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**HIS EXCELLENCY**  
**BISHOP GABRIEL REYES**  
Diocese of Antipolo

Dear Bishop Reyes,

The peace of Christ be with you.

First allow me to express my thanks for the enlightening session I had with you last Wednesday, May 30.

I want to reiterate my apology that the CFC Council, of which I was a part of until February 20, 2007, did not put enough value in the relationship we have with you as CFC Spiritual Director in the last 5 years by not consulting you on key issues and directions. I hope the new council that CFC elders will elect on June 22 will learn from our shortcomings.

The principal reason for my seeking your audience was to personally explain my silence since I stepped down from leadership in CFC and GK 3 months ago and to dispel speculations and negative perceptions that my quiet and prayerful detachment may have fueled.

1. I stepped down peacefully and without conditions from my position in CFC and GK for personal reasons which I asked the other brothers in the Council to respect. I did this because I love CFC and GK and will live and die for both. I did this also because I love and respect Frank Padilla who has been my brother, friend and mentor all these years and I do not want to put our relationship on the line because of fundamental differences in our understanding and attitude towards building the Church of the Poor.
2. We both cast a big shadow over CFC and GK and it is time for new leaders to emerge who will have the confidence, without our interference but with our full support when called upon, to bring in a fresh spirit, to explore new ideas and to cast a bigger net in our mission of evangelization.
3. For continuity and good order, we all agreed to support Rouquel Ponte, Joe Tale, Ernie Maipid and Joe Yamamoto as the interim council until the June 22, 2007 election. Joe Tale was chosen to be the CFC Executive Director among the four. There was no condition for the four not to run in June or to postpone the election although I expressed my own view that the three of us who stepped down should not run to show our sincerity in letting go of our positions and to respect the anointment of our new CFC leaders.

4. I remain a household head in the Mission Core of CFC, Regional Coordinator of CFC Oceania and overseer of Youth for Christ. In GK, I am doing global advocacy and partnership with developmental organizations and academic institutions.
5. Together with most CFC elders, I respect the time-tested process of electing the CFC Council every two years and honor the mandate of those who are chosen. I do not believe that anyone among us is above the anointed process, structure and culture of CFC that have been a blessing to the community in the last 25 years. Many elders are flying in from different parts of the country and abroad for the CFC Council election on June 22 and the CFC 26<sup>th</sup> anniversary on June 24. Any change or delay in the process will cause a disturbance and disruption that will be inimical to the stability of CFC.

In closing, I want to reiterate the following personal commitments :

I will remain loyal to the Catholic Church and faithful to its teachings.

I will remain a faithful member of Couples for Christ and pass its tradition and legacy to my children.

I will work for Christian unity, starting with Catholic organizations like Ligaya ng Panginoon, Bukas Loob sa Diyos, Light of Jesus, Focolare, Opus Dei and others in the work of restoring the dignity of the poor through GK and providing quality of life for them including our church workers who are squatters living in shanties and slum areas. The holistic approach of nurturing the vulnerable poor is for us the most effective way of keeping them from leaving their Catholic faith.

I look forward to building more communities in various dioceses and parishes following the templates we have started with Archbishop Lagdameo in Iloilo, Archbishop Arguelles in Batangas, Bishop Soc Villegas in Punta, Sta. Ana, Archbishop Evangelista in Marinduque, Bishop Cantillas in Southern Leyte and many others.

I hope that we can also establish an effective partnership nationwide with the Social Action Arm of the Church under Bishop Gutierrez as the GK work grows exponentially.

Please continue to pray for me and the other leaders of Couples for Christ that we will be faithful to the mission of Jesus in caring for our families and for the poor who are close to His heart.

Sincerely yours,

Tony Meloto  
Couples for Christ