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A TRUE-TO-LIFE STUDY ON THE CHALLENGES OF
MARRIED MINISTERS IN THE PHILIPPINES

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by

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Chapter IV

SUMMARY

The challenges of married ministers in the Philippines come from financial difficulties, social relations, time management, spiritual life, church expectations, understanding God's purpose for marriage, understanding the husband's responsibilities, conjugal unity through good communication, developing sexual unity, a common philosophy for raising children, promoting and maintaining unity by means of family religion and residence, continuing education for competence, and setting right priorities. Their major challenges are being a father and being a husband, the spiritual growth of the members, and delivering well-presented sermons with deeper meaning.

The sources (or causes) of the challenges are the national economic crisis, the need for full liberty in presenting the Gospel, having the right attitude and perspective to the ministry, making marriage work, motivation of improving one's profession, and too much expectation of the people.



The coping mechanisms or solutions to the challenges are the living faith, the Bible, income-generating sidelines of pastors, vacation time or family set time, discipline, and training like further studies and support of the wife in all aspects anytime.

Conclusion:

Eighty-three point three percent (83.3%) of the respondents encountered financial difficulties with regard to their growing families or in supporting their children and 16.7% did not experience this difficulty. Sixty-six point seven percent (66.7%) of the respondents experienced social challenges in their social relations with their wives and children in the projection of the image of a minister's family; 33.3% did not have this particular challenge. Ninety-three point three percent (93.3%) considered time management as one of the major challenges of the respondents and 6.7% did not consider this as a problem. Fifty percent (50%) of the respondents experienced difficulties in their spiritual lives while the other 50% did not undergo such situation as married minister. Eighty-three point three percent (83.3%) of the respondents found it hard to follow the rules and procedures of their denominations being ministers as



well as in respecting the orders of their superiors and 16.7% found it easy to relate with their superiors.

Seventy-six point seven percent (76.7%) of the respondents had difficulties as ministerial leaders to line up to the expectations of their members; 23.3% did not have any challenge to this specific role.

Twenty percent (20%) of the respondents believed that married clergyman had differently in observing chastity, and 30% did not experience this. Sixteen point seven percent (16.7%) believed that there were certain advantages to a celibate rather than a married clergy, and 83.3% opposed the idea.



Table 3

Rank of Challenges by Number of Respondents Who Encountered These Challenges
With No. of Reasons/Sources and Number of Coping Mechanisms

Rank	Challenges Encountered	No. Who Encountered	No. of Reasons Sources	No. of Coping Mechanisms
1	Time Management	28 93.3%	7	9
2.5	Financial difficulties	25 83.3%	5	11
2.5	Following rules/ regulations & orders of superiors	25 83.3%	7	7
4	Living up to expectations of members	23 76.7%	9	10
5	Social relations with wife and children	20 66.7%	2	6
6	Difficulties in Spiritual life	15 50.0%	3	7
7	Observance of chastity	6 20.0%	2	5
8	More advantages for celibate life	5 16.7%	1	5

Base on the results, the majority of the respondents experienced the most difficulties in the following challenges being married ministers: financial aspect, spcial relations, time management, obedience and expectations of the society. Majority of the respondents did not encounter difficulties to this challenge being married ministers: chastity. The respondents were divided in relation to the aspect of spiritual life because half experienced difficulties and the other half managed to cope with it. Majority of the respondents considered celibacy as disadvantageous to their ministry and few are in favor of celibacy.

Facing all these realities, they are still walking with faith in God in order to live up to the expectations of God and people.

Recommendations

1. A similar study with statistical analysis of data generated by an original questionnaire first utilizes the results of this study.
2. An in depth study on the role of the pastor's wife in the ministry with focus on her problems, the causes of the problems, and the probable solutions to the problems.



3. A comparative study on the issue of mandatory celibacy among the secular/diocesan priests the religious/missionary priests, and the nuns and religious brothers.

4. A comprehensive study on the salary, income, and attitudes of married and unmarried ministers both male and female to draw out the existing patterns of ministerial compensation and express concern for the ministers salary, fringe benefits, and expense allowances necessary to carry on an effective ministry to relate compensation to broader issues such as denomination, the size of the congregation, the type of community, the region, age, the years of ministerial experience, education, and to assess ministerial attitudes toward compensation and work.

5. An objective study that will focus on the reasons why Catholic priests/nuns/brothers leave the ministry, with ex-religious, ex seminarians, and seculars as subjects.

