

FFWPU USA: The Blessing: Committing to Grow Together

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FAMILY FEDERATION

The Newsletter

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Hello family. Quick Connect update. The Blessing is a commitment to grow. An article from a lawyer defending the church in Japan. And HJI's 50th commencement.

News

Quick Connect: The Blessing: Committing to Grow Together



On Today's Quick Connect: A recently Blessed couple shares about the commitment they made centered on God, and a new article by a lawyer defending the church in Japan.

[watch here](#)

Dinis and Shinmi Testify to the Blessing from Korea



“The Blessing is making a commitment to another person, centered on God, and having that commitment to grow together.”

Congratulations to this lovely happy couple, and all the other couples who made this commitment to each other in April!

[watch here](#)

Terrorism, Constitution, or Judicial Overreach?

On January 21, 2026, the Nara District Court sentenced Tetsuya Yamagami, the assassin of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, to life imprisonment. This outcome was predictable. Under Japanese case law, the murder of a single person does not justify the death penalty, and international trends toward abolition make capital punishment look excessive even in a case involving the assassination of a former Prime Minister during a public speech. At the same time, a fixed-term sentence would have been unacceptably lenient for a politically motivated killing carried out to advance the perpetrator's personal demands. Life imprisonment, therefore, represented the only appropriate sentence.

The court also avoided indulging the narrative—popular in some media—that the Family Federation's (formerly known as the Unification Church) proselytizing practices or its political connections somehow mitigated the defendant's responsibility. It found no impropriety in former Prime Minister Abe's message of support to the organization. It did not treat the much debated relationship between the Family Federation and politics as grounds for leniency. With public sympathy for Yamagami having largely evaporated, and with the High Court's dissolution order against the Family Federation already in effect, there is little indication that his sentence will be reduced on appeal. Japanese courts show no inclination to treat the religion the terrorist despised as a justification for his act.

The Tokyo High Court's March 4, 2026, dissolution order, however, effectively destroyed that religion and fulfilled the terrorist's wish.

[read more](#)

You're Invited to HJI's 50th Annual Commencement



We are honored to invite you to celebrate the achievements of this year's graduating class at HJI's landmark 50th Annual Commencement. The ceremony will take place at our campus (481 Eighth Avenue, New York, NY) on Saturday, May 23, at 2 PM ET.

We are privileged to welcome Katrina Lantos Swett, President of the Lantos Foundation for Human Rights and Justice, and Co-Chair of the International Religious Freedom Summit, as our keynote speaker and honorary doctorate recipient.

Please note: Registration is required for all guests. Those joining us on campus are invited to stay for a reception immediately following the ceremony. Dress Code: Business or business casual.

[in-person registration](#)

[livestream registration](#)





Speak up on social media

Share this injustice and your personal testimony on social media. Facts and articles to share about her detention can be found in the News section of MotherOfPeace.com and by following Rev. Dunkley on X.

[get informed](#)



Support religious freedom

Your generosity is helping us fight this injustice. Help us promote religious freedom in South Korea by making a donation below.

[support here](#)



Wear the message

Show your support for True Mother with a [#ReleaseTheMotherOfPeace](#) and FAITH FREEDOM PEACE t-shirt or hoodie.

[buy here](#)