

## FROM THE SERVANT GENERAL

June 14, 2008

Subject: **THE “COUPLES FOR CHRIST” NAME**

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Peace!

On June 5, the Philippines' Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC), on our petition, issued an Order reviving the original CFC foundation established in 1986, the “COUPLES FOR CHRIST FOUNDATION INC.” (CFCFI). This means that we now have legal right to the name “CFC,” and this is a prior right to that of CFC-GK-IC, with its corporation of CFCGMFI established in 1993.

Many bishops, both in the Philippines and in other countries, have recognized CFC-FFL. They include Bishop Gabriel Reyes, the Spiritual Director of CFC (before he resigned as Spiritual Director of CFC-GK) and the Chair of the Episcopal Commission on the Laity, and Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, Archbishop of Jaro and President of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP). In a recent letter to me dated May 27, Cardinal Stanislaw Rylko, President of the Pontifical Council for the Laity, also left it to individual bishops to recognize CFC-FFL, including that of our name.

Therefore, from both the spiritual and the secular, from both Church and state, we have every right to use the name “Couples for Christ.”

Even from the moral and ethical standpoint, we can and should use the name “CFC.” The Church considers me the founder of CFC, and in the ecclesiology of new movements, the charism resides in the founder. Where the founder is, there is the charism. Where the charism is, there is the authentic CFC.

So to all my brothers and sisters in CFC-FFL, if you ever had any doubts at all before, be assured that you are indeed CFC. The Church and the state, and I believe the Lord as well, say so.

With regard to our brethren in CFC-GK, we do not intend to do to them what they have been doing to us. For the sake of peace and eventual reconciliation, we do not intend to prevent them from using the name “CFC,” for as long as they strive to not let go of what it means to be truly CFC.

In fact, I reiterate my long-standing and constant proposal, that of having one big CFC family but with two separate and distinct branches. This has many models among the religious congregations, such as the Franciscans and the Carmelites. This way, we co-exist peacefully, and even keep the door open to eventual reconciliation and true unity.

I extend my hand of peace to my brethren in CFC-GK.

For us in CFC-FFL, let us continue to move on, as we have been doing. There is much work to be done. Since last year we have been praying: “Lead us back to you, O Lord, that we may be restored: give us anew such days as we had of old.” (Lam 5:21). The Lord has answered our prayers. God has restored us to our authentic charism of evangelization and family life renewal. Now God has even restored the original CFC foundation. So now we look to such days of old, when we were focused on our calling, and when we zealously proclaimed Christ throughout the world.

Let us praise and thank God for His wondrous deeds in our lives and in our work. We thank our Blessed Mother Mary for interceding for us and granting our prayers. Let us be humbled by God’s faithfulness to us, and continue to dedicate ourselves totally to Him and to our mission.

And let us continue to rejoice! Always!

God bless us all.

Your brother and co-worker in Christ,

Frank Padilla