

EMPOWER Graduation June 30, 2024

Congratulations to the EMPOWER graduates who completed the program on June 30th!

EMPOWER graduation workshop began with a Blessing level 2 part 1 workshop where on behalf of BFD EUME Francesca and Andreas Gundacker-Cireilli, among other speakers, spoke to participants about various topics related to the blessing; Value of the Blessing, Internal, and Practical preparation for the Matching and Blessing. For many participants, this was the first time hearing topics related to the matching and Blessing. Many questions were answered and heart to heart conversations were held between staff and participants discussing matters related to the matching and Blessing. The content helped participants gain a deeper understanding behind the Blessing that True Parents have prepared for each person and feel excitement towards preparing for their own future matching and Blessing.

“I could reconnect to how meaningful and precious the Blessing is to God and why deep in my heart it's really my dream too, because sometimes I forget that.”

“The heart behind each lecture and many topics were talked about. God's dream and vision, points to reflect upon, parents, the whole process were explained very thoroughly... I think we received all the most important information and were able to have so many questions answered.”





Some participants are even going the next step by talking with their parents about the matching and blessing for the first time, receive the Blessing Level 2 certificate, and having more confidence to reach out to the right people to help them prepare for the matching and Blessing.

The Blessing level 2 workshop led to a smooth transition to the Highnoon workshop where Andranik Karagezian and Andreas Pock guided participants towards True Parent's motto of the "highnoon lifestyle" where people live casting no shadows and live honestly striving to live a life of personal integrity towards God-given values. Topics included: Purity and Ownership, Faith and Sexuality, Nature of Addiction, and Living with Sexual Integrity. EMPOWER staff; Iris Jayme-Wojtowicz and Manon Masner shared their raw testimonies related to the topic of striving to live the highnoon lifestyle which moved and inspired the hearts of the participants. Each day was filled with deep heartfelt discussions where participants could discuss values that are worth living for and brainstorming how they can live a life towards those values.

"Without this workshop, I might not come out of the answers about blessing, matching, sexual integrity...ect. And mostly, it helped me to see the situation that we have. Also, I've got to know that there is many people who need help, and who wants to be helped. And I'm so grateful for who had vocal up first about their shadows!"

"I feel like the attention is finally shifting to what I should actually be working on - which is focusing on resolving the root cause of the negative emotions I am experiencing and then having a daily intention of working on a brighter future, on my vision for the future (my north star

goal). I have learned a lot about where addiction comes from and why it is there in the first place. I learned how to deal with crushes and attraction and why I feel it. I heard a lot of golden testimonies that really bring me a lot of hope and deeper understanding of the incredible love that God has for each and every one of us and how we can all overcome our challenges through sincere investment and love. This workshop has brought me a deeper understanding of what I would like to strive for in my life of faith.”



After 2 days of meaningful discussion and content, participants closed the chapter of this EMPOWER year through a goal setting session where participants could set goals for different parts of their life, participating in an internal graduation where participants pledged to a personal commitment they promised to God to strive for in their life after EMPOWER, and preparing for families and friends to arrive in Gafrenz for the Family workshop portion of the week.

14 EMPOWER family and friends travelled far and wide to see their loved one graduate after a year of sincere investment towards his/her life of faith. It was a beautiful reunion between parent and child, brother and sister, and supportive friends at Gafrenz.



On June 30th, the graduation ceremony was filled with smiles, happy tears, and congratulations for all the graduates of EMPOWER. Family and friends who couldn't come in person joined online through zoom to join in the celebrations. Jacob Navarro Akashi, Krisitan Irgl, and Talia Pock gave testimonies about their EMPOWER experience. Bogdan Pammer gave congratulatory remarks to all graduates on behalf of the EUME region. Andreas and Karen Pock shared words of gratitude for each graduate and EMPOWER staff as EMPOWER 2023-2024 directors. A beautiful and unforgettable ceremony for an equally beautiful and unforgettable year of graduates who pioneered the path for the future of EMPOWER in the coming years.





If you see any EMPOWER graduate, make sure to congratulate their parents, them, and encourage them in their future endeavors.





