

**FROM THE SERVANT GENERAL  
THE WAY FORWARD IN CHRIST  
(Part 24)**

**THE YEAR THAT WAS**

December 31, 2009

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

2009 was another eventful and fruitful year in the life and mission of CFC-FFL. Our work continues to grow. Following are some significant highlights.

CFC-FFL was established in 4 new dioceses in the Philippines,[1] making a total of 41 dioceses. Our work was also started in 5 new countries,[2] making a total of 65 countries.

This year CFC-FFL was given official recognition as a National Private Association of the Lay Faithful, by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, through its Episcopal Commission on the Laity.

True to our calling of renewing the family and defending life, we participated in two major international Church events. My wife Gerry and myself, together with Edwin[3] & Nila Andrews, participated in the 6th World Meeting of Families held on January 14-18 in Santa Fe, Mexico. In attendance were 9,000 delegates, including 20 cardinals and 200 bishops. Then we, together with over 100 of our USA brethren, participated in the 36th March for Life on January 22 in Washington DC, USA. There were 30,000 participants, including 50 bishops, 400 priests and 500 seminarians.

True to our core value of being a servant to the Church, aside from our brethren becoming very active in their respective parishes, we served in the 9th FABC[4] Plenary held in August in Manila. We are active in the Episcopal Commission on Youth. We have given assistance to various chaplaincies.

We have been privileged to be intimately connected to the work of the Holy See. Our Spiritual Director for Young Ministries, Archbp Socrates Villegas, was appointed to the Pontifical Council for the Family. Our Asst Spiritual Director, Fr Francis Gustilo SDB, was appointed to the International Theological Commission of the Vatican. My wife and I were re-appointed as members of the Pontifical Council for the Family.

Our Pro-Life work has moved ahead. We are involved in a coalition of the major pro-life groups in the Philippines. We have active collaboration with international pro-life organizations such as Human Life International and Priests for Life.

The work of our Social Ministries moves ahead. We have our Restoration Villages and Mission

Villages, and are collaborating with Habitat for Humanity. We have our education ministry, doing work in public and private schools, in parishes and in our communities among the poor. We have our prison ministry doing work in various prisons, most notably in the Maximum Security Compound of the National Bilibid Prison with 1,000 prisoner-members.

CFC-FFL has 116 full-time workers in 14 countries,[5] including 11 missionaries -- 5 in Latin America, 2 in Indochina, 2 in Malawi and 2 in Europe.

We have been busy, and the Lord has blessed us. We continue to move strongly forward in our evangelization. We are achieving our calling to renew the family and to defend life.

I thank all you my brethren for giving of yourselves in serving Christ and God's people. Our work has not been achieved without sacrifice and pain. To the many who simply do their work without fanfare and even without recognition, I praise God for you.

The work continues, as we look forward to another year of serving God.

May you all join me in giving thanks to God for His faithfulness, for blessing our families and our community, and for giving us the privilege to serve. We thank our blessed Mother Mary, to whom CFC-FFL has been consecrated, for keeping us in her loving embrace. With full trust in Jesus, we look forward to another year.

I wish you all a very happy new year. God bless you always.

Your brother and co-worker in Christ,

Frank Padilla

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P.S. It might surprise you that this paper is Part 24 of The Way Forward in Christ. Actually I just reclassified some previous articles and consolidated them into this folder. Our website will later show all the articles contained in this folder.

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[1] San Fernando (Pampanga), Iba (Zambales), Legaspi (Albay) and Ozamiz (Misamis Occidental).

[2] Monaco, United Kingdom, Papua New Guinea, Saudi Arabia and Czech Republic.

[3] International Moderator of Matrimonios para Cristo-Fundacion para la Familia y la Vida (MPC-FFV), the Hispanic counterpart of CFC-FFL.

[4] Federation of Asian Bishops Conferences.

[5] Argentina, Austria, Cambodia, Canada, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Ghana, India, Malawi, Peru, Philippines, Thailand, USA, Vietnam.