

Twin Talks, Twin Treats, and More...

Joey & Grace Marquez

For the CFM Formation Committee, the second half of 2019 was as busy as the first. On July 6, 2019, “Twin Talks” was unwittingly born. Twin Talks is a two-in-one treat for those who like to immerse themselves in fruitful relaxation--spending a day with CFM friends, while availing of two seminar-workshops on topics relevant to CFM’s apostolate. The twin talks on this day were to be a refueling stop for its attendees--hopefully recharging the fervor in each one, for each one’s ministry. The main hall at Nazareth Home was then cramped with some 60 CFMers in attendance! The day’s fare included *Relearning Prayer* in the morning, and *Self-Care* in the afternoon. The morning talk was a personal sharing of the speaker (Grace Marquez) on some alternative dispositions for prayer. *Self-Care* was devoted to understanding and appreciating the most important tool in one’s ministry—the Self. This talk was also given by Grace, with husband, Joey, assisting.

Very soon after, the couple had to respond to requests to conduct the talks again. *Self-Care* was presented in the general assembly of San Antonio Abad Parish (Pasig Diocese) on July 28; and on November 9, the twin talks were delivered in San Fernando, Pampanga. Hosts Jimmy and Zeny Torres and their team gathered not just CFMers, but also other Family & Life Ministry workers of St. Jude Thaddeus Parish.

Twin Talks 2, with the theme “stewardship and service,” soon followed. This was held on September 21, at the Christ the King Parish Formation Center (Cubao Diocese). The first talk, Joey Clemente’s *CFM: The Joys of Renewal Through Stewardship*, was an invitation to revisit “Stewardship” as a means of renewal and a call to an alternative lifestyle. This was aptly followed by Fr. Herman Abcede’s call to service, *Hinulma para sa Paglilingkod*. CFM continued to reflect on these themes (especially “Stewardship”) in its 35th Biennial National Convention in Subic, on October 25 to 27.

Back in their home parish, Joey & Grace also conducted *Nurturing Family Spirituality* on October 21. This talk coaches families on nurturing relationships with the self, with the family, and with the bigger community, through a necessary connection with God.

A collaboration with another family & life organization in their parish resulted in the development of the talk *Depression—Pag-Usapan Natin*. This was designed to help young people understand depression as a matter of mental health concern, and how they can deal with it.

The biggest challenge for the Committee, however, was responding to a last-minute request to present a talk about family issues at the national convention of the Catholic Education Association of the Philippines (CEAP) in Iloilo City, on September 26. Due to time constraints, and in the desire to proffer a more hopeful perspective, this couple proposed to talk about “Resilience” instead. And so, they presented *Bangon Ako: Nurturing Resilience in the Filipino Youth* in one of the concurrent sessions of the Convention. Evaluation results from the CEAP Working Committee showed that the talk was indeed “relevant and inspiring.”

Will CFMers get a chance to hear this talk too? Hmm, sounds like the makings of Twin Talks 3....

Well,... see you then... :)

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Team with Participants



Speakers