

Black Corvina Fishing Condition in Uruguay established by True Father in 1996

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In 1996, True Father was inspired to establish a condition of devotion at José Ignacio beach, located on the southeast coast of Uruguay. The activity started on December 1 of the same year and since then we have called it the *Condición de Pesca de la Corvina Negra* (The Black Corvina Fishing Condition).

We cast thirty-three fishing lines into the ocean every day during a two-month period. In the beginning, nobody knew the purpose of the activity nor its meaning, nor the desire that Father had for it. Over time, True Father taught us little by little the different meanings that imbued each aspect of the condition. According to him, each fishing rod represents a country of the Americas and the fact of setting up the thirty- three poles symbolizing thirty- three countries would be an internal condition for the unification of North America, Central America and South America. The two hooks used on each fishing line represent masculinity and femininity.

In the first years, we carried out the condition during the months of December and January, under True Father's strict leadership. After his ascension to the spiritual world in 2012, everybody thought that this offering would eventually come to its natural end. Nevertheless, we, the leaders and other members of the Uruguayan movement, decided not to stop it. We continue to carry out the condition every year, even facing severe difficulties, both from the economic aspects and due to the lack of staff. Although we had to shorten the period due to these problems, we keep striving not to quit making the yearly offering. Our decision arose from the desire to inherit internally and externally the tradition that True Father left us for the sake of future generations.

Making new friends

This month, we celebrated the twenty- third anniversary of the inauguration of the Black Corvina Fishing Condition. Last year we carried out the project from November 30 to December 10. Participants gathered from different countries such as Argentina and the United States. Japanese Cheon Il Guk missionaries came, as did Universal Peace Academy students, not to mention the youth of Uruguay. At the fishing spot, we also had several visitors, Uruguayan and foreign members, during the devotion.

The young Uruguayan students and participants received special training during the period of the condition, so that they could learn how to continue this activity in the future and keep on bequeathing the tradition.

The program began with an opening ceremony along with testimonies and guidance about details pertinent to practicing the condition. The next day, we went to True Parents' residence, located at the entrance of the city of Punta del Este, where we made preparations for the activity. During the preparation of the fishing equipment and of the camp, we all had feelings of missing True Father. Once we were ready, we moved to José Ignacio beach.

The activity begins at dawn, before sunrise, usually 5 am, with attaching the bait, which consists of crabs, onto the hooks and setting up the thirty- three fishing rods. After the rods are settled and we have cast the lines, Hoon Dok Hae begins, reading True Father's autobiography. We replace the bait twice a day, at noon and at sunset, picking up the lines after sunset, around 9 pm.

Participants enjoy the beauty of nature through the Atlantic Ocean that unfolds infinitely in front of them, an experience in which they feel the love of God when he was creating the world and the steps that True

Parents took, struggling with the midday heat, the cold of the night, the strong winds and the long rains.



Inheriting from others

In free time, they could look for bait or learn skills, such as putting together a fishing rod or casting a line from the older brothers who had learned directly from True Father. I would say that listening to their experiences with True Parents is one of the most valuable aspects of the program. Thanks to them, although the first three days passed without much external result, it was a period with deep internal education.

From the fourth day, we started to get tangible results. A Black Corvina can weigh fifteen to twenty kilograms. Due to its size and strength, the fight between the fish and the angler can last more than twenty minutes. The emotion of the participants reaches its peak the moment they see a rod bend as a fish has taken the bait. When they see that, they all leave whatever they are doing and run like desperate children toward fishing rods located about seventy meters away. I think that this emotion is something that someone cannot understand if he or she has not directly experienced it.

Preparing for this year

On the last day, we cleaned the equipment used in the activity to be able to use them in good condition again this year. Last year, we managed to offer nine corvinas and more than anything the effort and sacrifice of all the brothers and sisters who took part so that we could accomplish this condition. I pray that this condition will help bring peace and the unification of the Americas. I pray too that each participant can commit a little more to becoming the true son or daughter that God is waiting for and go on to form truly blessed central families.

At the beginning of December this year, we also began carrying out the Fishing Condition of Corvina Negra in José Ignacio, Uruguay. I hope that many young people from other countries can have the opportunity to share this precious tradition from True Parents with us. May God bless you.



Black Corvina (can reach 16 inches or more in length)