



Beyond the visible

UNIFICATIONIST RETREAT

MARCH 29TH AND 30TH 2024 · MADRID, SPAIN

Dear brothers and sisters of the Unification community,

These past Easter holidays we celebrated a retreat for "young" Unificationists. "Young" because it covered a very wide age range, from 18 to 38 years old, including families with children.

We could say that it was an "intergenerational" retreat, since it gathered people at very different stages of life. This dialogue between people of different ages is one definitely one of the pending questions in our community, as it is not always easy to share wisdom and experiences while at the same time respecting each other's stage of life.

In these days, as in life itself, the present had a conversation with the future: we live together several generations at different stages of life, from students to fathers and mothers of families.

The small children, who at first seemed like a distraction, also brought us reality and presence, lightened the atmosphere with their spontaneity, and reminded us of the innocence that is also within us.





A total of 23 adults and 11 children shared 2 full days of heavy rain, which forced us to confine ourselves inside the house. But this seclusion seemed almost an invitation to share the same space, to get to know each other better, to share conversations and experiences. This is what the Retreat was largely about, to have the opportunity to share in a spiritual framework, to give us the time - always so difficult in adult life - to stop our routines and responsibilities and reflect on our own life.

We had conferences by older brothers of the second generation and moments of sharing among all, in which through their personal and sincere testimony, the questions and challenges of life in the stage of maturity were raised. The desire for sincerity and reality is a common interest: we want to acknowledge and accept the experiences we live, however challenging they may be. Moving through life toward maturity almost always means confronting ever greater challenges-our stories as fathers and mothers, as brothers and sisters in family and community; witnessing our crises, bereavements, losses and breakdowns.

But at the same time - and herein lies the mystery of this meeting - we remembered that we do not want to stop aspiring to grow, to mature spiritually, to aspire to something better, something that our deepest conscience dictates to us, an ideal of life. Sincerity does not mean giving up hope. Even if sometimes it is necessary to die symbolically in order to be reborn, as we were told during these dates in which we celebrated the retreat between Easter Friday and Easter Sunday.

And if we have the courage to open our hearts beyond the pain, we realize that we are not alone. We have each other. God is there. Our family. Our ancestors. True Parents. The love of all the people we love sustains us.

Perhaps this Retreat was above all a reminder of all these things that perhaps we already knew in our minds, but that we need to recall again and again in order not to lose our way on our spiritual path.

Thanks to all the people who made this renewing meeting possible: our national leaders, the kitchen staff and the people who took care of the children, and to all those who came to participate. We hope it will be the seed of many good fruits in the future.

The educational team of the new generation, Carlos, David, Rubén, Sunhwa, Anaís.