



✠ **Ramón C. Argüelles, DD, STL**  
*Archbishop of Lipa*

## **MEMORANDUM**

To All Priests of the Archdiocese of Lipa

From Archbishop Ramón C. Argüelles

Re Couples for Christ

Date July 31, 2007

### TEXT

1. Since I became the Archbishop of Lipa, many have remarked, at times with disdain, my unusual fondness for the Couples for Christ. Some have accused me of siding with them when the CFCs got into policy conflicts with parish priests.
2. From the very start indeed I have believed that God has desired this family-oriented association. Their origin, after all, is associated with asserting loyalty to the Church, abiding by her teachings and continuing her age-old practices, most especially the centrality of the Eucharist and the true imitation of Mary, Christ's and our Mother.
3. I supported and continue to support the CFC's faithful response as laymen and women called to live true discipleship of Christ in the secular setting, fulfilling the Church's commitment for preferential option for the poor, providing them with livelihood, decent shelter, education and other God-desired means to live fuller lives.
4. I praise the initiative to build communities and abodes which earned for the Couples for Christ a reputation acclaimed throughout the world and known as Gawad-Kalinga.
5. I was among the first to decry the transformation of the Couples for Christ into mere Gawad-Kalinga and I prayed and pleaded that Gawad-Kalinga, a very worthy and truly CFC rooted project, will however not replace the CFC and its commitment to evangelize the families world-wide.
6. I will always maintain that Gawad Kalinga should remain within CFC, considered one of the seven pillars that locate well CFC within the Church's apostolic activities.
7. It is with regret that there is an impending break-up among the Couples for Christ that brings confusion to many of its lower rank members, even in the archdiocese.
8. The crisis that initially involved only the people in the higher levels has seeped down to the lower levels. Like many bishops, concerned only on the effects the crisis will have on the members who are our faithful in the local Churches, I have to make sure that the CFC crisis does not affect adversely the Archdiocese of Lipa.
9. In my desire to keep the CFC in the archdiocese one and united, I hereby declare that
  - The Archdiocese of Lipa recognizes only the one and original CFC; no other CFC groups, with other qualifications, may do apostolate in the Archdiocese.
  - All GK projects within the Archdiocese will remain one of the seven pillars of the CFC.
  - The CFC, anywhere in the Archdiocese, should do their apostolate with the consent of and coordination with the Parish priests. In the shepherding of CFC members the role of Parish Priests, in union with the (Arch)bishops, will have priority over the orders of leaders beyond the confines of the (Arch)diocese. Obviously parish priests must consider the special gifts of the CFC members and respect their statutes which do not conflict with Church policies. The CFC in the Archdiocese, like all other religious organizations, should follow the pastoral directions of the Archdiocese which they are part of.

**FOR INFORMATION OF THE FAITHFUL AND IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION!!!**