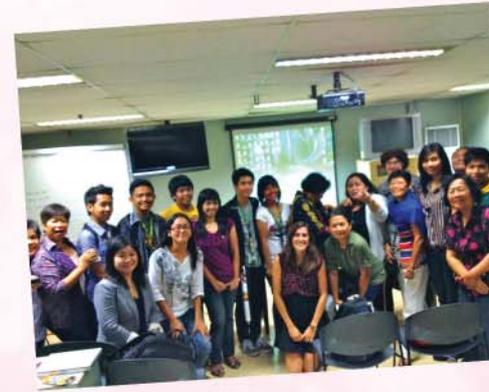


Seminar-Workshop on the Issues of Filipinos in Intermarriage



Through the conduct of GCP, various violations/irregularities on the pre-requisites of marriage are uncovered such as discrepancies in the information indicated in the marriage certificate, wedding ceremonies taking place even before the issuance of the marriage license, forged parental consent or advice, among others. It was also found out that these violations are usually facilitated by marriage brokers.

Because of the rising number of problematic cases involving Filipinos in intermarriage, the CFO is faced with the challenge of trying to identify more professionals who can give initial assistance to Filipino fiancé(e)s, spouses and other partners even before their attendance to the CFO's GCP.

One proposed solution is the conduct of a seminar for those who have for some reason or the other have an opportunity to meet with Filipinos who are spouses, fiancés or partners of foreign nationals, namely, local civil registrars, pre-marriage counselors from the local social welfare offices, faith-based organizations and parishes.

The primary objective of the seminar is to provide awareness to the intended participants on the

specific issues of inter-marriage and to enhance their counseling skills in addressing the needs of Filipinos in intermarriage.

Specifically, it aims to engage the participants in disseminating the information about the mandatory Guidance and Counseling Program of the CFO; review the current Philippine laws regarding marriage; orient on the salient features of RA 9208 as amended by 10364 and other laws related to intermarriage and violence against women; discuss the issues and concerns on intermarriage encountered and identified by the participants; and popularize the use of the 1343 Actionline against Human Trafficking as a means to report suspected or confirmed cases of human trafficking and mail-order bride scheme.

From August 2015 to January 2016, seminar-workshops were conducted in Davao City, Cebu City, Angeles City, Batangas and Metro Manila. The areas were selected based on the number of registrants in the CFO's GCP. The activities were attended by 164 participants who are marriage counselors from the local government units and faith-based organizations, and social workers.