



COUPLES FOR CHRIST

Families in the Holy Spirit Renewing the Face of the Earth

CFC INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL STATEMENT

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The recent pronouncements and emails of Bro. Frank Padilla point to an inevitable split in the CFC community.

He has referred to a new group he is forming – CFC Foundation for Family and Life, which is separate from Couples for Christ. In an emailed letter dated July 25, 2007 referring to this proposed split, Bro. Frank wrote: “This split will give a clear choice for our brethren – to stay with the present CFC and its emerging total focus on GK, or to go with the new CFC, which is the original and true CFC.”

We regret and are deeply saddened that our situation has come to this point.

We wish to restate what we have been saying many times - Couples for Christ under the present Council has not, and will not deviate from the pursuit of CFC’s vision and mission. We are families in the Holy Spirit renewing the face of the earth and bringing glad tidings to the poor. We shall pursue with equal zeal the various aspects of our life and mission - family life renewal, evangelization and total human liberation and development. We are committed to our seven pillars which include Gawad Kalinga. In all these pillars, we would like to further strengthen our spiritual formation, relationship-building and pastoral caring. We shall more actively dialogue and seek the guidance of our bishops and priests in the various dioceses.

Although saddened, we respect Bro. Frank’s decision to separate himself from the existing Couples for Christ community, as well as anyone who decides to join him. The work for the Lord is so big that we should not spend, as we have, an inordinate time in disagreements. All must move on in mission. And if this split will allow everyone to pursue their respective charisms unimpeded by major conflicts, then we believe the Lord is glorified.

In all of this, we ask everyone to act in a Christian, loving way. We continue to be brothers and sisters in Christ, perhaps now called to different charisms, as what happened when CFC separated from Ang Ligaya ng Panginoon community in 1993.

It must be clear, however, that there is only one CFC. Those who will join the new group of Bro. Frank, while we respect their decision, will be deemed to have left the present CFC. The CFC Home Office remains where it is, at 349 Ortigas Avenue, Greenhills. All transactions should continue to be made in this office.

Even as we make this statement, we remain open to dialogue and reconciliation.

We ask every member of the CFC family to pray more fervently for this recent development in our community. We ask all our brothers and sisters to fast, make personal sacrifices, intensify each one’s individual prayer time, and during our household meetings and assemblies, intercede and pray for the community and for God’s work to continue. We pray that in time, our sadness will indeed turn into hope and joy.

May God who is all wise and knowing and who owns CFC and other communities serving Him bless us all!

The CFC International Council
August 1, 2007