

**Couples for Christ
Foundation for Family and Life
International Core of Seniors**

CFC-FFL is a worldwide lay association with communities in different countries throughout the world. Though CFC-FFL started in the Philippines, it is not a Filipino ministry but rather an international movement made up of many different nationalities.

International Core of Seniors (ICS)

In order to further the international mission of CFC-FFL and strengthen the fraternal bonds among its top leaders, we have a body called the International Core of Seniors (ICS). The ICS is a top-level advisory body to the Servant General.

What is the basic rationale for the ICS?

- 1) This reflects the universality of CFC-FFL.¹
- 2) This enables CFC-FFL in the different countries, especially top non-Filipino seniors, to participate actively in the life and direction of the community.²
- 3) This reflects the co-responsibility of top seniors of the different countries in promoting and preserving the authentic charism of CFC-FFL.
- 4) This provides an important component in the interconnection among the different CFC-FFL communities in the different countries of the world.

Composition of the ICS:

- 1) Top seniors in the different countries *who are not Filipino in origin*.³ Normally not more than one senior per country. Not all countries have to be represented in the ICS.⁴
- 2) Regional Coordinators (irrespective of race or nationality).
- 3) International Coordinators of the Family Ministries,⁵ Social Ministries and Pro-Life.
- 4) Members of the Body of Counselors in Manila.
- 5) Anyone else that the Servant General in his discretion will appoint.

Qualification of the ICS member from the different countries (aside from the RCs):

- 1) The highest non-Filipino senior of the community.⁶
- 2) Strongly committed to the vision and mission of CFC-FFL.
- 3) Recommended by the Country Coordinator.
- 4) Appointed by the Servant General.

Role of the ICS:⁷

¹ The Catholic Church, of which CFC-FFL is a part, is universal. While dioceses are autonomous, the spiritual center is in Rome. This is the place of Manila in the international community.

² Members of the ICS are not necessarily the top leaders in their respective countries, and thus are not to usurp the functions proper to top leaders who are not ICS members (for example, a Filipino Country Servant).

³ This reflects the reality that CFC-FFL is not a Filipino movement but a movement within and for the universal Church.

⁴ While all countries are important, they do not have to be directly represented in the ICS. For pastoral purposes, their representation is through the Regional Coordinators.

⁵ Including the Int'l Coordinators of HFL, SvFL, KFL, YFL, SFL.

⁶ A senior is one who is a Chapter Servant or higher in pastoral service.

- 1) Help promote the CFC-FFL evangelization and mission throughout the world.⁸
- 2) Give inputs, whether as ICS or as individual members of ICS, at anytime to the SG on the life and mission of CFC-FFL.
- 3) Give inputs on matters brought by the SG to the ICS.
- 4) Review and make recommendations regarding the life and mission of CFC-FFL during the regular ICS meetings.
- 5) Freely interact and give inputs to each other through e-communications in the furtherance of the CFC-FFL mission.

Meetings:

- 1) The whole ICS meets once every three years.⁹ The basic objectives of this meeting are:
 - a) To evaluate the life and mission of CFC-FFL;
 - b) To help define the directions and strategies for the next 3 years; and
 - c) To strengthen fraternal bonds among the concerned seniors.
- 2) Regional ICS meetings (for ICS members within a region) may be held in any year, generally coinciding with and at the venue of the regional annual conference.¹⁰
- 3) E-meetings may be held regularly.
- 4) Other meetings can be called as needed by either the SG or by a third of the ICS.¹¹

Meeting of Country Servants

Country Servants meet in Manila once every five years on the anniversaries of CFC-FFL that are multiples of five.¹²

(SG. Dec 22, 2010)

⁷ The ICS is not a governance body and is not involved, as a body, in the day-to-day affairs of CFC-FFL.

⁸ Basic responsibility for evangelization and mission lies with the territorial seniors.

⁹ These meetings start on 2009 and every 3 years thereafter. These meetings will normally be in June in Manila, as part of the anniversary events.

¹⁰ Large countries can be akin to regions, and so may in fact have regional CFC-FFL groupings just within the country. An example is the USA, which we have divided into 6 regions. Such countries may have their own ICS regional (actually country) conference.

¹¹ In determining one-third of the ICS members, an ICS member holding more than one qualifying position (see Composition of the ICS) is considered as only one.

¹² These meetings start on 2011 and every 5 years thereafter.