



COUPLES FOR CHRIST

Families in the Holy Spirit Renewing the Face of the Earth

June 11, 2007

His Excellency
Abp. Angel Lagdameo
Archbishop of Jaro

His Excellency
Bishop Gabriel Reyes
Bishop of Antipolo
Chairman of CBCP-ECLA

His Excellency
Bishop Socrates Villegas
Bishop of Balanga

Dear Abp. Lagdameo, Bishops Reyes and Villegas,

This is further to our June 7, 2007 letter.

We earnestly request your kind understanding of the CFC Council decision. This decision was not the Council's alone, but also the overwhelming view of the Metro Manila Sector Heads and Provincial Area Heads who we consulted in a meeting on June 5, 2007. Others who were not present were consulted by phone. These Sector Heads and Area Heads form the bulk of the Elders Assembly.

Bishop Gabby Reyes, we hope, is witness to our openness and efforts up to the last moment, to explore avenues of agreement just so the CFC elections, which we see as the crucial factor for the overall stability of the community, will continue to be conducted as scheduled on June 22, 2007.

1. On June 6, 2007, the deadline given us to reach agreement, I reported that there was a window opened. My basis was our understanding with Bro. Frank Padilla on the evening of June 5, to reset the deadline by about 2 days, or until June 9, since we mutually came up with a formula for a possible breakthrough in our reconciliation efforts.
2. We were disappointed to be advised later that afternoon of June 6, that the group around Bro. Frank was not convinced to agree to such brief extension, and even to agree to meet with us as part of the formula.
3. We requested one more meeting with Bishop Gabby as a last ditch effort to plead our case, because we know the repercussions of postponing the elections. We are grateful Bishop Gabby granted this request by meeting with us at 8:00am of June 7. Bishop Gabby also made a last call to Bro. Frank regarding his previous proposal on the reopening of nominations, and our openness to pursue the matter, but unfortunately, there was refusal to move forward on this issue on the part of Frank's group.

4. This issue of opening up the nominations refers to the proposal which Bro. Frank made in our meeting on May 31, 2007, as a way for their group to agree to the holding of the elections as scheduled. Bishop Gabby knows that we were willing to bend backwards to pursue the proposal provided that this can be done within the time-honored rules and traditions we have always observed.

Our dear Bishops, we exhausted every means to convey our openness to discuss and resolve our internal conflicts. But we respectfully find it unreasonable to use such conflicts as a reason to postpone our elections which can in fact pave the way to hasten the resolution of the same.

As we explained, there is no disunity or conflict in the top leadership of CFC. The top leadership of CFC is lodged in the CFC Council, now four in number due the voluntary resignations of Bros. Frank Padilla, Tony Meloto and Lachie Agana in February 2007. The four-man Council consisting of Bros. Ernie Maipid, Rouquel Ponte, Joe Tale and Joe Yamamoto is united and there is no conflict among them. The majority of the CFC leaders across the country support the mandate of the four-man Council. The disagreements are caused by a relatively small group of leaders who are rallying around the resigned Bros. Frank and Lachie. We are committed to pursue reconciliation efforts with them.

Many of our members are even wondering how this small group has managed to get the Church involved in an internal matter for us to resolve.

Our dear bishops, may we therefore request the holding of a dialogue where you can meet and discuss with our key leaders, and thus obtain a better appreciation of the total picture in our community. We stand ready for such a dialogue which you may call at your earliest convenience.

With our deep love and respect,

CFC Council

Ernie Maipid Jr. Rouquel Ponte Joe Tale Joe Yamamoto
(sgd)

CC: His Eminence, Cardinal Gaudencio B. Rosales, CFC Elders Assembly