

dialogue.”

“When We Respect Each Other and Have Dialogue, We can Absolutely Bring About the Era of Peace”

Asian Summit Held With Participants from 30 Nations

Under the banner, “Let us create a world of peace through pure true families,” the Interfaith Peace Blessing Festival 2015 – Philippines was held on the 1st at the Marikina Sports Complex. About 150,000 people from about 30 countries were in attendance, making the event a great success. This event set a new record for the largest-scale blessing in the Philippines. This was an opportunity for Family Federation for World Peace and Unification Head Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon to let Asia and the world know about true families and world peace.

During the preliminary event, couples took place in purity education and took purity vows in order to create pure families. Then, 20 religious representatives from the Family Federation, Islam, Christianity, the Greek Orthodox Church, Sikhism, Catholicism and others oversaw the interreligious harmony ceremony for the couples who were to be blessed. After the representatives sprinkled blessed holy water on the brides and grooms, giving them a new start, they made a declaration which proclaimed love for one’s enemies for prayer, a life lived for world peace, families that sacrifice for the society, societies that sacrifice for the nation, nations loving God and living together with all of mankind as one family under God.

In a congratulatory speech read by Vice Mayor Jose Candiz, Mayor Del de Guzman said that “You have come from the ends of the earth to visit Marikina. Welcome to our town. I am truly grateful that the Interfaith Peace Blessing Festival 2015 – Philippines has been held in Marikina. The family is the most basic unit of the world. Happy families full of love are the key to world peace. I promise that the Philippines will contribute to world peace from this day forth.”

“The greatest and dearest wish of all of humankind, which has all but been forgotten in these current times, is that of true love and of a world of eternal peace,” said International Headquarters Director-General Sun Jin Moon, conveying Dr. Han’s message in her place. “When all people become one as the family of God, and regard each other with the highest, most unconditional love, a world of true peace can come to be. We have a special responsibility as the children of God, as blessed children and as citizens of Cheon Il Guk, the Kingdom of God.” She then outlined these four responsibilities.

“The first responsibility is that of clearly establishing True Parents’ tradition in our daily lives, and to pass it on to our children and descendants. The second responsibility is that of working hard to fulfill the Three Great Blessings. The Three Great Blessings include the ‘completion of the self’ through personal perfection of character, ‘completion of the family’ through the practice of true love, and ‘completion of dominion’ through harmony between humans and nature. The third responsibility is that of carrying out the completion of the mission of the tribal messiah. The fourth responsibility is that of creating the culture of heart in the world, centering upon the foundation set in the society and the nation. I hope that all of you can become central blessed families and messiahs that carry out these four responsibilities. I hope that you can resemble God in all things that you do.”

UPF Asian Continental Director Chung-Shik Yong and his wife stood in for Dr. Han as officiators of the Blessing Ceremony. Twelve couples representing all of the brides and grooms came onstage to receive the holy water ceremony, which held the meaning of “rebirth as new families who live lives of transparency.” Then, four questions of holy marriage were posed to the couples, who answered “Yes!” in a loud chorus. Warm messages of congratulations were given by Former Prime Minister of Nepal Madhav Kumar, Former Philippine Speaker of the House of Representatives Jose de Venecia, Jr., American Clergy Leadership Conference Co-President Jesse Edwards.

The event was attended by Former Deputy Prime Minister of Nepal Sujata Koirala, Speakers of the House of Representatives of the Philippines Gina de Venecia and Roy Sinius, Nepal House of Representatives Member Ek Nath Dhakal, Family Federation American Pastor Kevin Thompson, Catholic Priest Eliseo Mercado, Sikh Guru Ji Gurpreet, Philippine Orthodox Church Bishop Monsignor Veloso, Islam Professor Narong Vongsumitr and UPF World President Thomas Walsh, among others.