



**EPISCOPAL COMMISSION FOR THE PASTORAL CARE OF MIGRANTS
AND ITINERANT PEOPLES (ECMI)**
CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE OF THE PHILIPPINES (CBCP)
470 General Luna Street Intramuros, 1002 Manila, Philippines

October 12, 2007

To: Chaplains and Pastoral Workers of the Filipino Communities in Europe
From: Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD, Bishop of Maasin and Chairman, ECMI

Greetings of peace and love in the Lord Jesus Christ!

I am writing this letter in response to some requests for me as Chairman of the ECMI regarding some clarifications on the issue of the CFC split as it affects some Filipino communities in the various chaplaincies, particularly in Europe. This letter will present briefly what I understood regarding the issue from our Bishops Conference last July and the letters of Bishop Gabriel Reyes, Chairman of the Episcopal Commission on the Laity, to the Bishops of the Philippines.

As of the July CBCP Assembly: Bishop Reyes clearly informed the Bishops that the elections of the 7 Council of Elders was held despite his and two other bishops' advice to postpone and settle the conflict on the GK issue. He explicitly said that as the Spiritual Director of the CBCP, his direction was not heeded at all. The consensus of the Assembly was that each Bishop/Ordinary will deal with the CFC issue/conflict in his respective jurisdiction. Bishop Reyes was to provide the Bishops with information on the matter.

As of August 29 the split between the CFC International Council led by the newly elected Council of Elders and the CFC-Foundation for Family and Life (CFC-FFL) organized by Bro. Frank Padilla and those who desired to keep the original spirit and vision of the CFC happened. Bishop Gabriel Reyes recognized the newly founded CFC-FFL as a diocesan association which could also invite memberships from or do apostolate in other ecclesiastical jurisdictions where the bishops would welcome them.

As of this time, both CFC-IC and CFC-FFL are inviting/asking the CFC members everywhere to choose their affiliations between the two associations. Some CFC chapters in many places would align with one or the other through the decisions of the leaders without sometimes sufficient correct information and without extensive information among the members.

By this time, you, as chaplain maybe considering the issue on which group to recognize. Certainly, we uphold the authority and responsibility of the Ordinary or his delegate, or you being delegated, to discern properly on the matter. **I believe that the significant element of the ecclesial belongingness of any group or association concretely shown**

by its adherence to the proper ecclesiastical authority and active insertion in the local church is vital in our discernment on the matter. Sufficient information and true and reliable ones are also important element to guide the pastors and the faithful in making the proper discernment and choices. (Not intending to influence your discernment, I wish to share the information that in my diocese I would recognize and welcome the CFC-FFL of Bro. Frank Padilla.)

In this regard, I am introducing and endorsing to you **TONY & RUBY BORJA** now with the CFC-FFL Regional Coordinator for Europe to present to you and to the CFC members and others the new association. This will perhaps contribute to the discernment of the CFC members at large.

Lastly, I would like to thank you, on behalf of the Church in the Philippines, for your zeal and dedication in providing pastoral care and guidance for our Filipino brothers and sisters. We pray for the continued success in your apostolate and pastoral ministry.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD
Bishop of Maasin
Chairman, ECMI