



COUPLES FOR CHRIST

A Private International Association of the Faithful of Pontifical Right
Families in the Holy Spirit Renewing the Face of the Earth

August 31, 2010

TO ALL CFC AREA LEADERS:

PRESERVING AND PROTECTING UNITY IN THE BODY

As we look forward to our 30th anniversary, we are grateful to our Lord for the blessings and the many opportunities that He has opened to us for our mission and evangelization work, for family renewal and for our work with the poor. While we are poised to take on these new opportunities and responsibilities, we realize that we can only fully respond to them if we are a united community, committed to "One CFC, One Mission, One Global Army."

Unfortunately, there is a group of brethren who, by their posture and actions, are threatening our unity. Thus, on November 12, 2009, in a Council Statement entitled, "Defending CFC Against A New Challenge" (see copy attached), we warned the community about the emergence of a group called "CFC-GK" led by leaders of Gawad Kalinga. We informed you that part of their tactic is to continue to claim to be CFC and worse, to claim that they are the group that carries "Vatican recognition" on the basis of their being supposedly the group engaged in work with the poor.

We have kept our doors open to them and have consistently reached out in the spirit of brotherhood. Their usual response, to our plea for them to maintain our unity and to refrain from their divisive actions, is that they are entitled to pursue their plan of action since they are also serving God and the poor. But we believe that this is not simply about "service" but more about the way we have chosen to serve God in CFC, as part of one united body.

Fortunately, our Vatican-approved Statutes and our pastoral formation teachings, which have kept us on an even course over the years, have not left us defenseless in our effort to preserve our precious unity. They have been consistent in providing guidance and direction in the areas of service, in interpersonal relationships and even in conflict and difficulties. These Statutes and teachings have given our community the right and responsibility to respond strongly to challenges, even to the extent of terminating from membership those who cease to believe in our ideals and core values and who cause disorder and disunity in our community. Thus, in the November 12 Statement, we expressly stated that "those who will form part of this new group ("CFC-GK"), especially those who are actively campaigning for membership in this new group, are deemed to have left the CFC community and are no longer members of Couples for Christ."

But in spite of the Statement, we continued to hope that these brethren who go around recruiting for "CFC-GK" would be enlightened. Our forbearance and tolerance have been extremely tested, and the perceived delay in our action has emboldened these leaders. We have received reports that:

1. This group no longer supports the flow of governance and authority coming from one CFC leadership, actively proclaiming that they do not recognize the authority of the IC and are accountable only to GK National;
2. They have established, installed leaders for, and continue to support, separate "CFC-GK" groups, particularly in Cagayan de Oro and Negros Occidental;
3. They have been going around the different areas conducting meetings aside from the regular CFC gatherings, causing confusion and divisiveness. They also disrupt the orderly life and work in the identified CFC-managed sites by appointing their own Project Directors (PD) when there are already existing and present PDs as appointed by the sector and/or provincial area councils.
4. They conduct a separate pastoral teaching track outside of CFC's existing pastoral formation track and invite CFC members to attend, contributing to confusion and sowing disunity among the members;
5. They mobilize CFC members for GK events, without proper and prior coordination with CFC leaders.

We are saddened and disturbed by these reports, gleaned from eyewitness accounts and social media networking sources. We remind everyone, but particularly the following: our brothers Tony Meloto, Luis Oquinena, Mari Oquinena, Mike Goco, Jun Dimarucot, Delfy Geraldez, Jojo Buncayo and Francis Balagtas, that, if they indeed claim to be CFC, there is a CFC culture that they all need to follow and there are Vatican Statutes that govern the life and mission of CFC. We wish to remind them that their actions are inimical to the life and culture of CFC, to our traditions and to everything we hold dear as a community.

The following provisions of CFC's Vatican-approved International Statutes are clear:

"3.3 Membership may be terminated by the leadership for any of the following reasons:

- *serious unrepented wrongdoing*
- *gross unfaithfulness to the covenant of CFC*
- *public opposition to CFC teachings and culture, as well as official Church teachings*
- *ongoing disruption of good order in the community*
- *any other act that would seriously undermine the life and mission of CFC*

6.13 Leaders may be removed if it becomes obvious that they are no longer able to carry out their responsibilities effectively.

7.24 Accountability: The different CFC groups throughout the world are accountable to the Lord for their life and service, and as a concrete and practical expression of this, are accountable to the CFC International Council for the conduct of their life and work, while preserving always the rights of the local Ordinary.

Enshrined in our pastoral formation talks are the same guidelines that govern the peace and order in the community. In "Living as a People of God," Talk 2 (Functioning as a Body) states that "C.1. Overall governmental authority belongs to the CFC Council." And Talk 4 (Peace and Discipline) speaks of how good order in the community can be preserved with the ultimate decision of termination from membership as the final resort to dealing with those who continue to violate our CFC covenant:

"C.3.c Termination from CFC:

- *For refusal to try and live up to the covenant in CFC.*
- *For refusal to abide by community order. This includes publicly denying CFC teachings – an attack on the order of a body is a threat to its life.*
- *For any other act that would seriously undermine the life and mission of CFC."*

We, the International Council, accountable to the Lord for leading and governing CFC and for preserving peace and good order in the community, are duty-bound to implement the provisions of the above-stated Statutes and pastoral teachings.

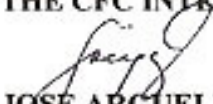
We therefore ask the brothers mentioned above to discontinue their divisive actions and to stop forming another group that seeks to divide the community, especially under the guise of forming a moral and ethics group that goes around the different areas, leading CFC members to a "pastoral track" distinct from that of CFC and causing division in the process.

In the spirit of brotherhood, we reach out to our brothers and ask them to move forward with us, united as one community. We ask them to reflect upon their actions and on the situation that our beloved community now finds itself in. This situation hinges on two non-negotiable elements: a) submission to the authority of the International Council; and b) active participation in the life and mission of CFC, including ANCOP as the priority work with the poor. If our brothers continue to call themselves CFC, they have to abide by the CFC covenant and to attain that right spirit that will allow them to abide by these two elements.

Since they have repeatedly claimed that they are still members of CFC, they are bound by their covenant to follow the line of authority prescribed by the Statutes. Therefore we ask them to make a clear declaration of loyalty and commitment to the leadership structure of CFC, especially the International Council. We ask that they submit this declaration, in the spirit of good order, within ten (10) days from today.

We ask the CFC Family to pray for us, the International Council, and to pray for our brothers who will have to look deep into themselves, reflect on their actions, and make their decision. We pray that the Lord will guide them and grant us all the grace to move forward. God bless us all.

THE CFC INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL:

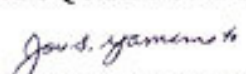

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