

## **RELIGIOUS INVOLVEMENT, MARRIAGE PREPARATION PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS, AND READINESS FOR MARRIAGE: A STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK FOR FAITH-BASED PRACTICES**

**Leonardo B. Tamayo, Jr., MM**

Catanduanes Colleges

**PHILIPPINES**

Email: [frbongtamayo@yahoo.com](mailto:frbongtamayo@yahoo.com)

**Dr. Pedrito Jose V. Bermudo**

Catanduanes Colleges & University of Perpetual Help System Biñan Laguna

**PHILIPPINES**

Email: [bermudo.pedrito@uphsl.edu.ph](mailto:bermudo.pedrito@uphsl.edu.ph) & [pete\\_bermudo@yahoo.com](mailto:pete_bermudo@yahoo.com)

**Genena O. Robles**

Catanduanes Colleges

**PHILIPPINES**

Email: [genenaorobles@gmail.com](mailto:genenaorobles@gmail.com)

### **ABSTRACT**

This study examined religious involvement, perceived effectiveness of the marriage preparation program, and readiness for marriage among Catholic couples under the Diocesan Family and Life Commission, Diocese of Virac. Specifically, it addressed respondents' levels of religious involvement across four dimensions—Sacramental Participation, Personal Devotion, Parish and Community Engagement, and Adherence to Catholic Teachings and Values; the perceived effectiveness of the marriage preparation program; the level of readiness for marriage; and the relationships among these variables. A descriptive-correlational design was employed with 133 respondent-couples selected through systematic random sampling from a population of 250 couples. Null hypotheses were tested at the 0.05 significance level. Findings revealed high religious involvement, with an overall mean of 3.34 (“Strongly Agree/Highly Involved”). Adherence to Catholic Teachings and Values ranked highest (3.50), followed by Sacramental Participation (3.46), Personal Devotion (3.28), and Parish and Community Engagement (3.11). The marriage preparation program was perceived as highly effective (overall mean 3.47), particularly in Practical Guidance for Married Life (3.52) and Understanding the Sacramental Nature of Marriage (3.51). Respondents demonstrated strong readiness for marriage across emotional-psychological and practical domains (3.50 each) and highest in the spiritual/value-based domain (3.60). Correlation analysis indicated no significant relationship between religious involvement and perceived program effectiveness ( $r = 0.414 < 0.444$ ). However, strong positive relationships existed between religious involvement and readiness for marriage ( $r = 0.857 > 0.444$ ) and between program effectiveness and readiness ( $r = 0.510 > 0.444$ ). The study concludes that higher religious involvement enhances marital preparedness, and perceptions of program effectiveness correspond with greater readiness. While program effectiveness does not depend on religious involvement, strategic management practices can further strengthen faith engagement and improve program quality, supporting more prepared and resilient Catholic couples.

**Keywords:** Descriptive Correlational Study, Religious Involvement, Marriage Preparation Program Effectiveness, Readiness for Marriage, Strategic Management Framework, Faith-Based Practices