



Sangguniang Laiko ng Pilipinas

CBCP - Episcopal Commission on Lay Apostolate Secretariat

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"To Restore All Things in Christ"

August 6, 2007

To the Members of the Couples for Christ

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Love and Peace of Jesus!

In the statement of the CFC International Council "United and Strong in Christ," dated 30 July, 2007, the sixth paragraph says: *"Many of our members seek an update on our relationship with our beloved Bishops. There is great hope in our efforts to restore our relationship with the Bishops, (after the Elders Assembly decided to continue with elections contrary to Bishop Reyes' strong recommendation). Last Saturday morning (July 28), Bishop Reyes called CFC Director Joe Tale to inform us that the Episcopal Commission on the Laity, composed of seven bishops, will meet with the CFC International Council on August 28, 2007 to help our community move forward. It is the responsibility of each and every CFC member to nurture and treasure our relationship with our beloved Bishops, and so we humbly seek your prayers for this meeting - truly a wonderful opportunity given us by God to be guided by our Bishops as we move the Lord's Vision and Mission forward in the next 25 years!"*

Before anything else, I would like to point out that, contrary to what is said in the paragraph quoted above, the strong recommendation regarding the election, that the Elders' Assembly did not follow last June 22, was not only mine but also of Archbishop Angel Lagdameo and Bishop Socrates Villegas.

What I told Bro. Joe Tale last July 28 about the dialogue or meeting with the bishops of the CBCP Commission for the Laity on August 28 is not adequately reported in the paragraph quoted above. In fact, the report in this paragraph can easily be misleading.

What I said was, more or less, the following: During the plenary assembly of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines last July 6-8, the bishops decided that the CBCP Commission for the Laity have a dialogue with the leaders of the two conflicting groups in the Couples for Christ regarding the serious crisis in the CFC. Among other things, the dialogue will be mainly on the complaints of the group of Bro. Frank Padilla that, because of Gawad Kalinga, the CFC is veering away from the vision-mission and guiding Catholic principles of CFC and that the Gawad Kalinga is

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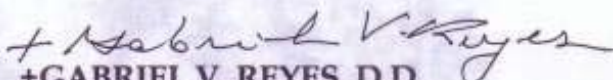
overstressing social action at the expense of evangelization, catechesis, and spirituality. The bishops are much concerned about these complaints because they involve "the integrity of faith and morals". So, in the coming dialogue, they want to know whether these complaints are true or not.

With equal right, the group of Bro. Joe Tale can also present their complaints regarding the group of Bro. Frank Padilla.

I am making this clarification because the paragraph quoted above can easily lead people to think that the bishops have found the complaints mentioned above to be not true and so they "will meet with the CFC International Council on August 28, 2007 to help our community move forward."

With Mary, our Mother, let us ask Christ, her Son, to bless this dialogue on August 28 with the Light and Love of the Holy Spirit. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit may this crisis in the CFC be solved according to the will of Christ.

Yours in our Lord,


+GABRIEL V. REYES, D.D.

CFC Spiritual Director

Chairman, CBCP Commission for the Laity