

Session: FamilySearch is for Everyone Who Desires to Discover, Gather and Connect Their Family

Description: Helping Filipinos use FamilySearch in searching and connecting their roots.

Syllabus:

Kumusta? Welcome to my presentation **“FamilySearch is for Everyone Who Desires to Discover, Gather and Connect Their Family”**. If you have roots in the Philippines and your interested on finding your ancestors but not sure where to begin or proceed, FamilySearch has many resources that will help you as you build your family tree.

To start, some of you may be wondering, Bakit FamilySearch? Ano meron?

In FamilySearch you can do the following:

- Create your family line in one collaborative family tree. Ibig sabihin lahat ng users ng FamilySearch nag-wowork sa iisang family tree. One benefit in this collaborative or pagsasama-samang efforts is that we all help each other find people who are connected to our tree. Hindi lang iisa ang gagawa. Mas mapapabilis pa ang pagconnect natin sa mga ancestors and relatives natin.
- FamilySearch has articles and video tutorials on how to do family history. If you have any questions on how to add people on your tree, or where and what type of records you could search, even account issues, FamilySearch has articles that will help you find those answers.
- You can browse through their billions of online records. In the past, FamilySearch has been microfilming genealogical records all over the world. With the advancement of technology they digitized this images and made most of it available in their website. Later, ipapakita ko kung papaano niyo iaccess ang mga digitized records na ito.
- In FamilySearch we can prepare our ancestor’s names for temple ordinances. To create a temple card for our ancestors is easy, especially with tools like ordinance ready.
- And creating an account in FamilySearch is FREE. No subscription payments needed to have an account and use its wonderful features.

If you are a beginner, the first place I want you to go is the FamilySearch Research Wiki.

- The FamilySearch Research Wiki or FamilySearch Wiki is a “free, online genealogical guide. The wiki contains links to genealogy databases, websites, other resources, research strategies, and genealogical guidance to help in the search for your ancestors.”
- The wiki has information on different countries, including the Philippines.
- To go to the wiki just go to the “SEARCH” tab and at the bottom of the list click “Research Wiki”. Then you can search and choose any country or topic that you want to research on.

You can study how to do family history in the Philippines in the Philippine Genealogy Wiki Page.

In this page you can:

- Learn by reading articles like “Finding the Town of Origin” or watch videos like “Reading Spanish Handwriting”.
- Know what type of records you need to use for your research like church records or civil registry and where you can find them.
- Find more information about the province or provinces where your ancestors lived.
- Find online database of records for your research.

(Demonstrate on how to access FamilySearch Research Wiki and the Philippines Genealogy Wiki Page.)

When finding your ancestors, most of your research will involve looking at records.

- FamilySearch has digitized over 5 billion records in their database.
- In the past, records were accessed through ordering microfilm records and using a large machine to view the images in microfilm. But today, these records are digitized and can be accessed online.
- There are two ways of searching through the online records when you are searching for your ancestors:
 - *Searching through the indexed records*
 - *Searching through the unindexed records*
- To search records that were indexed, go to “Search” tab and choose the “Records” and we will go to the Search Historical Records page. We can then input the first and last name of our ancestor as well as the place and year and see the results to review if any of them are a match to our ancestor.
- (Demonstrate how to use this feature and some tips on using the Search Historical Records in finding ancestors)
- There are times that searching through indexed records did not yield the results we wanted. We still could not find our ancestor. It doesn’t mean their records aren’t in FamilySearch but that the records they were in weren’t just indexed. In this we could just browse through the online records. Again, under the “Search” tab you could either use “Images” or “Catalog” to browse the online records.
- (Demonstrate how to use the Images and Catalog)
- Personally, I mostly use Catalog because it also shows records that are not published online and that can lead me to go to local parishes and request for their records through them since I know that those records exist.

As I mentioned earlier, in FamilySearch you can build your family tree or add it up if someone had already done so.

In the FamilySearch Family Tree you can:

- Build Your Tree with Ease. It is very easy to add people and their information.
- You can collaborate with others; family members and relatives can add people and information of your ancestors in the tree. You can also help friends to add people and information in their line.
- You can also connect with other family members. One way to connect is you can even send a request to other users to see how you are related. You'll be surprised to see relatives you did not know who are using FamilySearch as well and they could also have stories and information about your ancestors.

(Demonstrate how to add people and information in your tree)

Just a note, although the family tree is a public tree, which makes collaboration possible, people who are designated as living are considered as private records and only the user that created them can only see and change information about them. So if I make changes about my parents who are still living, since this is a private record, I can only see them and make changes. Same with my other family members who are still alive. It is only the deceased people in my tree like my grandparents that other users can see and add or change information.

Another neat feature of FamilySearch is their Memories.

In Memories you can upload pictures, recordings, documents, and stories of your family. It's easy to use and there is no space limitation when you upload your files.

(Show demonstration of how to use Memories)

These are some of the features in FamilySearch and there are many others that will aid you on finding your ancestors like record hints or find ideas for family history activities under the "Activities" or involve yourself with volunteer projects in "Get Involved". And if you have any questions, you can click this encircled question mark icon at the upper right part of the screen for the Help section and you will find different topics where you can get answers and information.

Aside from the website, FamilySearch also have apps like Family Tree app, Memories, and Get Involved that can be downloaded for free so we can do our family history work wherever and whenever we want!