

2024 Europe and Middle East Blessed Family Department Summit in Alba, Italy

Marea Toresen

November 29 to December 1, 2024



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The 2024 Europe and the Middle East (EUME) Blessed Family Department (BFD) Summit was held in Alba, Italy, from Nov. 29 to Dec. 1. Over 60 leaders, BFD staff, and others interested in supporting Blessed Families came together under the theme The Circle of Blessed Life.

Marea Toresen, acting Director of BFD EUME, started off the program with an explanation of the Circle of Life and four major ceremonies that shape the lives of Blessed Families: the 8-Day Ceremony, Il Shim Ceremony, Blessing Ceremony, and Seonghwa Ceremony. This was followed by a presentation by Rafael Guignard, National Leader of France, on How to Build a Vibrant Young Family Culture. There were reports, break-out groups, time for connection and networking, and updates on the upcoming Blessing and the new BFD website, bfdeume.org. Other organizations supporting Blessed Families, such as High Noon and Mom's Village, also presented their activities at the Summit.

The Summit was a beautiful time of connection and community building. Through meeting up and sharing resources, ideas, and testimonies, we could support each other in addressing the needs of Blessed Families. We also recognized our wonderful hosts in Casa di Altavilla as Ambassadors of the Heart for the incredible ways they have opened their hearts and homes to those in need. They have consistently opened their home to care for others, including at-risk youth and mothers in need. They have also adopted 25 children and raised 4 of their own. As a righteous couple that lives for the sake of others, we also presented them with the Death Valley Holy Salt.

A highlight for many was the Italian National band Holy Bandit, which came and performed powerful worship music for us. It was a moving and uplifting performance. In an atmosphere of love, family, and connection to Heavenly Parent, we then prayed together for True Mother and for all the situations Heavenly Parent's children are facing.

Through the meetings, discussions, and reports shared, we hope to equip each other with the tools to better support local communities and come up with new programs and ideas that can support all Blessed Families.