

International Day of Friendship Celebrated in Argentina

Carlos Varga
August 17, 2015

Buenos Aires, Argentina—UPF-Argentina celebrated the UN International Day of Friendship (1) with events in two cities: Buenos Aires and Mar del Plata. Recognizing the importance of friendship in generating greater understanding in our world, UPF-Argentina commemorated the Day by appointing 18 new Ambassadors for Peace, leaders who are committed to promoting reconciliation and building peace.

At both events, a video introducing UPF's work and the video, "The World at a Turning Point," (2) were shown to provide background on the Ambassadors for Peace initiative. Mr. Carlos Varga, president of Family Federation for World Peace and Unification-Argentina and Mr. Miguel Werner, secretary general of UPF-Argentina spoke at the celebrations, where the UN Secretary-General's message for the Day, as well as poems and passages about friendship, were also read.

Buenos Aires

In Buenos Aires, the Day was celebrated on July 30 at the Embassy for Peace. The event began with a reading of the UN Secretary-General's message by Ms. Orfa Pérez, a member of UPF-Argentina's Peace Council.

New Ambassadors for Peace were then appointed; among them were three couples who have contributed to the areas of environment, spirituality and the arts in Argentina. Mrs. Elsa Ortiz-Marcos Daverio, Mrs. María Estrada-Luis Acuña and Mrs. Andrea Vega-Román Alegre each represented their couple.

Ms. Stella Maris Arzuaga and Ms. Antonia Silva, both teachers; Ms. Graciela Almada, a journalist; Mr. Hugo López Pénelas, a poet; Mr. César Sanabria; and Ms. Elena Paniagua, president of the association Ciudad Hermana San Clemente Argentina-San Clemente California; and Mr. Pablo Meza of the Chaco Foundation, were also appointed.

Journalist and Ambassador for Peace, Mr. Jorge Pereyra, read the content of the Ambassadors for Peace certificate, which highlights values expected by Ambassadors for Peace (3)--which can be summarized as living for the sake of others. When each appointee was awarded a certificate, he/she poured a glass of water into a clear bowl to symbolize his/her commitment to peace.

The Universal Peace Flag was also given to two international guests, Xriss García Andino and Mr. Francisco Lora of the International Faucla Foundation in the Dominican Republic, who were in Argentina for an event at the national senate that was organized by Ambassador for Peace Mr. Alejandro D'Alessandro.

The event closed with a reading of a poem by pastor and Ambassador for Peace, Alba Rosa Contardo and a singing of a song by Mrs. Rosa Barcellos, who was accompanied by Mr. Alejandro Peralta, who played the piano.

Mar del Plata

In Mar del Plata, the International Day of Friendship was celebrated on August 17 at the Family Institute. Among the new Ambassadors for Peace appointed were Mr. Silvio Fiora-Valeria Suárez; Mr. Daniel Fernández; Ms. Graciela López Iguíñez; and Ms. Mirta Correa, who co-hosted the event. They each lit a candle to symbolize their commitment.

The emcee was Mr. Jorge Moisano, who organized the event with his wife, Mirta Zangaro; Mr. Ricardo Gómez; and Ms. Elsa Correa. Mr. Zangaro Moisano read quotes and passages about friendship (4), while Ms. Yamila Gómez read the UN Secretary-General's message. Afterwards, Ambassador for Peace, Ms. Graciela López Iguíñez, read the poem, "Desiderata de la unidad," (5) which was written by poet and Ambassador for Peace, Hugo López Pénelas, for the celebration.