

COUPLES FOR CHRIST

Date : August 30, 2007
To : ALL CFC BROTHERS & SISTERS
Subject : **ONE UNITED CFC - THE ONLY ACCEPTABLE OPTION (2nd Paper)**

To Our Dear Brothers & Sisters in Couples for Christ,

Good day to you, and may the peace of Our Lord Jesus Christ be with you !!!

We have been overtaken by many discouraging events and developments since we sent out our 1st Paper dated August 21, 2007. These events include the following :

- a) the separate meetings of the Bishops with Frank Padilla's side and with the Council's side last August 28, in which the Bishops approved CFC's split into the CFC Global Mission Foundation, Inc. (CFCGMFI-Council side) and CFC Foundation for Family & Life (CFCFFL-Frank side), but keeping doors open for "possible future reunification" ;
- b) on the evening of the same day, the showing over television of the problems and the issues between CFC and GK, with interviews of Tony Meloto / CFCGMFI-GK on the one hand, and of Nonong Contreras / CFCFFL on the other hand ;
- c) on the next morning of Aug. 29, the showing again on television of the formalization of the split between CFCGMFI/GK and CFCFFL as approved by the Bishops, and reported by ABS-CBN's Ces Orena-Drilon ;
- d) amidst all these, both sides have started or continue to integrate and/or organize their 'forces' toward each one's respective charism/s and direction/s, while hapless lower-end leaders & members like us (chapter heads and lower), watch helplessly from the sidelines as brothers & sisters we have been close to for the past 26 years, separate from us and move to one or the '.. other side' ;
- e) out of all these heart-breaking news and developments, we have been encouraged and lifted up by the intimations of brethren - even those who already picked sides - that their deepest desire is still for a united CFC ; AND, the e-mails of brothers and sisters from near and far expressing their support of our initiative for a Unified CFC.

We salute and honor one particular e-mail from Bro. Jojo Rodriguez of CFC-Winnipeg in Canada. His reflections and advice have made us realize that we may be *'barking up the wrong tree'* in our 1st Paper's course of action, to wit :

"The over-all intent and purpose of the Congress (called for in the 1st Paper), is to communicate to the past and present Council, that the Community / the People will not take the separation of CFC sitting down, and will take what ever steps are deemed necessary to unite CFC, and preserve its ministry as a united people of God. The past / present Council members shall be given one week to fully & totally reconcile and unite, failing which they should be willing to step down from the Council/s, to give way for the installation of an Interim Council, which will oversee elections for a united New Council ... and the immediate desistance / cessation by Frank's CFCFFL group of its divisive activities".

This original course of action was premised on the simple principle that, 'it is absolutely

necessary for 'anyone who was ever tainted in & with the controversy to step out of the way', so that we can start fresh with a clean slate and the healing and recovery of our beloved Community can begin to take place. However, It is now quite obvious to us that the frailties of Man's 'humanity' (amor-propio, etc., name it what you will, but most of all, the apparent "*love lost*" among our top elders) makes it practically impossible for them to consider the good of the many over the few, and make the sacrifice of stepping down.

In addition to the foregoing, the basic premises of our 1st Paper continue to be valid and compellingly true, to wit :

- (1) The problems and controversy surrounding our Community were caused not by us the members, but by our top leaders, *but it is us who are affected and are hurting the most, and are now suffering the consequences* : **we are the ones now being forced to make a choice we do not want to make** ;
- (2) The issues that divided our top elders are not of critical concern to us anymore : *we do not care who is right or wrong, what is most important and paramount to us is that --* **our Community continues its ministry as a united people of God** ;
- (3) We owe CFC and our leaders of the past 26 years what we are today, and we are truly & deeply grateful to God & to them for this, but in these most crucial moments in our Community's life, *when we need truly strong, united and resolute leaders the most* : **we are instead led by them into division and separation** ;
- (4) Mula pa sa kamusmusan nating lahat dito sa CFC, our elders have taught us two most fundamental principles : "*United we stand, divided we fall*", &, "*If a brother has any issue with another brother, let the 1st step be a dialogue between them*". In these two basic principles and other areas, the past 7 months have found our leaders *wanting*, in showing us the way through their example ... THEY DO NOT PRACTICE WHAT THEY PREACH, and now the fragmentation of CFC may have already reached irreparable proportions. **In short, we have listened to them for 26 years ; NOW PERHAPS IT IS TIME FOR THEM TO LISTEN TO US.**

All the above, and visioning by some brothers, have reinforced our belief and resolve in this mission, which concurs with the 1st Paper's consensus, .. "FOR the PEOPLE & the COMMUNITY TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN SAVING THE UNITY OF CFC". Hinged on the advice of our Canadian brother, this action must now flow along the following lines :

- (a) **Set up a Congress with all chapter heads, the true leaders & pastors of our Community's Members -- for the purpose of uniting all the disparate parts of both CFCGMFI & CFCFFL * Community/s who still believe in and prefer a unified CFC, into a formidable united force that CANNOT BE IGNORED by either of the 2 sides ;**

* (NOTE : As a result of its recent separation from the CFCGMFI, the CFCFFL is presently in an organizational mode. Thus, what they have is an 'Interim Council' [composed of Bros. Nonong Contreras, Roland Nillas, Pancho Lopez-Tan & Oca Oblefias, with Bro. Frank Padilla in the role of 'Prophet']. They have as yet nothing akin to an 'Elders Assembly' or a formal 'chapter heads' type of organizational structure similar to CFCGMFI. So concerning the CFCFFL side, the practical approach the Task Force of this Mission / Paper should take, would be to directly talk to Bro. Frank Padilla and the CFCFFL Interim Council members.)

- (b) **Convene a 2nd Congress between the 'unified' Chapter Heads on the one**

hand, and the Elders Assembly (EA) of CFCGMFI & the Interim Council (IC) of CFCFFL on the other hand, either jointly or separately -- If the present International Council Members of CFCGMFI & the Interim Council Members of CFCFFL cannot be directly convinced to sacrifice self for the greater good of the Community/s they are supposed to be 'serving' by stepping down, perhaps the EA of CFCGMFI (and the Interim Council of CFCFFL) can be convinced to remove them ('themselves' in CFCFFL's case), since only the CFCGMFI-EA can do so under existing CFCGMFI By-Laws, through a Vote of Non-Confidence ; And,

- (c) If the CFCGMFI-EA and the CFCFFL-IC cannot be prevailed upon to accede to the desire & clamor of the entire Community of Members through their 'unified' Chapter Heads, perhaps, it may then become necessary to firmly communicate to the CFCGMFI-EA and the CFCFFL-IC, that the Community of Members & their unified chapter leaders, can & may exercise other more effective means of moral suasion.** After all is said and done, the good and the will of the Few (100? 200? 500?) CANNOT, in conscience, possibly be more important than the good and the will of the Many (900,000), can it?? IF SO, it would negate any sense of logic and decency in a just and humane society, and in a Christian community, like ours.

*For clarity's sake, it needs to be said that the task force behind this Action / Paper was not and is not after anybody's head/s. We do not like what we believe we may have to do and the only purpose, goal and ideal in our deepest of hearts, is for a united Community, with true love and harmony and brotherhood amongst all of us, like we used to have for the past 26 years. We still believe that miracles can and do happen, for if God is with us, who can be against us? Nothing is impossible. And it is only through the love and warmth and support that we share with each other, that other people may know that truly, we are God's people. If only our elders can find it in their hearts to rediscover this love and caring again, then none of this will be necessary. Many hearts have been broken and many tears have been shed, over what has befallen our beloved Community **"AND SO, we ask our elders -- please hear us, feel us, and feel for us !?!! The greater bulk of the original CFC Community has already chosen side/s because there was no other alternative, but the deepest, most fervent desire of everyone we have talked to since we embarked on this mission, even for those who have chosen, is -- for ONE UNITED CFC."***

Dear Brothers and Sisters in CFC, as we said in the 1st Paper, this is a last ditch effort to save CFC unity. Please JOIN us and E-mail us back ASAP with your support, in accordance with the guidelines given in our 1st Paper ... "May the Good Lord lead us and manifest His will and purpose for our Community through us and through what we do. God bless all of us, in Jesus' Mighty and Glorious Name. AMEN."

(NOTE: Pls. be advised that due to the above changes, Sept. 8 Congress is cancelled ; all will be advised shortly of the dates/venue/details regarding the above new program.)

Yours in Christ,

(originals signed)
Bro. GENE GALVEZ Bro. ERIC TIO

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