

## Blessing Preparation Workshop

Colle Mattia, Rome, Italy, 9. – 10. November 2013



The Italian BFD organized a 2-day Blessing preparation Workshop for second generation members (17+ age) and their parents. There were around 60 participants, 40 second generation members including some already matched couples, 15 parents, and other 2<sup>nd</sup> gen. that came as staff. It has been a pretty short workshop of one and a half days, with its “pros and cons”. In fact, this allowed the price to be moderate and many people, more parents than usual, to join in despite their busy schedules; but the usual content had to be limited.



*Elisabetta Cali and Geros Kunkel*

We are very grateful to the main lecturer, Geros Kunkel, who picked the basic points to explain in this amount of time.

After describing the Blessing in terms of Restoration, starting from the Fall and mentioning the key figures in God’s providence to purify human lineage, he then gave an overview on the Blessing ceremony for the first generation. The next lecture covered the history of Matching and Blessing for second generation, from the beginning to the Parents Matching, explaining True Father’s position of mediator between God’s Ideal and us. He concluded explaining the establishment of the CIG standard which clarified and completed the



definition of purity, and the parallel ceremonies of forgiveness.

It has been a very valuable and enjoyable workshop, also thanks to the exciting atmosphere that was created through the singing and the break times used for chatting and sharing, walking in the beautiful Colle Mattia. The evening



schedule included three testimonies of very different Matching experiences, given by David and Valentina Gasperoni, the representative 2<sup>nd</sup> gen couple responsible for BFD in Italy, Elisabetta Cali, wife of our National Leader and responsible for BFD in Italy, and Martin Alexy, representing the ESGD committee in Italy. Very appreciated were also the discussion time, during which we were divided in three groups: parents, second generation boys, and second generation girls.

On the second day Martin Alexy explained us the structure of ESGD and BFD, and could share some of his own experiences as a parent who is looking for the best way to educate his children in this immoral world. Geros ended the lectures with the practical

issues concerning Matching and Blessing, and we finished with the Graduation.

Here are some words from a 1<sup>st</sup> gen couple, Sergio and Enrica Valgoi, who attended the workshop together with their daughter, Martina:

“It had been a long time since we last were in Colle Mattia and as soon as we arrived we felt a beautiful welcoming atmosphere: there were so many young people everywhere; it’s been a great opportunity for us “elders” to refresh our spirit with new spring. [...] What was most beautiful to see was such a happy and enthusiastic 2<sup>nd</sup> generation, representing the fruit of the hard work and sacrifice of so many families: we are glad we could meet many of them for the first time. Young people’s presence added joy and energy to the meetings, and their investment in the singing and could warm up our hearts every time.

[...] During a break our daughter Martina told us: “there are so many things you have never told me”

Enrica and I were very surprised and looked at each other, then we just smiled. We understood how our children are more open to receive when they gather in such an environment.

[...] It has been very interesting, as parents, to have the chance to share some thoughts and reflections about our children during the group discussion. [...] Our children are satisfied with meeting their brothers and sisters, but we want to make sure we’re investing in their future and not just having a good time. We all want to improve and grow, despite some practical issues. What really matters in the end is that we can bring unity in our Unification Family and, as a mother was saying, that we can also feel our children are safely surrounded by many uncles and aunties who are willing to take care of them and help them grow.”

Thank you for the wonderful experience!

*Edited by Francesca Cirelli  
Ilgen. Department Leader in Italy*