



Articles, Study

A leap of faith

09/07/2024, by Connla Stokes

She was a lecturer in mechanical engineering before her expat journey began. Now HEINEKEN expat partner [Mapy Rodriguez](#) is teaching theology and translating academic materials that connect science with faith: "I'm so glad I decided to go for it!"

Patient but not static!

"Before our expat life began in 2011, I had been teaching at the Tecnológico de Monterrey. But even then there was an inner voice asking if it would be possible to explore my belief rationally," says Mapy, a Mexican mother of four, now living in [Amsterdam](#). "In the beginning, I just focused on my family. As an expat partner, I think you have to be patient. Having said that, you can't be static either! My father had always told me you have to take opportunities when you see them."

An inquisitive mind

"Faith is a big part of my life and I've always wanted to have a deeper, more critical understanding of the Catholic Church's progression," says Mapy, who duly signed up for a master's in science and faith at Ateneo Pontificio Regina Apostolorum (APRA) in Italy. Since then she has also completed a B.A. in religious studies at

Domuni Universitas in Belgium and, more recently, completed a master's in fundamental theology. "Thanks to this journey, in September 2022, I attended a congress in [Rome](#) where I was lucky enough to meet Pope Francis – it was a very special moment for me!"

Element of doubt

"I must admit that in the beginning I was unsure of what I would eventually do with my studies. But slowly a path has emerged. I'm now preparing a course that I will soon begin teaching (online) at APRA in Italy where this academic journey began. With the support of HEINEKEN and Global Connection, I have also spoken to a coach and I'm now setting up a business. The main focus will be translating academic materials that bridge science with faith and offering short courses online to people interested in exploring the rationalisation of the Catholic faith."

Your opportunity, too

"It's funny to think that if I hadn't taken that leap of faith 10 years ago, none of this would be happening. When you choose the expat life and follow your partner, it can be a challenge, especially when you are unsure of what you will do. But in time, you can make this opportunity yours, too! I'm grateful for the support that has made all of this possible for me."

Photo: Mapy meeting Pope Francis

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