

HARP Workshop in Italy

Cortona, Italy, 6. – 13. July 2014



From July 6 to July 13 the PARP workshop for children age 9-13 took place in Cortona (Tuscany). 35 children attended the workshop+ 13 young people staff, 6 Kitchen staff, and 4 teachers.

Also this year, with the help of our Heavenly Parent and the cooperation of all the staff, we had an excellent experience, important and profound for everybody, from the youngest children to the kitchen staff. The kitchen staff was particularly efficient, cheerful and ready to adjust to any special need.

The mother who cooked said it was such a beautiful experience that next year she would like to come back together with her husband, because it is so inspiring to be useful to young people and see how elder children take care of the younger ones. For one week it was like living in another dimension.

For the classes the children were divided into 4 groups with their respective teachers: Angelo Chirulli, Elisabetta Cali, Elena Chirulli and Andrea Vallone, together with Valerio Vespa. In the morning they listened to lectures on the following themes: The ideal of creation, the meaning of being true children of God; give and receive in my own life; the fall: the Archangel's temptations, the problems of adolescence; Jesus and his mission; the life of True Father and True Mother; the meaning of the Blessing...

The workshop was attended also by a girl who had never listened to the Divine Principle before; she had

been recommended by a member of the moment who is a good friend of her family. The girl mingled with the group very well from the very beginning; she took part in all the activities and listened to the lectures attentively; she said that the Principle is the answer she had been looking for since a long time.

Also the boys and girls of the staff, who were the group leaders, did a very precious job. They organized the rest of the day with games and various activities which the children enjoyed very much. They completely dedicate themselves to them as if there were their younger siblings, sometimes taking care of them with a parental heart. They experienced the joy which is felt when we sacrifice something of our own (time, hours of rest, thoughts and energies) for the happiness and growth of others.

A mother gave a very interesting testimony of her life which surprised and touched everyone. She told about the battles she had to face to remain faithful to True Father and our movement, when she was kidnapped by the deprogrammers sent by her own parents, and how she was able to escape from them. Even the youngest children listened attentively and asked questions.

The experience of praying around a bonfire was very captivating, especially thanks to the older children, who inspired everybody during the preparation. Daniela Cali in particular, said that we do not have to think that God is so far away from us, because He is inside us; she explained she could find Him, when

instead of asking Him to give her some sign of His existence and fulfil her wishes, she understood that God was inside herself and together with Him she could do great things and become a really special person. Now her goal is to develop all those wonderful qualities given to her by God, in order to become God's true daughter.

TESTIMONY OF A STAFF MEMBER

This year I had the pleasure and the responsibility to participate in this summer New Hope Team workshop 2014 as a staff member and team leader.

Not all the children knew each other, but it did not take much time to create a wonderful environment where everybody could feel as if they were real brothers and sisters.

Unfortunately this time we had to share the place with another group and so our space was limited; however we could soon overcome this problem and organize our program to the best of our abilities. The children woke up stimulating their bodies with morning sports, and their spirits with Hoon Dok Hae;

the program continued with breakfast, lecture, lunch, game and activities in the afternoon, group discussions, dinner and evening activities. Through this program we could get to know each other better, sharing our experiences and having fun together.

Personally this workshop helped me very much, because it gave me moments of joy and serenity - which are always beneficial - as well as moments of reflection when I could think about myself and my life.

I think it is very important for the children to participate in these workshops; it was the same for me, and it still is, even now. Through these workshops we, second generation children, can establish very beautiful relationships with each other, which are very different from the relationships we can have with young people outside our movement, and which I think are essential for the future.

Now that I am an adolescent, I really need the support which I receive from my brothers and sisters every year. *Valerio Tammiso*

Reported by Elisabetta Cali

