

MARGIE, OFW

*Esther S. Garcia*

Abstract

*In this short reflection piece, the artist, Esther S. Garcia, shares her inspiration for the painting featured on the cover of this RWS issue. In this reflection, the artist also speaks about her insights about the OFW.*

THERE IS A MISCONCEPTION THAT “GOING” OFW (overseas Filipino workers) is for the needy. Nowadays, most Filipino families, rich or poor, have an OFW relative.

Cherry, my eldest daughter worked in Singapore as a supervisor in a laboratory. Her husband, Dr. Rowel Atienza, worked in Singapore and Australia while pursuing his Ph.D. Now, they are back home.

My second daughter, Dr. Mary Abigail Garcia, worked at the State University of New York while taking her residency in pediatrics and at the University of California, San Diego during her fellowship for a sub-specialization in pediatric internal medicine. She has married since then and has decided to stay in the U.S. She is now a pediatrician at the Children’s Hospital in San Diego, California, where she is also a medical researcher and teacher.

It is only my youngest, Atty. Maria Theresa Garcia, a lawyer, who prefers to stay here in the Philippines. She has been offered jobs in the U.S. and Europe, but she has rejected these.

I never influenced my kids to work abroad. It was their own decision to go, for whatever reasons they may have. I respected them, so I never asked.

Working abroad is a sacrifice. It is not for the faint of heart, but for people who are willing to experience adventures, challenges and the rewards that go with these.

On "Margie, OFW": Margie was the nickname given to me by my Grandma, who believed that using the names of saints makes one healthier: St. Margaret was also born on June 10.

I am an OFW in my own country. I am adventurous. I love to experiment and explore new things. I step forward and appreciate the stars (as seen in my paintings), to welcome back our OFWs, and most of all to share and be thankful to our Lord, the Creator, who is the source of all the wonderful things beyond our imagination.

