



International Peace Festival

Capaci, Italy, May 19, 2018

By Franco Ravaglioli

In the frame of the village of Capaci (Palermo) on May 19th, 2018 the "International Festival for Peace" took place: a whole day dedicated to planting the seed of a culture dedicated to building peace and harmony. "IASA for Peace" International Academy of Sport and Art for Peace in collaboration with "UPF Italia" International Federation for Peace, the magazine "Voices of Peace", WFPW Federation of Women for Peace and FFPMU Federation of Families for Peace World and Unification have collaborated to organize this special day.

Three were the key moments: the Peace Road, a march for peace, held in Capaci in the area adjacent to the municipal park with the participation of some elementary and middle schools students, the Scout group of Capaci, the Mosaicando youth association with the presence of the Mayor of Capaci, Dr. Napoli and representatives of the organizing associations, as well as a good presence of citizens. The march ended at the foot of a tree chosen by the students to be consecrated as "Tree of Peace", as second stage of the day; a short interreligious prayer ceremony consecrated water as a symbol of life that was then poured on the roots of the tree by the students themselves.

Messages and songs of peace accompanied the laying of the Tree of Peace at the foot of which will be placed a plate already prepared that will commemorate this celebration.

The third moment took place at the Hotel Saracen in Capaci. The Festival for Peace was aired in the presence of a large audience of about 500 participants. The various organizing associations presented their activities and initiatives dedicated to the construction of a culture of peace: Vincenzo Lipari and Rosa Giusi Russo for IASA for Peace, Carlo Zonato for UPF, Giuseppe Cali for FFPMU, Elisabetta Nistri for WFPW; very

touching the moment dedicated to the request for forgiveness and embrace between the president UPF Israel of Jewish origin Hod Ben Zvi and Vincenzo Lipari, for the ordeals suffered by the Jewish people. All intercalated by a show of music, songs and ballets offered by the group of students of the "Biagio Siciliano" middle school, by the "Mosaicando" association, by the artist Gino Carista and by the artistic group of IASA.

IASA also offered, during the event, special recognition to the various associations and people who have distinguished themselves in their work for peace: among them the Consul of



the Republic of Congo Christelle Ollandet, the judge Gaetano Perrotta representative of the Albanian State, the gold medal for civil worth Ermenegildo Rossi, the Paralympic champion Marcella Li Brizzi.

In the conclusion session, Mr. Vincenzo Lipari and his wife Rosa Giusi Russo in charge of IASA were awarded the recognition as Ambassadors of Peace by the UPF International Federation for Peace and the WFPW Federation of Women for Peace because of their constant commitment to promote culture of peace through sport, art and music dedicated and organized in particular to the training of young people.



A new chance for Sicily thanks to True Parents Grace

By Giuseppe Cali

In At the end of last year, we were contacted by the President of an organization working in Sicily to rescue young people from the street, through sport activities and education. Actually, this is a young couple, Vincenzo and Giusy Lipari, that center their activities in the area were many public officers were killed by mafia. They received in some way our UPF magazine and could see the quality of our view and called Giorgio Gasperoni, National leader of San Marino and editor of "Voices of Peace"

our AfP magazine. Together with Carlo Zonato, the UPF Italy President, they went to attend last year a sport event and came to know the reality of this organization and the situations they were dealing with.

This couple was invited by us to attend the inauguration of IAPP in the Italian Parliament and they were very impressed by the level of dedication, the depth of our vision and the authority we expressed at that time in front of all Parliamentarians attending. So we planned to organize an event in Sicily, on the anniversary of the killing

of the very famous Judge Falcone, by the mafia in the same area.

The response from the entire population was really good. From the City Mayor, to the public schools, local institutions, "Boy Scouts" groups, cultural associations and so on. The program consisted in a "Peace Road" march in the morning, with the dedication of a tree, chosen by the school children, to "World Peace" and a Cultural Festival in the afternoon. Considering both events, from 800 to 1000 people participated.

The banner of the Peace Road, beside our logos of FFWPU, UPF and

WFWP, had in it all the institutions logos, including the Sicily Region, The City Hall, IASA (the association mentioned above) and the Civil Protection that sent a team to support all the events of the days. Local media broadcasted the events and interviewed all of us.

We marched with school children and many other youth associations, the City Mayor in front together with some religious leaders that prayed with us at the dedicated tree. I have to mention that Hod Ben Zwi, our National leader from Israel participated all day with us representing Jewish culture and was very welcomed by everybody. The City Mayor offered him the apologies, on behalf of the Italian people and public institutions, for the suffering that were given to Jewish people during the 2nd world war.

The around 3 hours program of the event in the afternoon, was very intense with several cultural performances prepared on purpose from the schools and various artistic groups, but also very deep with speeches from several VIPs. We could speak quite a lot about UPF, WFP and FFWPU, introducing the amazing foundation built by True Parents worldwide and give even guidance to people on the building of a new culture.

Then we had speeches from a Olympic Gold medal, lady Brizzi, a Gold medal for civil valor, Ermenegildo Rossi, a man that rescued an airplane full of people from a terroristic attack, and other representatives of institutions. Especially the testimony of this new National Hero, that received the Gold Medal from the President of Republic, was impressive, for the courage he showed in offering his own life to rescue the people on the airplane and then physically fighting with a terrorist. He is a man of great value, working now for an important trade Union in the political field, married with a Japanese lady. He became enthusiastic about us and we built a strong friendship based on common values and vision for the future. Besides, he lives in Rome, not too far from our HQ and we already invited him to visit us. I really, was continuously thinking to True Mother's word, while talking to him and his wife, reminding how much she emphasized on the Heaven's



preparation for good people to serve the Providence everywhere. How true it is! With this couple we felt as we knew each other since long time, so much we were close in heart. He couldn't believe his ears, for example, when I explained that we have in Italy many Italian Japanese couples in our movement.

One day later we attended the service of an evangelical Church in Palermo and we came to know a very famous pastor that is doing interreligious work on the National level. He met Pope Francis and develop a personal friendship with him. It is a good community and we were well welcomed. We had the chance to speak to the congregation and witness about the wonderful providential time we are living in, nowadays. It was really uplifting. I felt so strongly the desire to bring all this child to True Parents and

we committed ourselves to go back there as soon as possible to continue to work and bring all these people to the Blessing.

In conclusion, we could bring so much hope and vision in a land that is trying to find a new start, out of the dominion of evil people, raising their own consciences and creating a new future for their children.

We arrived there at the proper time and in the proper place to convey True Parents, Love, Hope and vision for a new world and they received it deeply in their hearts. How exciting is this time thanks to True Parents! How precious is True Mother's guidance and how much strength and infinite possibilities we can receive by uniting with her!

I can just say, Alleluja! Aju!