

Celebration of the International Day of Families

Bergamo, Italy, 17. May 2014



The UPF - Section of Bergamo celebrated on Saturday, May 17th, the International Day of Families proclaimed by the UN. The theme was "Faith in the family".

The meeting was organized in collaboration with the Bergamo section of the following Associations: **Women's Federation for World Peace**, the **Federation of Families for Peace**, the association "**Your Bergamo**", the Ghanaian Community, the Islamic Center, the **Hare Krishna Community**, and **Sister Leonor Gomez** with representatives of the Filipino Community in Bergamo.

The meeting was held in a beautiful former church in Baroque style, transformed by the City into an auditorium. The attendance was of about 100 people, certainly less than expected - especially considering the number of associations involved - but the quality of the speeches was very high.



The **representatives of the various religions** and associations took turns on the podium. Carlo Zonato, the President of the local UPF chapter, introduced the meeting; he was followed by some Protestant ministers, a Catholic nun with a choir, two representatives of the Islamic world, a speaker of the Hare Krishna movement, a Unificationist couple, and Giannina Figus, the President of the local WFWP chapter.

Each one of those speakers briefly expounded the view that his faith has about the family and - consequently for the society. Almost each one of the speeches was followed by a **singing**

performance, by individuals or groups, of the different faiths.

Those who know the participating religions could have foreseen a certain **common view about the subject of the family**; surprisingly, however, the degree of coincidence between the various visions was deeper than expected. All the participants agreed to reaffirm the centrality of the family consisting of father, mother and children, possibly extended to grandparents, and the importance of a healthy family to get a healthy society.

