

FFWPU DR Congo: Youth Retreat at the Manenga Holy Ground in Kinshasa

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From July 4 to 6, 2026, 74 young people aged 14 to 39 gathered at the Manenga Holy Ground in Kinshasa for the 2026 Youth Summer Camp. Held under the theme "A Filial Heart Toward Holy Mother Han," this spiritual retreat aimed to deepen the participants' faith and cultivate a true filial heart toward Holy Mother Han and the True Parents. It also sought to foster spiritual growth, a sense of responsibility, and a shared commitment to serving Heavenly Parent.

Day 1: Welcome and Community Building

The first day focused on welcoming and settling in the participants. Following an orientation by leader Shin Joo Nicolas regarding the retreat schedule and community guidelines, the youth shared a fellowship meal. This immediately fostered a warm atmosphere of camaraderie, unity, and shared learning.

Day 2: Vision, Leadership, and Connecting with Creation

The second day opened with Hoon Dok Hae, reading from True Father's autobiography, As a Peace-Loving Global Citizen, on the theme: "Finding Your Purpose, Changing Your Life." Participants explored the text further in small group discussions before hearing from Pastor Kwonjim, who inspired them to aim high, reminding them that "we are all created for excellence." He emphasized that true success stems from a clear vision, self-awareness, personal development, and a commitment to keeping Heavenly Parent at the center of every endeavor while prioritizing the greater good.

The main educational session was led by National Vice-Leader Reverend Joseph Pumsu. In his address, he emphasized that parents represent True Parents on earth, and that developing a genuinely filial heart toward them is the foundation for a deep relationship with Holy Mother Han. He urged the youth to cultivate humility, simplicity, purity of heart, and obedience so they can readily meet the expectations of Heavenly Parent and True Parents, stepping up as leaders capable of carrying the providence forward.

In the afternoon, the youth toured the key sites of the Manenga Holy Ground, including the Ideal Place, the ponds, the river, the youth Holy Ground, and the main Holy Ground. This tour helped them appreciate

the spiritual significance of the site while deepening their connection to Heavenly Parent's creation. The youth also took part in an introductory fishing session at the river - a practical experience designed to build patience, teamwork, perseverance, self-control, and purity, all vital qualities in a life of faith.

That evening, Papa Henry, the manager of the Manenga site, shared the history and development of the Holy Ground. This session gave participants a profound appreciation for the site's historical and providential value, highlighting their responsibility to preserve this heritage for future generations. The day concluded joyfully and spiritually with praise songs around a campfire, followed by a time of prayer.



Day 3: Living for Others and Moving Forward

The final day began with Hoon Dok Hae from the book *Mother of Peace*, focusing on the theme: "Happiness is Living for the Sake of Others." Following group reflections, Youth General Secretary Rang Doo Mbuta called on the participants to honor the heritage of True Parents' lineage by living lives of purity and sacrifice. He encouraged them to dedicate their talents, time, and resources to supporting Holy Mother Han and serving their communities, reminding them that true joy is found in living for others.

During the closing ceremony, Director Hanhwa Nguvulu expressed her deep gratitude to the youth for their dedication throughout the retreat. She encouraged them to stay closely connected to the community, actively participate in youth department activities, and apply the insights they gained to their daily lives. The retreat concluded with a collective prayer, enthusiastic cheers of Eog Mansei, and a family photo, bringing three days of spiritual formation, fellowship, and providential alignment to a powerful close.

Conclusion

The retreat successfully achieved all of its goals. The young participants returned home with a deeper understanding of filial piety toward Holy Mother Han, renewed motivation to live by the teachings of True Parents, and a firm resolve to serve Heavenly Parent with faith, purity, and responsibility. This gathering at the Manenga Holy Ground marks a significant milestone in preparing the youth spiritually and strengthening their dedication to the providence in the DRC.