

continued from front

Teacher Rolan Monje, the keynote speaker, shared an inspiring message centered around the theme verse, 2 Corinthians 3:18 (ESV): “And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.”

He emphasized that “beholding Jesus” is crucial for transformation. This was his sole challenge to the PDC attendees: “Get a deeper look to observe Jesus truthfully to the point that he transforms you.”

Referencing Mark 1 and John 1, he highlighted Jesus’ calling of the first disciples to follow him, urging everyone to be passionate about following Jesus.

Using Matthew 9:12-13, Rolan underscored Jesus’ desire for mercy over sacrifice. He noted that as disciples get older, there’s a tendency to count every good work done for God and the church. However, he stressed the importance of practicing mercy over sacrifice, as God sees every action and pleases the Holy Spirit.

“For Jesus, mas importante yung mercy, pagpapatawad, ang pakikiisa natin, yung pakikitungo sa tao, yung kagandahang loob (For Jesus, mercy, forgiveness, our solidarity, how we deal with people, and kindness are more important),” he said.

Citing Jesus’ conversation with the Samaritan woman in John 4, Rolan emphasized the importance of extending grace, taking a moment to behold Jesus, and addressing issues in an edifying manner. He spoke about offering Jesus’ healing to a world in need, worshiping, loving, resolving conflicts, and reaching out to others as Jesus did.

“As we behold Jesus, we progressively become like him. We

all reflect the glory of God through Jesus. Let’s look, gaze, and reflect. Let’s behold and be transformed,” he concluded.

#### **PDC classes**

Leadership classes were held on the afternoon of July 18 and the morning of July 19, before the PDC opening night. We were blessed to have a variety of speakers from around the Philippines and from many sister churches in the US.

On the evening of July 18, a surprise recognition dinner was held to honor all ICOPH church and sector leaders who have served faithfully in non-full-time roles.

On July 20, delegates attended various classes tailored to different groups, including marrieds, singles, Envolv (campus), teens, seniors, and mega moms ministries. Special sessions focused on becoming a Bible defender, supporting parents with special needs, and developing aspiring leaders.

Additionally, the Beacon (mental and emotional health awareness) and Embrace (for same-sex-attracted individuals) were introduced through the “Safe Space” class.

#### **Lasting impact**

As delegates returned to their cities and provinces, they eagerly shared their insights and experiences during devotionals and services.

Indeed, the “Transformed” Philippine Discipleship Conference 2024 was not just an event—it was a celebration of faith, unity, and cultural diversity. The grand opening, insightful teachings, and engaging fellowship created a lasting impact, inspiring continued growth and transformation long after the conference ended.

*Adapted from icoc.ph*

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# Philippine Discipleship Conference 2024 Celebrates Spiritual Transformation

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**ACR Conference**  
Virginia Beach, VA, USA  
September 20-22, 2024

**DT Hawaii Cruise**  
September 21-28, 2024

**Americas Workshops for Spanish Speakers**  
Online • October 5, 2024

**InsideOut Christian Counselors Conference**  
Atlanta, GA, USA  
October 18-19, 2024

**ICOC Delegates Meeting**  
Online  
October 19, 2024

**Pure & Simple XV**  
Saddle Brook, NJ, USA  
November 8-10, 2024

**Beloved & Dignified**  
Online  
March 28-29 2025

September 6, 2024 • Marianne Abalayan – Davao City, Philippines

Call it a reunion, even a grand homecoming—the “Transformed” Philippine Discipleship Conference 2024 exceeded expectations, leaving nearly 4,000 attendees eager for more.

The spectacular opening night on July 19 and the inspiring yet challenging lessons from diverse classes for all life stages on July 20 have left a lasting impact on the hearts and minds of participants. The encouraging fellowship and fun get-togethers added the perfect finishing touch to the PDC weekend that culminated with the 35th anniversary of ICOC Philippines.

#### **Grand opening**

The opening night of the conference was truly uplifting. In Hymn, the congregational worship ministry, and D4G (Dance for God), the congregational dance ministry of ICOC Philippines, led a spirited praise and worship session.

After the final song, In Hymn’s drummers stole the spotlight. Torchbearers dressed in Barong Tagalog, suits, and indigenous attire paraded from various corners of the SMX Convention Center at the Mall of Asia Arena. They lined up on both sides of the center aisle, ushering in a grand parade of delegates from 39 churches in Luzon, the Visayas, and Mindanao. Each delegate showcased the rich cultures of their cities and regions through their traditional attire. Each church was introduced to the congregation, highlighting the year it was planted and God’s sustaining grace and love. The torchbearers then ascended the stage, forming a cross with their torches.

Joseph “Bobby” Montealegre and his wife, Susan, welcomed the delegates warmly. During the welcome, Susan said, “Three to four years ago, this was just a dream when we went through a difficult pandemic—just praying that one day we’ll see each other once again and gather as brothers and sisters. Today it’s finally here. Welcome to our reunion and homecoming, ICOC Philippines.”

Eight brothers then prayed in their native languages and dialects, heightening the atmosphere and uniting the diverse gathering.

**‘Beholding Jesus’**



## CONNECTING DISCIPLES IN CHURCHES AROUND THE WORLD



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