

Seonghwa Celebration of Barbara Vincenz

Chicago, USA, 3. September 2016



By *Catriona Valenta*

I had the great honor of being able to attend the Seonghwa ceremony of Barbara Vincenz, which took place on September 3rd in Chicago.

Although Barbara's Seonghwa was designated as being at the national level, it was very fitting that there was a representative from Barbara's country of birth. She was born on June 12th 1930 in Magdeburg.

And in Germany, Barbara had stood beside her husband both when he was national leader and also when they were sent by Father to support the machine tool providence in the early 90's. Repeatedly it was stressed that Reiner could not have achieved all he did without Barbara's steady, practical and loving support.

I personally had first known the Vincenzes when they were my leaders in Chicago in 1983-1985; and then I learned a totally new (and more human!) aspect when they were fellow parents in Giessen from 1989-1995.

Michael Jenkins, FFWPU USA, was emcee for the Seonghwa ceremony; the message was delivered by Dr. Ki Hoon Kim (Continental director FFWPU) and several people gave testimonies about Barbara. Perhaps most moving was that of Leena's birth mother. She tearfully related about their offering; that she did not expect such unwavering and continuing gratitude and support from Reiner and Barbara and their willingness to make them, the offering couple, an integral part of Leena's life. More tears were shed when Mirelle, Barbara's 4 year old granddaughter, supported by her mom, Leena sang a melody of Barbara's favourite songs from a Holy Song to 'You are my Sunshine'.

In the Wonjeon ceremony, Barbara was put to rest beside her husband Reiner, whose ascension had preceded hers by 20 months. The soil scattered over the grave was the new Holy Soil, being used for the first time in this way in the USA.

Following these ceremonies, the guests were invited to a picnic in a park in the grounds of the hospice where Barbara had spent her last days. It was clear that at the end of her physical life she had been surrounded by the love of her family and friends in a beautiful environment.

To close this celebration of Barbara's life, each one of us released a white balloon. God speed, Barbara. You truly embodied True Father's words:

"The highest purpose of life is to be born through love, be raised in love, live by love, and to leave a legacy of love when we die"

[In Loving Memory of Barbara](#)