



COUPLES FOR CHRIST

Families in the Holy Spirit Renewing the Face of the Earth

June 23, 2007

Dear CFC brethren,

Peace and love to you all!

We believe that the good Lord has spoken clearly through the CFC Elders Assembly. He anointed a new and complete seven-man CFC International Council that will serve for the next two years from July 1, 2007. The new Council members are as follows: Joey Arguelles, Ernie Maipid Jr, Roquel Ponte, Joe Tale, Lito Tayag, Melo Villaroman Jr., and Joe Yamamoto. The Lord paved the way for a more stable CFC leadership that will lead the community in facing the challenges ahead.

Our community underwent a very tough process especially after the resignations of our three brothers from the Council last February 20. The remaining four-man Council was the recipient of numerous suggestions and even demands that range from conducting early elections to withdrawal from running in the election.

Eventually, some leaders articulated their position to postpone the June election and focus first on the reconciliation of the former seven-man Council. This position somehow got to three of our beloved Bishops whose assistance were solicited and who were eventually convinced to strongly recommend the postponement of the election until the conflicts among the previous seven-man Council were resolved.

This posed a real dilemma as the term and mandate of the remaining four-man Council was set to expire on June 30, 2007. We could not afford to be a leaderless community or a community whose leadership is of a doubtful mandate.

A flurry of e-mails and exchanges as well as text messages went unabated that peaked in the month of June. These exchanges resulted in divisiveness and animosities that did not speak well of our community. Some were confused, some were hurt, angry and many were disappointed.

But truly the Lord is in control. The whole CFC family found its focus on Jesus and their love for His work in CFC. The global family of CFC stormed the heavens with prayers for peace, love and unity for our beloved community. We fervently prayed for humility, forgiveness and wisdom for everyone especially those who were directly involved in the conflict.

The Council humbly sought audience with the three bishops and were able to talk with Bishop Gabby Reyes and explained that the remaining four-man Council were very much united and will pursue peace, dialogue and reconciliation for the brethren involved in the conflict.

An immediate crisis was avoided when certain leaders, including some Council members, held four straight days of dialogue with the group of leaders who were advocates of no election. This culminated in an agreement to proceed with the election but for only three brothers to fill up the vacancies of those who resigned and join the

remaining four in a holdover capacity until January 2008. However, it was understood that **this agreement had to be presented to the Bishops and the CFC Elders Assembly.**

The Elders Assembly went into a recollection on June 20, 2007. Part of the recollection was the presentation and endorsement of the proposed agreement. Everyone was exhorted to pray about it and come up with a decision on June 22. Bishop Gabby Reyes also had an audience with the Elders Assembly on June 21 where he endorsed the proposed agreement to the Elders Assembly. Again everyone was exhorted to pray hard for discernment.

Indeed we saw God's hand in the evening of June 22. We asked for God's protection and guidance as we started with a mass followed by adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. The session proper was preceded by worship, and the presiding priest sprinkled everyone with Holy Water. We saw the humility of the former seven-man council and their wives when they went on stage and shook hands and greeted each other. Although it was obviously difficult for some of them to have done so, it was a very joyful moment for the Assembly. **We saw God in the middle of a joyful and thankful assembly after the Council election was concluded upon the clear, collective discernment of the Elders Assembly to go ahead with the regular election of seven Council members rather than pursue the proposal to elect only three.**

It was just unfortunate that a few of our leaders left the proceedings and did not participate in the elections after the proposal to elect only three Council members to fill up the vacancies was not approved by the Elders Assembly. It was unfortunate because it was clear that such proposal, while agreed upon by some leaders, **was subject to approval of the Elders Assembly. The requirement of such Elders Assembly approval was clear with everyone concerned.**

However, the whole process was indeed a sacred occasion of individual and collective discernment and prayers. We felt God's assurance that He will continue to guide us through the great challenges that lie ahead. We know that the work will not be easy, but we take comfort and refuge on the love of the Lord for CFC and its work of evangelization, family renewal and total human liberation.

We thank the good Lord for allowing us to go through this difficult road. Through all these we have realized that indeed, we have to constantly focus on the Lord of the work rather than the work itself. It is an awesome work and the challenges are great, and it is only by the grace of God that we can overcome the challenges!

In Christ,

CFC Council

By:

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