

Peace Road Italy and San Marino

Padua, Italy, 26. July 2015



By *Giuseppe Cali*

In the beautiful Prato della Valle Square in Padua, the biggest square in Europe, we held the "Road to Peace" march of Italy. Since the announcement, we understood that it was not meant just for us, but for the country. We wanted to honour Father's legacy in front of representatives of the society and main religions. So, we started to campaign to invite people. Padua was chosen due to the long time cooperation with the City Hall, than this time offered their help and sponsorship very quickly. All together we were 18 organizations and churches, including our five federations (FFWPU, UPF, WFWP, CARP, IRFF), plus a Priest representing a Catholic University, two protestant churches, one Imam from a Muslim community, few other associations: for immigrants, fighting drugs, supporting children and so on. The RAI, national TV came, filmed the event and made few interviews. We had on the same day two times passages on TV news, including the interviews to Giuseppe Cali and an African brother, for a total of almost 2 minutes each new.

As always, somebody in Heaven took care of us. In the morning it was cold and rainy, but as soon as people started to gather a beautiful sun came out, with a fresh and lovely wind that preserved

us from burning down our heads under the strongest sun ever, we experienced this month. A perfect weather!

We organized a gazebo with a podium, from where main people could give a short speech, to inspire the participants. It was wonderful the spirit of all speakers, that could catch perfectly the meaning of the event, including the Catholic priest and the other leaders that expressed their appreciation to Father. Especially meaningful was to remind everybody the entire life of dedication of True Father and True Mother, our True Parents, for the sake of the world.

More than 300 people started to march around the square, chanting: "If the world you want to change, more and more you have to love!", "Unity, unity, to change society!", Together we march to change the world, with God in our hearts, is a better world!", "We fight for peace, true love is our weapon!", or similar slogans we prepared in advance. We sang all together "Urie Sowonun Tongil" and "We shall Overcome, today", waking up the spirit of the city and bit by bit, people passing by started to gather around us asking questions. It was beautiful to see the enthusiasm of brothers and sisters in witnessing to them. Some people were so moved by our content and initiative! "This is what we need in Italy, thank

you!", "Such beautiful people and so many youth and children!", these were some of the comments.

We decided to bring with us all our children, even the youngest, to give them a wonderful memory to keep in their lives, but it was a memorable experience also for everybody else. We found again the spirit of mobilization of the early times of our movement and it was really exciting!

We realized few fundamental things: First of all, we have to unite wholeheartedly with True Parents and this initiative of True Mother demonstrate clearly how God is working through her. Second, we have to go out and meet people. Many people are ready to understand and appreciate. The first generation is not dead yet and we are not in pension. We can still do a lot, if we can wake up, forget our problems and ignite again our spirit. Third, we have to make noise, otherwise the world will not notice us. We have to shake the society with true love. If we are too quiet, nothing happens. Fourth, Heaven is really ready and willing to support us, as soon as we go out with the proper spirit and unity. The time has come, our time has come, True Parents time has come! Thanks God!

