



# COUPLES FOR CHRIST

Families in the Holy Spirit Renewing the Face of the Earth

## COUNCIL STATEMENT

August 28, 2007

We, the CFC International Council, and the group of Bro. Frank Padilla had a dialogue with the Episcopal Commission on the Laity today. The whole-day dialogue was conducted in a candid and open manner.

The five bishops who sat down with both groups were Bishop Gabby Reyes of the Diocese of Antipolo, Chairman of the Commission, and four of the members: Archbishop Angel Lagdameo of the Diocese of Jaro, Iloilo, Bishop Jimmy Afable of the Diocese of Digos, Davao del Sur, Bishop Ramon Villena of the Diocese of Bayombong, Nueva Ecija and Bishop Honesto Pacana of the Diocese of Malaybalay, Bukidnon.

The bishops understood that the most acceptable option at this point is separation, without closing the door to reunification in the future. They exhorted both groups, notwithstanding the separation, to continue dialogue and to relate to one another in love, humility and concern.

The bishops affirmed that CFC under the International Council retains Vatican recognition as well as recognition by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines as a private association of lay faithful. Bishop Gabby Reyes confirmed that he has granted recognition to Bro. Frank's group as a diocesan right while at the same time retaining recognition of CFC in his diocese. He stressed that bishops in other dioceses have the right to accept one group or both.

Regarding allegations that Gawad Kalinga (GK) has veered away from the life and mission of CFC and Catholic teachings, we, the International Council, acknowledged that there have been reports of isolated cases but these cases do not negate the good that GK has done. These cases, isolated as they are, do not warrant such a general label being applied to the whole work of GK. The Council maintains that GK remains and will continue to be an expression of CFC's expanding understanding of its life and mission, guided by the Catholic Church to which we fully submit. To reinforce this commitment, we assured the bishops that we will look into these cases and if verified, make the necessary corrections.

The CFC International Council reiterates our commitment to fully submit ourselves and the brethren to the bishops and to continue to move forward in doing the work of God.

We thank all of you for praying for the community, for fasting and for being our support during this time. We will survive this crisis because we have held fast to our faith, to each other and to our great God. God bless us all.

**THE CFC INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL**