



# Festival of the Family and True Love

Rome, Italy, December 17, 2017

By Giuseppe Cali

Following True Mother direction we decided to organize several Family Festivals throughout the country during the all year. Taking advantage of the coming Christmas, two communities in Italy, Rome and Bergamo, decided to have the Festival on December 17th.

Our youth worked hard one day earlier to prepare the hall with decorations, to rears for the program and songs, to even prepare games for the entertainment.

To warm up the atmosphere, an STF team sang few songs and then the program started. Carmine Natale, the pastor was the MC, while Giuseppe Cali gave the introductory speech to the meaning of the Blessing. After few more songs, the Holy Wine ceremony took place, followed by the Holy Water, the Blessing prayer and the declaration of the Blessing. The forgiveness ceremony (once stick ceremony), took place by lightly hitting the partner with bare hands and then embracing each other. A very intense holy joyful atmosphere was created throughout the all program and heartfelt words of gratitude were expressed by all participants, including 7 couples and the Rome community.

After the ceremony we took group pictures and went to the restaurant in our training center to have a well prepared and abundant banquet. Songs, games and a lottery was part of the cultural event adding joy and brotherly felling to the event.

All the local 2nd gen. participated and supported the organization. Actually, they were in the main position to organize both events and have an important role in the ceremony itself. Our 2nd gen. generation in Italy is waking up very rapidly and becoming more and more involved in all activities, including the pastoral roles. Another point to mention is the Blessing of 3 couples of Ambassadors

for Peace. They received Divine Principle education from me and my wife, they attended already some international meetings, including the last ICUS in Korea and now they received the Blessing. Actually, Prof. Quercia and his wife, both scientists, have such a good memory of True Mother, especially when she received them in Korea, at the ICUS, and had a cup of tea together. We are very happy about all of them and we see how much God could work in their lives, by taking care of them in many ways. We have hope now to be able to educate many more AFP and bring them to the Blessing and be active in the building of the Cheon Il Guk, by following True Parents.

