

## Interreligious breakfast on the topic of "Love-Life-Lineage"

UPF and FFWP Upper Austria, Linz, 23/03/2024



**Maria Pammer, UPF Upper Austria**, welcomed the guests by pointing out that love-life-lineage is a big issue for religious people. In John 8:44, Jesus said: "You have the devil for a father, and you want to do the desires of your father." How can we be taken back into the lineage of the Heavenly Father, the Heavenly Parents? But the topic is not only important on a spiritual, soul level. A great deal of confusion has arisen on this topic in our society. Inspired by the philosophers Foucault and Derrida, everything that has to do with the polarity of man and woman, and therefore with love, life, and lineage, is being called into question.

After the prayer by **Hans Ledermüller, Upper Austrian community leader of the FFWP**, the participants enjoyed refreshments at the laid table and **Clemens Haslhofer** lifted the atmosphere with piano music.

**Mr Heinz Krcek** then began with a keynote speech about love-life-lineage and quotes from the Bible, the Koran, Buddhism and Father Moon. He emphasised how important the example set by parents is for the good development of their children.

The representatives of the various religious communities then spoke on the topic from their teachings and personal experiences.

**Mr Karl-Heinz Feihl, head of the New Apostolic Church** in Steyr, began. He emphasised that women have been more involved in the spiritual ministry for two years and that the closer we come to the centre, to God, the smaller the distance between us humans become.



**Mrs Gerlinde Merl, from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints**, played us the first song from her church's children's songbook: "I am a child of God, who sent me into the world and made me happy here with an earthly home and parents: Lead, guide and accompany me, that I may find the way; teach me to do everything that will one day bring me to Him. ..." This text is about lineage, our earthly life and where we will go again, back to our Heavenly Parents.

**Mrs Brigitte Bindreiter, representative of the Buddhist community** in Upper Austria, emphasised how everything in the cosmos is one, even if each person is individually shaped by their parents.



**Mr Mehmed Becirbasic from the Bosnian mosque** in Steyr gave a very personal account of how he experienced Austria as a child after fleeing from a small village in Bosnia. Now they live in Austria as a family of three generations. He spoke very movingly about how his father, who had cancer, was cared for with so much love by his mother until his death. He thus experienced what true love is and is determined to develop such love for his wife as well.

**Bishop Christine Mayr-Lumetzberger** explained that as a pastor she is confronted with many different difficult situations in people's lives. Her main task is to listen and empathise.





**Mr Rev. Arthur Nzekwu from the Celestial Church of Christ in Vienna** expressed on the other hand that because of his origin from Africa and now for many years in Europe, he is thinking a lot about the difference between true love and selfish love and is happy about the possibility to have an inter-Christian and inter-religious exchange like here.



**Mr Peter Haider, President of UPF-Austria**, reported on the WIHW events at the UN, which he has been organising for 10 years. He also emphasised how the diversity of religions and nations in our larger cities is an enrichment for all.

**Mr Hans Brunnbauer, IMAP Austria**, emphasised that it is important to actively approach the media.

**Maria Pammer** reported on the last working group of the Upper Austrian Religious Advisory Council, an initiative of the regional government. The task was to develop a flyer with offers from the religious communities to the municipalities and mayors to support peaceful coexistence. She not only encouraged those present to get more involved in the Religious Advisory Council, but also suggested that we network as religious people to spread the values we have talked about today more widely in society. Everyone enthusiastically took up this suggestion and we decided that we would inform each other more in future and support each other in the activities of the individual religious communities.