



Peace Road Torino and Piedmont “Honoring a Legacy of Sacrifice”

Torino, Italy, August 22, 2021

By Sergio Coscia

August 22, 2021 marked a historic day for our community in Torino and Piedmont. We gathered for the first time after months of lockdown and social distancing to take part in our Peace Road. We chose the most important memorial park of our city, on the top of our tallest hill, for our event during which we could walk, pray and meditate in the arboretum that was created in 1925 in memory of the almost 5000 soldiers from Torino who died during World War I.

As soon as we started our walk, we were overwhelmed by the number of plaques lining the roads and paths, each of them bearing the name of one of the soldiers who died in sacrifice for their fatherland over one century ago. We walked in meditation, reading from time-to-time quotations on peace by saints and sages of the past and of the present.

When we reached the Altar in Memory of the Fallen Soldiers, we read together two important quotations by Father and Mother Moon, reminding us of the value of sacrifice but also of the pointlessness of war, and our need to build a world of Peace.

After this meditation, a short but significant and very moving Blessing Ceremony took place, and two of the participant couples could receive the Holy Wine and a special Benediction Prayer in this holy place.

The walk went on until we reached the top of the hill, where a 26.50-meter-tall statue of Victory bears a lamp that sends its beacon of light and hope all over the plain... Here, again, we had a moment of meditation, and offered our devotion for the sake of True Peace, determined to give our contribution for a better world of harmony and understanding beyond the differences of religion, race and nationality.

This special day was actually the perfect conclusion of a period of several months during which one of our elder brothers, Giancarlo Gonella, offered his devotions by climbing and riding his bike reaching significant destinations all over our Region, under the banner of the Peace Road. Altogether he has been walking and riding for over 800 kilometres in his spare time since the month of May.

It all started in the beginning of the year, when, during a dream, he heard a voice from Heaven asking him to take his bike and ride until Korea, to offer his devotion to the Mother of Peace.

His mission is not yet over, and we want to continue to support him; our desire is to organize more and more Peace Road events, so that this beautiful project willed by our True Parents can become a substantial instrument to build peace in our land.