

## **Report on the Charity Concert and a Blessing at the Syrian Orthodox Church “Holy Mary” in Vienna**

**Saturday, 29. October 2018**

On 29.Sept. we organised a Charity Concert for helping Syrian refugee families and we conducted a blessing ceremony.

On the Foundation of Elisabeth Seidel and her husband Dietrich (who passed to spirit world 2 yrs. ago) who have been friends with this church for many years. 5 years ago we already conducted two charity events for them, one with Seiko Lee.

At each meeting Dietrich Seidel had been teaching about Family values. He also gave a testimony of True Parents with a slideshow.

At the concert last week the president of the Austrian Family Federation, Mrs. Elisabeth Cook gave a presentation about family values and the purpose of the Family Federation. Her speech was followed by the Syrian-orthodox priest of that parish, Abuna Toma, who explained about the importance of the family based on the biblical teachings.

At the end of the program WFWP President Renate Amesbauer could explain in a simple way about the blessing ceremony and the vows.

The holy juice has been prepared in advance in small glasses and displayed on each dining table so that everybody could take a cup and drink a toast to Family and Peace before starting the dinner.

The event became possible mainly by the dedicated investment of one lady, chair of the church council of the Syrian Orthodox parish “Holy Mary in Vienna”. She is also a local politician of the Conservative Party of the government.

The wonderful program had been a compilation of musical talents of the Syrian community and the “Vienna Peace Choir” of the Family Federation as well as their soloists.

Several VIPs from the Vienna city council participated, as well as the chair of the “Oriental Christians in Austria”, a journalist and a Catholic nun, who is famous for her Pro Family and Pro Live Activity.

It was a big victory that the Vienna Peace Choir could perform and Mrs. Cook could deliver her speech in front of these mostly very Catholic politicians and other VIPs. They could experience our organisation from a new perspective, which surprised them.

At the tables we were able to share the Holy Juice with everybody, which meant that we could distribute 120 glasses of Holy Wine.

Elisabeth Seidel & Renate Amesbauer



Syrian-Orthodox Choir





Mrs. Renate Amesbauer



Mrs. Elisabeth Cook



The priest of the Syrian-Orthodox parish



2<sup>nd</sup> gen soloist



"Ave Maria" by a Family Federation guest



Syrian highly talented young violinist



Vienna Peace Choir performing Christian hymns



Joint song with the Syrian-orthodox youth



Fotos Alaa Challango 29/9/2018

Giving the Holy Wine to the priest and his wife and to the politicians



The 2 main organizers