

## Family Federation and Universal Peace Federation – Upper Austria

At their invitation on the 7th of December 2019 an **Interreligious and Intercultural Breakfast** took place. The common topic was:

**“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”** Matthew 5:9



About forty people of different religions gathered in the center of the Family Federation Linz, which since yesterday houses the exhibition „100 Years Rev. Moon – His Contribution to World Peace“.



After a welcome by Mrs. Pammer (UPF-Upper Austria) and a prayer by Mr. Krcek the guests served themselves at the breakfast buffet. After everybody had taken some refreshments, Becky Moshammer got the attendants with a song in the mood for the presentations of the topic.



Mr. Brunnbauer, holding the community leadership of the Family Federation Upper Austria, showed at the beginning of his presentation a video about the peace work of Mr. and Mrs. Moon with the title „Who is the mother of peace“. In his remarks he told not only about the many initiatives Father Moon and recently also Mother Moon have set worldwide for peace, but emphasized also the inner aspects, especially the power of forgiveness which leads to real peace. He illustrated this powerfully with the comparison of somebody who was bitten by a poisonous snake. In this situation it is not useful to chase the snake, it is however important, to immediately take measures to get the poison out of one's body.



As second contributor Mr. Weniger of the New Apostolic Church Upper Austria stepped on the podium. Due to his professional experience he emphasized strongly how important it is to be at peace with oneself. Since he comes from Hamburg he also experienced intensely the enthusiastic mood after the German reunification and the time when disarmament efforts nurtured great hope for world peace.



Mrs. Bindreiter, representative of the Buddhist community in the Upper Austrian Religion Advisory Board, elaborated in her statement the four prime virtues in Buddhism: loving goodness or charity, compassion – not pity, shared joy and serenity, the ability to look at a situation from both sides. She did not only talk about these prime virtues, we also had the feeling that she personally is working very seriously on their realization.



Mr. Mehmed Becirbasic, representative of the Bosnian Mosque Steyr, in turn reported in a very touching way about his personal experience, when he came as a refugee child to Austria. The respectful attention of his primary school teacher helped him to adhere to his roots and to have also a goal in mind. If you cannot attain an affinity to your roots and if you have no goal, a peaceful togetherness will be difficult to realize. Out of gratitude he visited this former teacher after many years. He told him simply that he as a teacher always felt like being a peasant sowing seeds. If he is able to see after years that the seeds are sprouting and bear good fruits, so this is the best thank you to him.



Mr. and Mrs. Lipp of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints stepped together on the podium. As parents of four grownup children they emphasized the importance of parental love to make all children stick together, even if they go different ways, and to bring peace into the family. During this process it is very important to always see the good in the other, even if you cannot understand many things from the other, but exactly this brings peace to me, to the family and the community. With this attitude we are then able to bring something about and to finally change the world for the better.





Maria Pammer, Hans Brunnbauer