

Interview of Wencilito and Fauzia Annie Andanar, a Philippine Blessed Couple

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Question: We are the 2018 International Leadership Conference. I am with a recently blessed couple. Please introduce yourselves.

[Mrs. Andanar holds the microphone for her husband.] My name is Attorney Wencilito Andanar. We're now with the Philippine Olympic Committee. I used to be undersecretary and acting secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government.

She; I am Fauzia Annie Andanar. I am presidential assistant for special concerns for the Philippine Olympic Committee. I used to work in the House of Representatives in the Philippines.

Question: Are you here with the Philippine Olympic team?

No. Actually, we are here for the International Leadership Conference. We only had two athletes, two entries in the Winter Olympics in

Question: For the Philippines, having any athletes in the Winter Olympics is quite an accomplishment.

She; Yes, we have only two athletes but in the Philippines, we really don't have snow, so it is something special. These two athletes are figure skater, Mr. Michael Martinez, and Alpine skier, Mr. Asa Miller. Mr. Miller trained in America and Mr. Martinez trained not only in America but in also Europe.

Question: Could you tell me of your experience participating in the blessing ceremony?

He; Yes. For me, it was a life-changing. We have been married for twenty-nine years and we have beautiful children. The last one is about to graduate with his Bachelor of Arts in Diplomacy and International Relations, so we thought that what is needed by the world is peace but to achieve that we need inter-religious harmony. My learning is that inter-religious harmony is key to international peace and the foundation of that is the family. Strong loving families will engender strong, loving communities and strong loving nations and one global village.

She; It is both timely and I'd like to say we've come full circle. We have been involved in peace efforts in the Philippines as a student, as a political worker, as a government official in our legislature and truly God is great and God is good all the time because he brought us to the International Leadership Conference. We attended the ILC in Thailand in November and since then our lives have changed. We thank the Universal Peace Federation for its consistency and for its tireless efforts in strengthening families because we believe that strengthened families make for peaceful communities.



Question: How did you respond to the idea when someone approached you about attending the marriage blessing after 29 years of marriage?

He; Well, we have been having a number of marriage blessings. That was the last one. We had and we thought that it was really great in the sense that we had to renew our vows for each other and this time more strongly. I told my wife this time that we have to be more tolerant, not only with each other but with our neighbors because, as everybody teaches us, we are all one family under God.

She; It is really a special blessing and it's like all marriages, every day is a journey. You are two different people, given different backgrounds, though we work in the same organization -- we have always worked together. We were friends before we became lovers and now parents and grandparents to thirteen beautiful grandchildren. We thank God for all the blessings and for the benefits of being in love all the time with each other and with all of our children.

He; We hope we will be able to contribute to the efforts of the Rev. and Mrs. Moon toward achieving universal peace, and we are truly blessed to be invited to this international conference by the Universal Peace Federation.

She; In fact, I have an injury, an ankle injury. This happened in Germany in the last week of December. I was thinking of whether I could make it to Seoul to attend this very important, critical conference. God allowed it to be and I thank everyone, Dr. Yong of the Universal Peace Federation-Asia, Dr. Julius from the Philippines and all those who made this possible. Thank you and thank you also for having us here.