

Faculty Profile for RMT-CEFAM
(Updated as of December 2023)

Maria Gracia Bello-Marquez, MA

Lecturer, Family Ministries and Pastoral Counseling

Contact information

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Course

Family Spirituality and Sexual Ethics

Areas of Interest

Family resilience (especially for the youth), pre-marital and marital counseling, personal growth and well-being through self-awareness, pastoral accompaniment of families and of persons in recovery from substance use (especially in a community-based recovery program setting)

Background

Maria Gracia (Grace) B. Marquez is a pastoral counselor for individuals, couples, and families at the RMT-CEFAM, the family ministry arm of the Jesuits in the Philippines. She is an active member of the Center's Resilience Program (REPRO) where she is facilitator, trainor, and technical support. She also lends a hand to the other working clusters in the Center.

Grace graduated from CEFAM's Professional Diploma Program in Family Ministry and Counseling (2010), and its Apprenticeship Program (2011). She earned her Master of Arts degree in Pastoral Ministry: Family Ministry and Counseling from the Ateneo de Manila University/ Loyola School of Theology (2017). In 2018 and 2019, she was adjunct faculty at the MFI Polytechnic Institute, teaching *Work Ethics and Values Education* as part of the adolescent students' formal education program.

Grace holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Food Technology from the University of the Philippines (1982). As a food technologist, she worked in the food industry for over 15 years, holding various technical positions. She retired as manager for Research & Development of a leading food and beverage manufacturing corporation.

In her parish, Grace has been serving for many years as lector/ commentator and as trainor for its liturgical committee, and as speaker/ counselor/ resource person in its family and life ministry. In 2017, at the height of the drug war that began a year before, Grace was involved as program developer, trainor, and facilitator of the community-based recovery program for drug users in their diocese.

Since 1995, Grace and her husband have been members of the pioneer family and life movement in the country. Soon after, they have been occupying leadership positions at various levels. At national level, they were coordinators for its Family and Life Committee from 2014 to 2017. From then to date, they are national chair-couple for its Formation Committee.