



The Roman Catholic Bishop of Novaliches

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Prot. No. 08/079

May 13, 2008

Ben Babilonia/Ernie Balarbar/Delfy Geraldez
Sector Heads (North A and B, West C)
Couples for Christ
349 Ortigas Ave., Greenhills East,
1554 Mandaluyong City

Dear Mr. Ben Babilonia/Ernie Balarbar/Delfy Geraldez:

My office received your communication of May 5, 2008 in the name of the CFC-GK of Mr. Tony Meloto, in effect prohibiting the CFC-FFL group of Mr. Frank Padilla to use the name "CFC" on the strength of a private letter to you dated 03 April 2008 from His Eminence, Stanislaw Card. Rylko, President of the Pontifical Council for the Laity in Rome, who is supposed to have said to Mr. Joe Tale "...your name *Couples for Christ* cannot be used by any other association." (Italics mine)

From the very start of your division, which to us up to now was only among the leadership of the CFC, and not among the grassroots of the Organization, this Diocese has always maintained as a policy that CFC-FFL and the CFC-GK is one and the same organization. Hence, in consonance with this policy, we have never issued an official recognition to any of your groups but have allowed both groups to operate in the Diocese as CFC. So have we instructed our Parish Priests. So far we have no problem, notwithstanding the quarrels among its leaders which from the start we did not want to enter to.

I do not see, therefore, that any of the "splinter groups" GK or FFL has a right to prohibit the other from using the name CFC. Unfortunately, the letter of Mr. Joe Tale to His Eminence Card. Rylko has unnecessarily brought the Pontifical Council for the Laity into the vortex of your controversy which from the start we have so far quite successfully refused to be involved with as it is similar to the squabbles of the first apostles who asked the Lord who among them is the greatest. I, therefore, would like to caution Mr. Joe Tale and Tony Meloto of CFC-GK that they cannot impose on the bishops and their Parish Priests what Card. Rylko ha written him privately.

I do hope I have clarified the issue. Finally, one last advice, please do not point to the other as "breakaway." That is foul language, completely unchristian because both of you also do the work of God. Unfortunately, as in any human institution, the leadership squabble among themselves. I do hope you can come to the table of dialogue again that I have been calling for so long now.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

Sincerely yours,

+ Antonio R. Tobias

Most Rev. Antonio R. Tobias, DD
Bishop

c.c. His Eminence Stanislaw Cardinal Rylko
Mr. Joe Tale/ Tony Meloto
Mr. Frank Padilla