

NEWS RELEASE

September 26, 2007

SPRINGTIME IN CFC

It was a weekend filled with joy and hope. More than 350 brothers and sisters (provincial leaders, MM sector heads, foreign delegates and members of the clergy) met in an International Pastoral Congress, held in Manila last September 22 and 23.

This event chalked up a number of 'firsts' for our community. It was the first ever gathering of leaders to revisit not just issues and policies, but the very vision/mission of Couples for Christ. It was a time to consult those from the ground to know about their respective areas of responsibilities. It was also the first time that the clergy participated in charting the future directions for the community.

The workshop tackled issues contained in four areas;

1. The Role of the laity in the parish and our partnership with the clergy
2. Governance of CFC areas and the pastoral structure
3. CFC missionary work and the global mission operations
4. Total human liberation

Among the topics discussed were:

1. How to improve CFC's relationship with the clergy;
2. Adequacy of pastoral support for top leadership;
3. Revisit the 7 pillars of CFC and the implementation of its programs;
4. Revisit the core values of CFC;
5. Multi-sectoral nature of GK and the evangelistic nature of CFC;
6. Regional/provincial/international communities and the top global leadership of the CFC.

The discussions among the small groups, were spirited. The atmosphere was filled with joy and enthusiasm. There was a sense of delight among the participants that their work in CFC can be undertaken with an added sense of fulfillment because they formed part of charting its course. The community has weathered a major storm. An inspired meeting of hearts and minds brought forth many new and bright ideas.

Each CFC area (sector/province) has scheduled their own congress following the template of the Manila congress; everyone is encouraged to participate actively. We look ahead and move in a direction that will affirm our calling and mission as GOD's people, submissive to HIS commands and mindful of the great responsibility that HE has given us: first a season of lamentation then a season of pruning. Archbishop Ramon Arguelles said it best in his homily to the participants in the congress, "You are preparing the soil for the planting of new seeds."

Today we march forward, working hand in hand, for GOD's greater glory towards a new dawn, a spring time in the history of Couples for Christ.