

WFWP Portugal hosts Visible and Invisible Problems of the Family program

Marta de Carvalho Rodrigues
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On May 15th a joint national meeting between WFWP/Portugal, FFWPU and UPF was held in Peace Embassy in Barcarena – Lisbon, from 3 pm to 6:30 pm, allusive to the International Day of Family, and the theme was: The visible and invisible problems of Family.

The meeting was sponsored by WFWP in partnership with UPF and both decided to invite FFWPU to join in this significant day and together talk about family.

The event was attended by 23 people, all together.

The first intervention was made by UPF national President who did a thorough survey of the current problems involving the family institution. In his speech, Dr. Sergio Vieira made a approaching to all types of current inherent family problems -- from incest to pedophilia, abortion and homosexuality's legalization, and all subtle forms of these and other diseases that are introduced into society through the cool acceptance.

He did it as the way to draw attention to everyone to be alert and fight against the various forms of family destruction. In this sense, the guests expressed their sensitivity to the raised issues. It was an interesting and relevant presentation.

The WFWP's national President – Dra. Marta de Carvalho Rodrigues -- was the second speaker and spoke about the Value of Family.

The national President of WFWP/Portugal was the second speaker and spoke about the "Value of Family" and in her speech, although the time was scarce, Marta Carvalho Rodrigues took care to define the family in general way and show the various structures of family legitimated by law -- from the nuclear family to the extended family, through the modern structures of family.

Then, she brought two great reflections, (one from Pope Francis -- and the other from the founders of WFWPI – Mrs. and Rev. Moon). Here you have her full speech:

International Day of Family WFWP's Presentation the Value of Family

We usually call family the set of people who have kinship to each other (either through inbreeding, contractual or factual way), normally living in the same house and forming a home.

A family is usually made up by father/mother, sons/daughters, brothers/sisters -- where the father and mother are united by marriage or by the factual union way, and this structure is called "nuclear family".

The family is the institution responsible for promoting values, noble feelings and education of children, influencing them to adopt behaviors that are appropriate to the social environment.

The role of the family in the development of each individual is of fundamental importance because it is within the family that one is transmitted moral and social values, traditions and customs perpetuated through generations which will serve as the base to his/her socialization's process.

The home environment where it all begins for the individual must be harmonious, affectionate, protection and must have all necessary support, including in conflict resolution of its members, to create the base of trusts, safety, comfort and well-being to provide peace and family unity. This is how we must create peaceful societies and exercise good citizenship.



Here we have some structures of family, and then, it can be:

a) Nuclear -- when it composed by parents, children (Brothers/Sisters);

b) Extensive -- when, in addition to parents, children and siblings, it also includes grandparents, uncles, cousins, nephews, etc.

In addition of these traditional known structures -- the social and cultural changes provided the existence of other different structures of family that resulted in:

- Monoparental Family (One-Parent): composed by one parente (mother or father), and there are different reasons behind this kind of family...

- Community Family: here all adult members making up the household are responsible for the child's education.

- Rainbow's Family: it consists of a homosexual couple (or single homosexual person) that has one or more children in their charge.

- Contemporary Family: It is characterized by the inversion of the roles of men and women in the family structure, in which the woman becomes the breadwinner. This kind of family covers monoparental family -- composed only by a single or divorced mother, and as the time passing by and we move forward in evolution, the laws are creating and legitimizing other new structures of family.

In addition, we also have:

- Royal Family: made by the sovereign (a king or queen) and all its descendants -- the members of this kind of family are important figures and enjoy certain privileges in the nation.

- There also have the Holy Family made up on the Christian triad represented Family in the Holy Bible (Jesus, Mary and Joseph).

To speak about "The International Day of Family", it was established by the General Assembly of the United Nations in September 1993 but the first celebration took place in 1994 and by this, they tried to:

- Publicize the importance of family in society;
- Underline the family basilar character in children's education;
- Skip messages of love, respect and unity -- essential elements of family relationships;
- Alerting the society to the rights and responsibilities of families;
- Raise awareness among citizens about the social, economic and demographic issues affecting the family;
- To sensitize the public about different types of families and show that, all of them are completely legitimate by law.

Article 36 of Portuguese Constitution, from "Family, Marriage and Filiationa" says:

1. Everyone has the right to build a family and to marry on terms of full equality....



However, it is the Church that speaks most of the family:

In one of his recent visits, the Pope Francis asked, "What is family?" And then he himself answered by saying:

"...Family is a 'center of love', where reigns the law of respect and communion, able to resist the manipulation attacks and domination of 'power centers' worldly'.

"At Home, one should integrate natural and harmoniously in a human group, overcoming the false opposition between individual and society. In the family, no one is discarded: both the elderly and children are welcome. This is where the culture of encounter and dialogue, openness to solidarity and transcendence, have their origin " .

"The family is a major 'social wealth'. The Holy Father highlights two key elements to take into account the family: stability and fertility. "

The Pope says that "The relationship based on true love to death, come from the household, eg marriage, parenting, filiation or brotherhood, are learned and lived in the family."

"When these relationships form the basic of a society, give it cohesion and consistency, this because: You can not form a people, feel close and take the disadvantaged account – if in the heart of man, these basic relations are broken -- because they are the ones that offer security for the one to open to the others. "

"In addition, family love is fruitful -- not only because it generates new lives -- but because it also broadens the horizon of existence it creates a new world; It also make us to believe even in time of desperation, that coexistence based on respect and trust is possible. Faced with a materialistic view of the world, the family does not reduce man to utilitarianism sterile, but supports its deepest desires. "

"From the original experience of lovely family, the man also grows in its openness to God as Father.

The family is reflected in the image of God through His deepest mystery, allowing us to see human love as a sign and presence of divine love "- unquote



Underlying this idea of the Holy Father;

The Founders of FMPM -- The Rev. and Mrs. Moon -- whom we call True Parents -- in their deepest and visionary reflections on the Family, they found that:

- The Creator -- as Arqt.^o of life -- Who created Man and woman (Adam and Eve), he had his own plan. For this plan to be realized Adam and Eve were first to grow to perfection in love, and later unite each to other in love as husband and wife centered on Divine Love. It was the way they should start a family centered, in this kind of love -- because God's love is the source of life and the origin of all ideals -- (I quote the Founders).

But because of the fall of Adam and Eve, this was never fulfilled because the plan was never implemented and the purpose for which the human being was created to came to swerve.

- As they did not fulfil that purpose, the family came to follow a path out of the law that leads to the kingdom of God's love. This resulted in tragic consequences for the lives of human beings, from this first family we came to know that there took place the first murder in the Adam and Eve's family (Cain killed Abel).

And from there were up sequentially by multiplying the deviations and evils to the present days.

Since the plan of the Creator is that, imbued with living family of God's love and this plan still be unfulfilled, then, the humankind will continue having tremendous problems. The family should be the school of love to connect its members to the sphere of God's love.

Therefore, it is necessary to reconsider the true value of the family because it is there where the good relationships between: Parents and children; brothers and sisters; husband and wife, grandparents and grandchildren, etc. take place.

Taking into account the value of family, should its members strive to rediscover the laws of Love and with them, conduct their relationships.

In this context -- along with all other family structures previously identified -- the couple Moon says that originally, Husband and Wife to become parents (father and mother) they are the source of family -- from the point view of divine Love -- because it is here that arise positions and parent-child relationships; husband and wife; brothers and sisters; grandparents and grandchildren etc. have its beginning.

They also say that family is the training ground of the heart, because it is where usually the emotions are expressed at its various levels.

A person should be able to return home after a long day of work and feel joy when he/she comes back home, through his/her Husband/wife; children, parents, brothers/sisters -- by expressing his/her pride and

gratitude for his/her family members by disposal and love share.

The family is the emotional training base, and the center that connects each one of us to the universal love.

After this, the next step is the school, it is where we get training to the society.

Our Founders (the couple Moon) analysed and defined the family, from the view point of the Divine Mother, saying that Family is:

- The School of relationships
- Manual, through which we may connect to the Universal Love.
- Training Base that enables one to enter in Kingdom of Love.
- Training Course of the Heart relations.
- Homeland of Original Human Beings, because it is the place where it all starts, then.
- It is the Center of the Universe -- Standard for the Kingdom of Love, whose embryo begins with man and woman.

Then, Family has a cosmic value, because it emanates from the most powerful force, the force of the Cosmic Love.

Therefore, a person who does not respect his own family tends to feel weakened, upset and sad.

So, our Founders defend that education should be based on universal values from the family (it is the essential and fundamental organ that transmit emotions and values) that's why they called it "School of Love".

They believe that Love practiced by family -- when it is genuinely transmitted, it strengthens and prepares the individual for life and contributes to form good citizens.

Then they conclude by saying that the formation of the human being should begin in the family -- because there is where starts the humanization and liberation of the individual process.

That's where we should reap moral values and the various emotions (filial, fraternal, conjugal, parental love) as the way to become aware of our responsibilities and contribute freely to a more balanced society, peaceful and harmonious people, ensuring our own well-being.

This is the greatest value of family -- because it is in the family where the person effectively learn truly how to love and respect.

Hence, the Founders invite us all by saying that the family should function as a True "School of Love".

The family should be blessed by Gods' Love.

"... The value of blessed family is greater than anything else ever imaginable in the whole universe. Nothing can be compared. Nothing can replace it..."

... We must experience the value of blessed family in our daily lives.

The blessed family is the most important thing in the universe, because it is where God establishes the true blood lineage. "

(Rev. Sun Myung Moon -18 December 1999)

Thank you!

(By Presentation of Marta de Carbalho)

Brief Introduction of WFWPI -- FMPMI

- It is a non-profit International NGO, with General Consultative Status in the Economic and Social Council of the UN

- Established in 1992 by Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon with her beloved husband's cooperation -- the Rev^o Dr. Sun Myung Moon -- noted pioneer couple who always worked side by side for more than 50 years to pave the way for peace in the global arena.
- Committed to provide the woman opportunities to create a genuine and lasting peace, through their training for leadership, helping to rescue and strengthen their dignity.
- Performs its work promoting various initiatives, including, seminars, various projects and services, various programs, including the Ambassadors for Peace, the United Nation forums, etc.
- Embodies genuine values, and recognizes that the family is the cornerstone for world peace, and that the mature couples are the basis for the strong and loving families that may contribute to the establishment of sound and responsible societies.
- Encourages each woman to become a "woman of peace" through her own heart because this Organization believes that helping the woman to develop a genuinely motherly heart, is able to get her to take care -- not only of heir own children -- but also, the children of nation and children from around the world, by expressing their empathic qualities, forgiveness and unconditional love that they incarnates.
- WFWPI Provides the woman tools that allows them to work and provide mutual support based on the transmission of diverse knowledge to its strengthening and capacity building which serves as the necessary support to own orientation to create peace from home to communities, nations and the world.
- As an organization that empowers women, it shares the Principle of joint effort and work, through traditional lines of thought, race, culture and religion.

That's why Its Motto is:

"Educating for a universal culture of peace, investing in relationships that transform the society through practicing genuine values and universal principles to life."

- Then, FFWPU by National Leader spoke about Human Family, with main objective to give the idea of our Founders' teachings through Rev. Moon's Autobiography in importance of Family's relationships centered on love, unity and cooperation as the starting point to solve the global problems.
- As the Meeting has also the idea to give support to our AfP, Mr. Liberto Silva – an elder brother and farmer national leader, gave some topics on Character Education. We also spoke about SUNHAK PEACE PRIZE as the way to find help to the candidates.
- We ended appointing two AfP (one from WFWP and other from UPF – a singer and famer professor) and the singer offered two song to the Audience...
- All participants were aware and attentive, and liked the event. One of the guests asked us to repeat the subjects we spoke about, the week after because her husband was in Angola and would only arrive three days later, so we did it on Thursday – 25th May and it was wonderful.
- We could understand that we work in unity we become more powerful...

May God bless us all.

Thank you all and sorry for my weak English...

Love, Marta de Carvalho Rodrigues