

The Phenomenon Of Migrating And Families"

Testimony by Fernando Gomez

Good Morning, I am Mr. Fernando Gomez, I live here in Milan, I am from Philippines. Here with me today my family, my wife Maria Bernadette and my children Ayra Mae and Arvy Don. Here we are in front of you to give a testimonial talk about "The Phenomenon Of Migrating And Families".

I would like to start my invention remembering the Holy Family, Jesus Family like ours, my family, in which apparently similar to many others them too, are migrant family. Joseph as father feeling the need of taking a decision to leave with Mary sensing imminent danger for his family, especially for Jesus the Child, this forcing them to face hard road and leave. As what St. Matthew wrote in this gospel. (Matthew 2:13-14)

On this family journey, the main actors are parents especially the father, who is called to provide good living conditions for the children. As of today's life, this is what happens to many families who are forced to leave their home or land in order to offer their children better living conditions and protect and remove them to dangers of the world around them. The example of Jesus Family journey to Egypt may refer to the universal, experience of many families today like ours. A journey that will lead parents to their maturity and their children to adulthood. To the awareness of their vocation the road for building a family. Generating and educating children is a hard, difficult task at the part of parents. The many difficulties that they could encounter can be a source of discouragement to go with this journey but with faith that God will always be together going in this journey will make them more strong and able to face all these difficulties. I myself had experienced these difficulties. My family had suffer and lived with these dangerous and subtle threats, the poverty so I decided to migrate. here in Italy to be able to give them more comfort but leaving them is a painful decisions for a father that I would not be able to see them grow. But these are decisions that should be made leaving them behind but not knowing what life I will find in a foreign land but with me is my determination to go on in this journey to give my family a hope to defend from poverty. This is what parents means about giving their children the most that they can give.

With me in my journey facing all difficulties that I could encounter is God and my Faith.

The belief that he is always with me to protect me while walking this road to change my loneliness and sorrows into joy and peace as well as with my family. The hope that someday I and my family will be united again and altogether walking in this path, taking this hard long roads in facing life.

God answered my prayers. Now we are all united I know this is not the end of this path, but rather the start of a new road. A new journey, we will still encounter much more difficulties, more trials. We will do sacrifices and so they are but what is important is that we are together. We trust our life in God, faith in Him will make all new and will give back vitally to my family. We put Jesus Christ in our centre and follow His footsteps. As of now we are part of a community Couples For Christ and together with other families we walk and take this journey, the road that will lead us to God's Kingdom.

Today, we are living here in Milan, my wife and I are working and my children goes in school. We are still struggling, with many barriers that affects our life. The language, the culture, the way of life here. With respect to our mother country but not withstanding all of these we continue our journey of building a family. What is most important is we are united moving forward with Christ fullness of Life in God.