

International BK Team Serves at Historic Parliament of World's Religions



The seventh Parliament of the World's Religions convened in Toronto from November 1-7, 2018, 125 years after the first Parliament took place at the Chicago World's Fair. 7,500 people representing nearly 200 religions participated. The theme was 'The Promise of Inclusion; The Power of Love.'

The Brahma Kumaris had a beautiful booth showing a big tree of virtues which represented the expression of the true nature of all embodied souls, regardless of religion. Shiv Baba was shown as the Seed of the tree and above the tree in the Incorporeal World as the Father of souls. The picture attracted much interest, and conversations about the picture sparked many friendships. Each visitor left with a virtue card shaped like a flower and a booklet with a virtue for each day of the week.





The Brahma Kumaris also participated in many panel discussions on environment, science and consciousness, women’s leadership and interfaith activities, and conducted an early morning meditation.





A big player at this Parliament was a loose coalition of spiritually-based activists who are addressing social, environmental and political problems from a spiritual base but not necessarily from any religion. They use the term ‘inter-spiritual’ to describe what they all have in common. One such participant said, “It’s not about what we believe; it’s about what we can do together.”





Some newcomers to the 'The Promise of Inclusion' were the millennials and the LGBT community. Both groups want to share in the process of making the world better, and both groups encouraged the people of religions to embrace diversity and stop focusing on differences. They and all newcomers to the Parliament were met with beautiful gestures of love and welcome.



The BK team at the Parliament included Sr Maureen and Sr Georgina from UK, Sr Valerieane from Geneva, CH, Br Damian from AU, Sr Savi, Sr Pam, Sr Tanya Sr Nora, Sr Debbie and Br David from Canada, and Br Erik, Sr Madhavi and Sr Mary from USA. Sr Binny from Global Hospital in Madhuban also attended. The team was showered with royal hospitality from the Toronto BK family. Both the Toronto family and the visitors felt blessed by Baba and drama to have participated in this important event, and all look forward to an even fuller participation in the next Parliament in 2 or 3 years.