

Spiritual retreat in South Korea

*Article by Yunil Yang (Tatiana) and Geongok Cheon (Clara)
Provincial Coordinators for the Province of Light of the Orient*

From Saturday 17 May to Sunday 18 May, four Faith and Light communities from South Korea gathered for a retreat. A total of 91 people took part, including Father Maximilian, chaplain of the Light of the Orient province; Father Cho Byung-hwan, chaplain of the Cheongju Dandelion community; and Father Ahn Hyo-seok, chaplain of the Mokpo Lighthouse community. **The theme of the retreat, 'Hope does not disappoint us' (Romans 5:5), fits perfectly with the Jubilee theme, "Pilgrims of Hope."**



This year, we gathered at a retreat centre nestled in Jirisan, the largest and most beautiful mountain in southern Korea. Surrounded by the coolness of early summer and the gentle murmur of water flowing through deep valleys, **we spent two days sharing love, friendship and the Word of God; a time of joy and renewal.**

The first day began with a welcome Mass, followed by a time of fellowship, praise and a conference given by Father Cho Byung-hwan. After dinner, we prayed the rosary to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The next day we shared morning prayer, followed by songs of praise, a conference by Father Ahn Hyo-seok and sharing in small groups. As a sign of unity, we also took part in a creative activity: colouring the Faith and Light logo together.

The two inspiring conferences invited us to reflect more deeply on the meaning of the Jubilee focused on Hope. We drew new strength and new hope to live as children of God, confident, without losing faith even in difficult times. **Meeting friends from other communities renewed our sense of solidarity and friendship.** It was also a blessing to pray and praise God with a peaceful heart in such a beautiful setting. We left feeling reinvigorated, our hearts strengthened and encouraged, ready to resume our daily lives with renewed hope.



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