

DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY

DISSERTATION ABSTRACT

Title : *Ethnographic Evaluation: Pre-Cana Program in Selected Parishes of Manila, Using CIPP Model.*

Researcher : Miss Victoria L. Honrada

Adviser : Dr. Sahud Evangelista, Ph.D.

School : De la Salle University, Manila.

Year : September, 1996

Degree Conferred : Doctor of Education
Major in Religious and Values Education

Statement of the Problem

This study aimed to evaluate the Pre-Cana Program in selected parishes of the ecclesiastical District of Manila 1995-1996, using Stufflebeam's Context-Input-Process-Product model.

The context evaluation referred to the objectives of the respondent parishes for Pre-Cana program, the directives of the Church as contained in the goals of the ECFL and the defined objectives of Simbahayan Commission - Manila Archdiocese Commission on Marriage and Family Life Ministry, the expectations engaged couples in participating the parish marriage preparation and identify possible unmet needs. For the input are of the evaluation, researcher



DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY

looked into the profile of the respondents and facilitators, and their early formation received that they bring with them in the program. This also included the non-human resources which consisted of the venue, multi media, equipment, and others. For the process of evaluation, the services offered in the parishes were considered, the format of approaches, and the methods used in the Pre-Cana Program. The strengths of the program, difficulties encountered and the weaknesses seen in the program were identified by the program director respondents which they perceived to have possibly hindered the full attainment of the goals and objectives of the program. Finally, in the product area of evaluation, the researcher gave feedback on the attainments of objectives in parishes. The information obtained whether the program was of help to the engaged couples, the perceived overall value of the program on them. The satisfaction of the engaged couples on the performance of the program and its facilitators. Recommendations were made based on the outcome of the evaluation.

The respondents in the study includes the following: Respondents of the survey questionnaire and interview included 18 Priests as Program Director, 31 Pre-Cana Seminar Facilitators, 109 Individual Participants (engaged persons) in the Pre-Cana Seminar, a Canon Lawyer who serves in the Cebu Archdiocesan Marriage Tribunal as Defender of the Bond, a priest who is actively involved in Marriage Encounter, Retrouvaille and Discovery Weekend/Evening for more



DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY

than 20 years, and finally, a family woman who serves actively in the parish as volunteer lay facilitator of Pre-Cana in the Vicariate of St. Andrew for more than 10 years.

The parish Pre-Cana Program included in the study were from the 7 vicariates of the ecclesiastical District of Manila. Included were Pre-Cana Program of 33 parishes out of 44 parishes of the District of Manila, 1995-1996.

The present study elaborated on the initial findings of *Simbahayan Commission* reported last July, 1995 on the condition of the preparation for marriage in the Archdiocese of Manila. The result of the study provides feedback to the Simbahayan Commission on the Pre-Cana program specifically in the ecclesiastical district of Manila. Further, the study affirms the efforts made to prepare couples prior to the reception of the sacrament of matrimony in parishes provide an avenue where to look for the needed pastoral care for couples.

The descriptive-evaluative method of research was employed in the study, and made use of ethnography in its data gathering. The research was largely field based, thus participative observation, interviews, and analysis of extant documents available greatly helped the study.



DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY

FINDINGS

The results of the study under the context area of evaluation show that the parish Pre-Cana objectives as perceived by the program directors and program facilitators were to assist engaged couples and make them aware of the essential teachings of the Church on the nature, purpose and responsibilities of married and family life. According to the authorities consulted however, the parish objectives reflected only to a limited extent the Church objectives for marriage preparation. The profile of the engaged couple show that the participants in the study were generally in their marrying age, who had adequate tertiary education, and were gainfully employed, who received some instruction in religion and marriage catechesis while in elementary and/or secondary, and in their tertiary education. The length of time devoted in their preparation generally was done in 2-4 hours. There were a few of the participants who said they received preparation for 8 hours. They also indicated that they had been actively participating in Church sacraments and have a strong sense of belonging to the Church. The profile on the facilitators showed that not many parishes have lay facilitators in their team. There was a big gap seen in the reparation received between the priests and lay facilitators. The nonhuman resource/materials and facilities that supports the program varied from parish to parish. The more



DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY

progressive parishes have adequate materials and resources that enable them to be more effective and systematic in the implementation of the program. The services offered by the parish program for the engaged couples primarily were the canonical interviews; Pre-Cana Seminar ; the celebrations of the sacraments, and counselling. The data gathered also revealed that in most parishes, the most common format of approach to Pre-Cana was the Private session between the Priest and Couple. The One on One Session between the engaged couple and the facilitators were also used. The participants viewed the parish Pre-Cana received to have been helpful to them. The facilitators perceived the program to be a valuable experience for them to assist to providing preparation to engaged couples. The program was perceived to be relevant, realistic and culture bound. The participants in the study likewise gave the facilitators favorable evaluation for the the quality of preparation made on the topics / contents presented during the pre-CanaSeminar. Likewise, the facilitators were also favorably evaluated on the relevance of the presentations and on their ability to answer questions raised during the Pre-Cana Seminar. Generally, the participants expressed satisfaction in the contribution of the facilitators in the Pre-Cana Program received in the parish. The authorities consulted to make judgment on the extent by which the parish Pre-Cana achieved the objectives defined by the Simbahayan Commission said, the respondent parishes achieved their objectives to some extent.



DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the findings of the study the following conclusions were reached:

1. The parish respondents in the study to some extent have programs to assist engaged couples prepare themselves to receive the sacrament of matrimony.
2. Majority of the participants view the parish marriage preparation as a valuable experience.
3. The required nature of marriage preparation in the parishes does not appear in the way of participants finding value in it.
4. The approaches and methods used in marriage preparation contribute importantly to its perceived value.
5. The topics addressed in the marriage preparation that were perceived to have been given by the facilitators better preparation were on Christian Marriage , Christian Parenting and Marriage Rites.
6. The short duration of time given to Pre-Cana, was perceived by authorities to make the preparation as a crash-course.
7. Facilitators needs continuing formation for them to be effective in the ministry.

