

UPF-Argentina Concludes 2020 With Its 33rd Reading Session

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Argentina -- "Christmas and Our Mission" was the theme of UPF-Argentina's reading, reflection and prayer session held on December 21, 2020. This was Session 33, the last online meeting in the Reading Sessions series. The series began on April 20, 2020, to commemorate the year of UPF co-founder's centenary (1) and had the theme "Honoring a Peace Legacy."

After Jorge Murane's opening prayer, Alba Luz Tangarife, member of UPF-Argentina's Peace Council, read a text focused on Christmas, namely the meaning of this significant Christian date and our mission. The text was an excerpt from the address "Our Mission in the Last Days of Providential History," given in the United States on December 13, 2004, and found in Pyeong Hwa Gyeong ("Peace Messages") (2).

After the reading, participants offered reflections, with contributions based on their life experiences. This was closed with a "reflection of reflections" by Julio Nardini, member of UPF-Argentina's Peace Council. "Let's be the Christmas for others," he expressed. Then, he picked an excerpt of the text read at the beginning: "Complete the sacred task of establishing God's homeland." And "Since God is love, God's homeland is where love is," he claimed. He concluded by commenting on some points of what had been expressed by each participant, projecting an image of Mary and Joseph with Jesus travelling on a donkey towards Egypt to escape Herod's massacre.

On the occasion, a related story, "Scent of Christmas," was shared by Ambassador for Peace Marta Palacio, cultural manager and provincial director of SIPEA Buenos Aires (3). "I'm truly nurtured by each one of your spiritualities, so thank you," expressed the poet Cecilia Labanca with emotion.

Moderation of the last 2020 session of "Honoring a Peace Legacy" was in the charge of Miguel Werner, UPF-Argentina's secretary general. The closing prayer was from Eduardo Corales, member of UPF-Argentina's Peace Council. In the end, we had a toast for good omens before the end-of-year holidays and the upcoming Year 2021.

Quotes:

1) The themes of the other 32 reflection and reading sessions were "The Principle of Harmony and Peace" (December 14), "Four Stages of Love Growth" (November 30), "Three Generational Love" (November

23), "Freedom" (November 9), "Peace Road" (November 2), "Pure Love" (October 20), "Intercultural Marriage" (October 12), "Conscience" (October 5), "Science and the Perspective of Value" (September 28), "Peace" (September 21), "8th Anniversary of the Founder's Passing to the Spiritual Realm" (September 14), "God's Love" (September 7), "World Peace and the Mind-Body Conflict" (August 31), "How Can We Achieve a Spiritual Awakening?" (August 24), "Loving the Creation" (August 17), "Freedom" (August 10), "Concept and Root of Filial Piety" (August 3), "Hope" (July 27), "Interdependence and Cooperation" (July 20), "The Era of Women" (July 13), "Practical Faith" (July 6), "Forgiveness" (June 29), "The Power of Loving the Enemy" (June 22), "Interreligious Harmony and Peace" (June 15), "Freedom and Responsibility of Expression" (June 8), "The Purpose of Religion" (June 1), "Challenges for the Integration of Peoples and Cultures" (May 25), "Science and Ethics" (May 18), "The Value of the Father/Mother-Son, God-Humanity Relationship" (May 11), "The Principle of Living for the Sake of Others" (May 4), "Unity" (April 27), and "The Four Great Realms of the Heart and the Three Great Kingdoms" (April 20).



2) Excerpt:

Do you recognize God's plight? He is a Parent who lost His children in one instant and was then forced to suffer a history of mistreatment, blocked at every turn as He sought to fulfill His Will. You should become filial sons and daughters capable of understanding the sorrowful heart of God. How can you be leaders unless you know the truth and practice it?

Leaders of the world, please think deeply about how you came to be here today. Did you simply come partly out of sincerity and partly out of curiosity, hoping to enjoy a Christmas party? Whether you like it or not, you have now received God's call. I myself suddenly received God's command when I was a young man of sixteen. I accepted His call, and ever since I have spent my entire life of more than eighty years walking a course of blood, sweat and tears. I did this to rescue humanity from Satan's dominion and to bring God into a state of true liberation and complete freedom. Just as I did, you too can now accomplish the exalted Will of God for harmony and peace on an interreligious and international level. That is, you can complete the sacred task of establishing God's homeland.

3) Story "Scent of Christmas" by Marta Palacio: www.youtube.com/watch?v=IBmmDO_QrJs