



## ***The Wonderful Wedding Show 2024 – A Reflection***



*Yssa Arlegue and Marie Brunet, Coordinators of the Catholic Marriage Services Booth  
at the Wonderful Wedding Show 2024*

At this year's Wonderful Wedding Show, Jay and I had the honour of being able to represent the Archdiocese of Saint Boniface and the Archdiocese of Winnipeg through the shared "Catholic Marriage Services" Booth. Having gone from the season of engagement (Easter 2022) to marriage (August 25, 2023), it was a privilege to be able to speak with booth visitors. We humbly offered our fresh experience of being newly and happily married with the support and guidance of the Church as a pillar of our journey.

Jay and I treasure our time diving into our *Marriage Preparation Program: For Better & For Ever* alongside our sponsor couple through our home parish, St. Patrick's church. We were able to intimately discuss family experiences as children, finances, communication, aspirations for growing our family in faith, ways of dealing with conflict, and so much more. Our Nuptial Mass and every

day experience as a married couple is full of so much meaning because we had the opportunity to prepare our whole selves.

Everyone comes to the Wonderful Wedding Show with hopes of making their wedding full of perfect and personalized touches. Our hope was that with the presence of the Catholic Marriage Services booth, engaged couples would know that they could find support not only for their wedding day, but as well as for their entire marriage. One of my favourite moments as an exhibitor was seeing a couple



*Justony and Jay Genido on their wedding day.*

quietly whisper to themselves. They weren't sure if they should ask their question or not. Through a warm greeting, we were able to invite the couple over to the booth. They shared their story and struggle to find a parish that could help them prepare for their marriage. After making the right connections and sharing our own experience, they thanked us, and let us know they were so happy to know that "they are not alone in this." We pray that all Catholic church communities in Manitoba can be the Bridegroom's arms extended to engaged couples seeking guidance and support.



*Fr. Rey Dayanan, pastor of St. Patrick's Parish in Winnipeg; Liz Aaron of St. Patrick's Parish; Yssa Arlegue, booth coordinator, as well as Chantal and Rick DeBin, volunteers of St. Helen's Parish in Shoal Lake, in the Archdiocese of Winnipeg.*

A special thanks to all of the volunteers, clergy, and diocesan support that made this booth a possibility. Having Catholic Marriage Services at the Wonderful Wedding show is always an incredible opportunity to refocus couples into seeing the true, beautiful, life-giving nature of marriage with joy and hope! We continue to pray for all engaged couples who are seeking to make a life-long commitment before God, who is Love, Himself.

Justony and Jay Genido, volunteers at the Wonderful Wedding Show for the Archdiocese of Winnipeg