

Memorial Service for our Beloved True Father

Madrid, Spain, 22. September 2012

By Armando Lozano



Over 200 members of Madrid community and their friends gathered at the main hall of the Hotel Metropolitano of Madrid to honour the life and enormous contribution to God's providence and world peace of Rev. Sun Myung Moon, True Father of mankind.

The tone of the ceremony was intimate, uplifting and warm. We had the desire to welcome the Ambassadors of Peace and different friends to a Unification type ceremony and let them feel the deep love and emotion of this precious moment. For this reason the program was kept simple and internal.

After an overview of True Father's life by the MC, Armando Lozano, UPF director, we had a moving representative prayer by Manuel Campillo, our local pastor, followed by a video introducing Father's life. After a musical note by clarinetist David Salinas, Sebastian Badosa read a beautiful part of Father's autobiography dealing with his vision about the ideal world and the role of religion. We asked the audience participation in singing together two holy songs.

As MC of the program, I took the opportunity interspacing in different parts of the ceremony small testimonies on Father's visit to Spain or some other encounters in different parts of the world where members could taste the beautiful heart of True Father for brothers and sisters. My desire was for the audience to have a sense of the presence of God's love in True Father and his desire to multiple that love as "Tribal Messiahs" to all the people around us. That's the greatest honor we can pay to him.

For me the most moving moment was when a long line with all the participants was made in the central aisle of the hall to deposit flowers in the altar. I could withhold my emotions throughout the program for the sake of the audience but seeing several Catholic nuns and theologians, friends of different religions, artists, musicians, academics, and people from different cultures and walks in life stopping by the altar, bowing down and offer their prayers and good wishes it was really awesome. I could sense how much True Father has done to create a world family beyond religion, race or culture. That's his accomplishment and the world will gradually acknowledge that.

We ended the program with three joyful cheers of Og Mansei. Our guests and friends could see with our determination to carry on Father's dream and to see his passing as the opening up of a new level where we have to be more committed. We conclude asking the audience to sign and write some remarks on the memorial book and take as a gift Father's autobiography.

