the sequence of 2016 ceremony in Korea by video. Semi and Ana received the Holy Water synchronously to be thus cleansed and blessed; young Nora also received some of this blessing.

The wedding vows were read out simultaneously in German:

'Do you, as true husband and wife, who wish to fulfill our Heavenly Parents' original ideal of creation, pledge to be eternally faithful to each other and to inherit the tradition of the True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind, thus establishing ideal families of Cheon Il Guk, the kingdom of God?' The powerful 'ja' from our couple resonated simultaneously with the thousand-time uttered 'yes' of the couples on video.



The couple, relaxed and joyful, fed each other wedding cake, following the example shown by True Parents. Semi, speaking also for his wife, thanked all those who had helped with the preparations and had supported the ceremony. He expressed his heartfelt thanks to the community by donating.

We wish the newly blessed couple and their whole family a wonderful new beginning and Heaven's blessings in abundance!

