

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER GRADUATE REFLECTS: A MORE PROFOUND UNDERSTANDING OF MARRIAGE

It was raining as we pulled into the driveway of the retreat house. We were greeted with a warm welcome and overwhelming hospitality. Our luggage was carried for us, we were shown where to register, our picture then was taken and we were escorted to our room.

Once in our room, I said to my husband, “they took our keys” and he responded, “there is no TV in here”. We knew why our keys were taken, and it is not because of limited parking. Time that would have been spent watching TV was replaced with dialogues of truth, heartfelt reflections and healing through the love and forgiving grace of God.

We experienced the love of God as told in the heartwarming sharings of Erin & Lito and Mita & Boyet. We were touched by their joys and sorrows, as we all had tears in our eyes and tissues close at hand. We were awed by their strength and courage in sharing with us the most personal and intimate trials of their lives. We appreciated their deep faith in God, and we realized how our Lord is faithful to us even during our times of weakness and disobedience. Our hearts were opened, allowing us to examine our own transgressions, hurts, disappointments and anger. We were reminded too of God’s love through all of our blessings and joy. The sharers’ selflessness will not be forgotten.

We were blessed by the refreshing gift of Father Tito, whose humor, teachings, preaching and guidance kept us Christ centered. His knowledge of the scriptures connected us to the biblical principles we follow.

Spiritual and relational healings took place that weekend. In time, we will hear of emotional and physical healings as well. Father Tito said that Christ did not come down off the cross because it was too difficult, but because He loves us and is obedient to the will of God. We too are called to be obedient to God’s will.

I have never had a more profound understanding of the meaning of the sacrament of marriage. Marriage is a journey of love through trials.

Thank you my Lord and my God for giving me the insight into what love is; what it truly means to love. How beautiful love is: in sickness and in health, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, ‘til death do us part.