

QUESTIONS FOR BRO. FRANK PADILLA

FORTES_IN_FIDE: First of all, I would like to thank Bro. Frank Padilla for taking the time to answer these questions, especially coming from an ordinary member like myself. Second of all, I would like to apologize to Bro. Frank and to anyone if I have offended him or them in any way with my responses. Finally, it is my hope that this exchange will help those who have already decided to reconsider and re-think then finalize their decision and those who have not decided, to eventually come to a decision. Because I believe, and others may disagree, that you can only be on one side, not both.

1. We can all see that you are being portrayed as a prophet by your supporters. Do you believe you are a prophet in the level of Moses or John the Baptist and why?

FRANK PADILLA: No. I am but a simple servant, who speaks prophetically. The gift of prophecy is given to many in CFC.

FORTES_IN_FIDE: Thank you for your honest answer Bro. Frank.

2. Do you believe you ALONE can restore the true charism of Couples For Christ?

FRANK PADILLA: Restoration is God's work, and I, together with all others in CFC-FFL, are but instruments.

FORTES_IN_FIDE: Only those in FFL are capable of restoring the true charisms of CFC? Isn't that an insult to those of us who have a sincere commitment to restore whatever charisms you think were lost, but who choose not to leave CFC and join FFL? And besides, your concern about lost charisms centers ONLY on GK which are ONLY isolated cases. The fact is, even here in Manitoba (particularly here in Winnipeg) and I'm sure elsewhere, we don't hide the fact that GK is a work of CFC and that CFC is a Roman Catholic group. So how are we veering away? What is there to restore here in Manitoba? If there is none, why put up FFL here? Why disturb the peace and unity, the brotherhood and sisterhood that we, in the not so distant past, were enjoying?

If yes, what makes you say so? If no, why are you defying the decision of the Elders Assembly to give the IC the mandate to govern and eventually restore the true charisms that were deemed lost?

FRANK PADILLA: The bishops said they did not act in the right spirit. They were not in communion with the Church. They are the ones who defied the bishops' strong recommendations, and therefore God's direction. As the bishops say, you cannot say you are obedient to Christ if you are not obedient to His Church (through the bishops).

FORTES_IN_FIDE: Let us not dwell in the past. That particular stand of the Bishops was before the Aug. 28, 2007 dialogue. After that time, they already made a statement saying that there was NO disobedience on the part of the IC. For FFL to continue using this issue to recruit its members is clearly a desperate act of DECEPTION.

If you say, you don't trust them, why don't you trust them?

FRANK PADILLA: The IC has proven untrustworthy by their actions that are vindictive, not brotherly, not pastoral, out to malign. Very many do not trust them.

FORTES_IN_FIDE: This is precisely why in my own personal discernment, I refused to entertain such arguments because there are also those who say that you yourself have done some un-brotherly and even un-Christian acts and there are also very many who do not trust you. The fact of the matter is there is NO WAY for us CFC members to know for sure, who among you is telling the truth in regards to your personal conflicts. You are talking about sins of men, and all of us sin. My point is: What does your personal conflicts or anyone's occasional sins have to do with veering away from the mission and vision of CFC? Does it mean that everytime we sin, we are veering away from our mission and vision? If that is the case then nobody is worthy enough to even be members of CFC.

Who will you trust?

FRANK PADILLA: God and the Church through the bishops. I will also trust brethren who act righteously.

FORTES_IN_FIDE: Precisely! The Bishops already have given their recognition and support for the present IC. Why do you not trust their judgement regarding this? And about acting righteously, what does anyone's sins have to do with veering away from the mission and vision of CFC? Does it mean that everytime we sin, we are veering away from our mission and vision? If that is the case then nobody is worthy enough to even be members of CFC. Who can be trusted if no one among us is righteous?

3. What is the role of the Elders Assembly? Do you have any authority over the Elders Assembly? If yes, what is this authority and where do you base it from? If no, why do you not recognize the mandate they had given the present IC?

FRANK PADILLA: I do recognize the legal election. I did congratulate those who were elected. I did accept their firing me from my services.

FORTES_IN_FIDE: So why did you proceed with the division? Because of their sins? My point again: What does anyone's sins have to do with veering away from the mission and vision of CFC? Does it mean that everytime we sin, we are veering away from our mission and vision? If that is the case then nobody is worthy enough to even be members of CFC.

Why do you defy their decision to go ahead with the elections?

FRANK PADILLA: They are the ones defying the bishops. I never defied their decision to have the elections. But I did not participate because I will not defy the bishops.

FORTES_IN_FIDE: The IC and the EA did not defy. They just did not heed. Defiance is not the same as not heeding. Defiance is not following an order or a directive. The Bishops made a recommendation, though strong, is not an order. The EA have the prerogative to heed it or not. Even the Bishops themselves have acknowledged this now. Why rehash an already resolved issue and spread it as truth to uninformed CFC members? Isn't that deception Bro. Frank?

Do you think your wisdom is greater than the collective wisdom of the Elders Assembly? Do you think the members of the Elders Assembly do not have minds of their own to discern things happening in our community?

FRANK PADILLA: Many did not agree. 121 were for regular elections, while 75 were not. So were these 75 also mindless? Majority vote does not mean that is according to God's will.

FORTES_IN_FIDE: I respectfully disagree Bro. Frank. Of course majority vote is God's will. Correct me if I'm wrong, but isn't that (majority vote wins) what is stated in the CFC statutes or by-laws, which I'm sure you yourself helped formulate? If for you it was not God's will, why did you congratulate those who were elected, only to question their mandate later on? Please don't bring up their sins because all of us (including you and me) are sinful.

4. The Bishops have not suggested or demanded the resignation of the present IC.

FRANK PADILLA: The Philippine bishops defer to the Vatican, since CFC is a Vatican-approved lay association. It is not their place to demand any resignation.

FORTES_IN_FIDE: But they could if they want to, recommend to the Vatican that the present IC be demanded to resign. Why didn't they do so? Instead they have given them recognition and support and a chance to resolve your 18 issues/concerns about GK. Why are you not giving them the same chance? This is GOD speaking through the Bishops and giving them a chance. Why don't you follow God's lead?

Why are you not following their lead?

FRANK PADILLA: While the bishops do not demand their resignation, it does not mean they should not resign. As a member of CFC, it is my right to ask that they do the right thing, which is to resign. Many CFC members want them to resign.

FORTES_IN_FIDE: And many CFC members too, especially me, also want you to come back from separation. Please tell us Bro. Frank. Who should the IC listen to? You or the Bishops?

Do you consider yourself above the Bishops?

FRANK PADILLA: Certainly not.

FORTES_IN_FIDE: Then please, I beg you, for the sake of UNITY and RECONCILIATION, follow their lead, because you yourself would agree that God is speaking through them. Let us end this LAMENTATIONS once and for all. Parang awa mo na sa mga members who are needlessly suffering. Why needlessly? Because your arguments about veering away are not wide spread but are only isolated cases. And besides wherever this is happening, it will be stopped, and a Pastoral Congress will be held to address all of these issues and look at ways to improve whatever needs to be improved, in governance and most importantly in spirituality.

5. In a video of the election, before the actual voting started, where you there when a certain brother suggested to the body that whatever would be the results of the referendum and subsequent election, that EVERYONE should honour it? Did you agree with that suggestion? If no, why not?

FRANK PADILLA: The only thing many of us agreed to was the win-win agreement hammered out by the 12. I had long ago said that if the bishop's strong recommendations were not followed, I cannot participate in the elections because I will not defy the bishops. The referendum was sprung on the body by the IC. Some in fact did not vote for the referendum. Those who did, like me, had no choice because not to do so would have precluded the holding of the win-win agreement.

FORTES_IN_FIDE: I saw a draft document somewhere and it clearly says there the following:

1. This agreement will be presented to the 3 bishops (Archbishop Lagdameo, Bishop Reyes, Bishop Villegas) and to the Elders Assembly for approval;
2. Joe Tale and Frank Padilla will separately present this agreement to the 3 bishops;
3. On June 20, 2007 during the Elders Assembly Recollection, this agreement will be presented to the body for ratification;

If so, why then did you not honour it and have instead gone ahead and divided the community?

FRANK PADILLA: It is not I who divided CFC. If the elections were postponed according to the bishops' original strong recommendations, we would not be divided today. Given that that did not happen, if the win-win agreement was carried out, we would not be divided today. The fault lies entirely with the Int'l Council.

FORTES_IN_FIDE: The Bishops already spoke. If it is so important for you not to defy the Bishops, why are you defying them now? And why continue to spread misinformation about the issue of "defiance" with the Bishops when this is no longer relevant?

6. The present IC has humbly committed itself to resolve your 18 issues/concerns.

FRANK PADILLA: Humble is not a word that describes their actions.

FORTES_IN_FIDE: Can you honestly say that this word applies to you?

As a matter of fact, there will be a Pastoral Congress soon to discuss these and other matters, with the aim of restoring whatever charism that you think was lost and improving any weak areas of governance and spirituality. Why did you still insist in dividing the community?

FRANK PADILLA: CFC is divided because of the actions of the IC, who have conducted a witch hunt against Lachie Agana, who conducted loyalty checks, who fired those who disagreed with them, who set up a divisive website asking people to sign up, who conducted signature campaigns, who spread malicious

untruths about me and others, who do not dialogue, who defied the bishops, who misrepresented what the bishops said, etc., etc.

FORTES_IN_FIDE: I thought CFC is divided because according to you the IC-led CFC is veering away from the mission and vision of CFC and your FFL will put us right back on track? Now that there is a Pastoral Congress that will look into your GK-3 concerns, why will you bring up the sinfulness of brethren, when all of us (including you and me) are sinful? Does it mean that everytime we sin, we are veering away from our mission and vision? If that is the case then nobody is worthy enough to even be members of CFC.

7. They have even told you that restoration can be done without the need to get out and form your own community.

FRANK PADILLA: They never said anything like this because they never sought dialogue, but simply attacked those who had issues with them.

FORTES_IN_FIDE: I'll take that as a memory lapse. Please refer to Bishop Reyes' "Clarifications" document on the Aug. 28, 2007 dialogue where on page 3 he said "The group of Bro. Joe Tale also said that these complaints can be solved without the group of Bro. Frank Padilla getting out of the CFC. Bro. Frank Padilla answered that they have aired these complaints long enough but the situation is still the same."

Did you answer to the effect "Those issues have long been forwarded and still nothing has been done about it."? Why do you expect the new IC to resolve in less than 4 months the issues/problems that you as Chairman of GK could not resolve in the many years that GK has been existing?

FRANK PADILLA: The so-called new IC has 4 members who have been there for some time. The problem is these old 4 in the IC. They, and not just me, have been unable to resolve the issues which have also been there for some years. The issues have not been resolved because the GK top leadership have a very different mindset on how to do GK.

FORTES_IN_FIDE: You forget that fact that you used to be part of that GK top leadership (you were even the head). Is it fair to say that that was also your mindset before or else GK's "veering away" would not have dragged on during your watch? Anyway, the new IC has now a new mandate, and now they are fully committed to resolve whatever needs to be resolved, change whatever needs to be changed and improved whatever needs to be improved. They are even involving many (Pastoral Congress), and not just the seven of them. And this, with the blessings of the Bishops. How you choose not to support that is totally beyond many of us.

8. You wrote in your Sept.-Oct. 2006 article in the Ugnayan that Satan will attempt to destroy the community through elders who will not be "submitted to the authority within the body", elders who will "build turf", elders who will "stoke conflict and division rather than practice patience, tolerance and forgiveness." Now that your prophecy has been fulfilled, now that our beloved community has indeed been destroyed, since we are now divided, my questions are: Isn't your defiance of the Elders Assembly for electing the new IC, not being "submitted to the authority within the body"?

FRANK PADILLA: As I said, I did submit to authority by recognizing their legal status and by accepting their unjust action of firing those who disagreed with them. But we are never called to blind obedience, but to active submission. If they are already doing wrong, then we have the right to question them and act for the well-being of CFC. We are after all not a cult.

FORTES_IN_FIDE: What wrong? GK veering away? Or the "witch hunt" against Bro. Lachie Agana? If you say "GK veering away", they are already committed to resolving that. And besides, the person you say has "veered away", Bro. Tony Meloto, is not even in the IC anymore! If you say "witch hunt" against Bro. Lachie Agana, I say when does "personal conflicts" have any bearing on matters pertaining to governance of CFC? But come to think of it, if Bro. Lachie Agana is really morally guilty of whatever he is accused of, and the IC goes after him, that is still part of the ADMINISTRATIVE and PASTORAL functions of the IC, is it not?

Isn't your action of creating the Restoration Group and now the FFL, "building turf"?

FRANK PADILLA: It is an act of protecting and preserving the original and true charism of CFC. It is an act of faithfulness to God in resisting those who have veered away from God's call.

FORTES_IN_FIDE: But there is NO MORE NEED TO create a new group. The existing group led by the present IC has already committed to doing what you are aiming to do. You wrote in "Fulfilling The Mandate" on the DISUNITY section: "We may give our own opinion, argue forcefully about our position, raise questions for clarification, but at the end of the day, we must be willing to accede to the decision of those over us, especially if that decision is not a matter of wrongdoing." And they have not committed any wrongdoing since after they were given a new mandate on June 22, 2007. Now, please help us understand (and there are many of us) Bro. Frank, as to why you are not walking your own talk?

Isn't your act of rejecting the IC's offer to resolve your 18 issues/concerns and your act of threatening division if they don't resign the same as "stoking conflict and division"?

FRANK PADILLA: They never offered to resolve the issues. I was the one pursuing these. I never threatened division if they did not resign.

FORTES_IN_FIDE: Of course they did offer to resolve the issues. They said that in the dialogue with the Bishops and in concrete ways, they will be holding a Pastoral Congress in Nov. 2007 to discuss all issues bugging this community. As for your denial (memory lapse) that you didn't threaten division if they did not resign, I refer you to your email below. Please read your own statement emphasized in red.

On 8/14/07, Frank Padilla <fapcfc@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello brethren. The Council of 7 met yesterday together with Tony Meloto, Lachie Agana and myself. Moderator was Fr Paul Uwemedimo. Present also were 3 SFC elders. The SFC actually brokered the dialogue.

All would have liked CFC to remain as one. However, the proposal of either side to achieve that was unacceptable to the other side. They said we can be one if I and those opposing them simply let go and supported them. We said that would be a betrayal of the many who saw that the Council could not be trusted and in fact was at the center of the conflict. **In turn, I said we could be one if they resigned,** precisely because they were the cause of the disunity. They refused to do so.

When the issue of separation was brought up, everyone said that was the way to go. Suddenly the tension lightened up. So this is agreed upon, though all will pray about it and consult with their respective groups. We have to figure out a way to part as brethren. One issue is the name CFC.

There will probably be another meeting to figure out how to present the separation to the whole CFC and how to do it in the least disruptive way.

God bless.
frank

"For to me life is Christ, and death is gain." (Phil 1:21)

FORTES_IN_FIDE: Are you not threatening disunity? Are you not holding HOSTAGE the unity that we all long for in exchange for them to accede to your demand for them to resign?

FRANK PADILLA: Their actions finally gave no more option but the separation, which even they agreed to. I was the one who pursued a resolution of the issues, by clarifying things with the CFC&GK3 paper, then by having dialogue with GK leaders (Luis, Issa, Dylan), then finally giving a concrete proposal that would resolve everything. They never responded.

FORTES_IN_FIDE: They have the mandate. You don't. They had the right and the authority to demand that you let go and support them. You on the other hand, may have the right as all of us do, but you have no authority to demand for their resignation, especially since they have not done any wrongdoing and are even committed to resolve your 18 issues/concerns. And besides you yourself said: "at the end of the day, we must be willing to accede to the decision of those over us, especially if that decision is not a matter of wrongdoing."

9. What grave wrongdoing has the present IC done that you have demanded for their resignation?

FRANK PADILLA: They are at the center of the conflict. Thus the conflict will never be resolved with them there. Many do not trust them and cannot accept their leadership, aside from being worried about how they are leading CFC to disintegration.

FORTES_IN_FIDE: I say again, what conflict? Defiance of Bishops? Well, the Bishops doesn't think so. GK veering away? Bro. Tony Meloto is not in the IC anymore and Pastoral Congress is going to address your 18 issues/concerns. "Witch hunt" against Bro. Lachie Agana? The IC are just performing their administrative and pastoral functions. They have been given the mandate. You even congratulated them, which means you accept their mandate. Why the change now? Why contradict yourself now?

How grave is this wrongdoing that it should warrant their resignation, despite their commitment to resolve your 18 issues/concerns?

FRANK PADILLA: CFC is disintegrating under their watch.

FORTES_IN_FIDE: The IC's inability to make you and your supporters stay, is a wrongdoing? How can that be? How can they be the cause of CFC'S disintegration when it is YOU who wants to divide CFC if your demands are not met? You forget that you don't have any authority to make such demands. The Bishops have more authority than you and they have not made such demands.

How come the Bishops have not suggested nor demanded for their resignations as you did? If you say they have no moral ascendancy to govern, who does?

FRANK PADILLA: Those who are not part of the conflict. We have a deep bench of capable leaders.

FORTES_IN_FIDE: But there is NO conflict. You are just making it appear that there is. But if we nitpick at all the issues, we will find as many of us did, that there is none. We may have many capable leaders (and you are at the forefront), but what good would that serve the community if these leaders do not know how to be good members?

Whatever happened to patience, tolerance and forgiveness that you have always taught us all throughout these years?

FRANK PADILLA: I practiced these over the 7 years of tension between CFC and GK. Even now, as I am unjustly maligned, I have not retaliated in kind.

FORTES_IN_FIDE: So, there you go. Why not extend your streak by giving the new IC a chance to prove themselves? Be patient, be tolerant and be forgiving of their shortcomings. They haven't done any serious wrongdoing naman, diba?

10. Since when did CFC become CFC-GK? But just for the sake of identifying both groups, granted that the IC-led CFC is called CFC-GK and your group is called CFC-FFL, are you implying that CFC-GK will not do anything related to family and life anymore?

FRANK PADILLA: There is no such implication. I have consistently said they will still evangelize and promote family life. It is just that their main focus, as it is now, is GK. This is precisely the cause of the conflict.

If you say no, why separate?

FRANK PADILLA: Because the tension and conflict remains. GK leaders have veered away from CFC's original charism. The IC has driven us away.

FORTES_IN_FIDE: GK is only a source of conflict because you want it to be a source of conflict. The tension and conflict remains because you want it to remain, so that your act of division will be justified. You purposely and stubbornly ignore IC's invitation to stay as they act on their commitment to prove to you and to everyone else that

they will fix whatever needs to be fixed in GK. You were not driven away. You chose to go away. Why Bro. Frank, why?

If you have nothing against GK itself, will CFC-FFL not do its own GK?

FRANK PADILLA: Yes, the way God intended GK to be done.

If it will still do its own GK, then why separate?

FRANK PADILLA: Because the GK leaders are not doing GK according to how God wants it done. CFC-FFL's work with the poor will be overtly Catholic. We will not hide our Christian or CFC identity. We will be discerning as to partners.

FORTES_IN_FIDE: Don't forget you were among those GK leaders. You were even its head. If you also wanted to correct the past GK mistakes (which you were a part of), why did you have to resign in the first place? And now that you are out of the picture, and the IC will be working to correct the past GK mistakes, you also want to correct it, but not under their duly-given authority? This is not making sense at all.

11. You categorically said that when you will form FFL, you will not hold any position? Why are you now the Chairman of FFL?

FRANK PADILLA: There is no such position as Chair of CFC-FFL. There is an interim governing committee of 5 brothers, and I am not part of it. I of course did not say I would hold no position, but that I would not be in governance, where the power is. I of course can hold a position of service.

FORTES_IN_FIDE: No such CFC-FFL Chair position? Let me remind you that the flyer spreading around about your North American Tour, clearly shows that you are the "Chairman and Founder of Couples For Christ Foundation for Family and Life". So, you are also creating your own Pastoral Structure. Eventually, FFL will also have its own Elders Assembly. I'm just wondering, what assurance can you give, considering that the members of an assembly are mere sinful human beings, that you will not defy their decisions in the future, just like you have defied the decision of the CFC Elders Assembly recently?

12. In your CFC-GK3 paper, one of your biggest issues/concerns is why Bro. Tony Meloto is being called the "Father" or "Founder of GK". Why does it not seem to bother you the least, now that you are also being called the "Founder of CFC"?

FRANK PADILLA: I have never called myself the founder, nor have anyone else in CFC called me founder. Many times in the past I told people, even in writing to CFC, that I was not the founder. This is unlike GK that promoted Tony as the founder, which Tony never denied. Anyway, it is the bishops who call me founder. You need to understand the terminology of new ecclesial movements. The charism holder is called the founder. The charism is given to an individual, who shares it with his group.

FORTES_IN_FIDE: Thank you for your honest answer Bro. Frank. Personally for me, without any doubt, you will always be the Founder of CFC because you are the one who took CFC out of LNP and made it what it has been these past 25 years. Unfortunately, if unity and reconciliation is not achieved, you will also be known to me as the "Destroyer of CFC" because I and many, many others, personally hold you responsible for the division that has happened to our beloved community. I firmly believe it is all in your hands Bro. Frank. You need only to submit to the authority of the duly-elected IC (which the Bishops recognize anyway), and EVERYTHING will be alright again. Our Lamentations will finally be over, I hope and I pray.

13. Why are you concerned that the Mormons will proselytize the GK villages that they penetrate? Do you not trust that God will do the conversion and not man?

FRANK PADILLA: So are you willing to ignore all the conversions of Catholics being accomplished by Mormons today?

FORTES_IN_FIDE: My answers here are only my personal opinion and does not reflect the stand of the IC. I'm not saying that we should ignore. I am simply saying that we cannot and should not force our faith and our way of life

into people, just because we have given them homes. **Even God Himself does not force Himself on us.** We can only invite them, we can only show it to them, but it is up to them to decide whether they would like to join or not.

So, do we deprive the GK villages of their source of water just because we do not trust God enough that He will not let the villagers be converted to the wrong faith? Isn't GK not also doing its own formation programs and CLPs? If you really trust God, you will have the strong faith (fortes fide) that even if the Mormons proselytize them, they will still join CFC and not them. And even if they did join the Mormons, then let it be, it's their choice not ours. At least CFC and GK did its part. If you heard the story about the man and the BIG rock, we are only to push the rock. God does not expect us to move it because we simply can't. Only God can move the rock.

Isn't GK supposed to be giving without expecting anything in return?

FRANK PADILLA: The Mormons give but perhaps expect something in return, that is, an opportunity to proselytize.

FORTES_IN_FIDE: Where is the faith and trust that you had all these years?

Is CFC supposed to impose itself on the GK settlers just because we have given them homes?

FRANK PADILLA: So you consider it an imposition to try to shield Christians from proselytizing cults and sects?

FORTES_IN_FIDE: Even if Mormons will not be partners of GK. What prevents them from coming into the GK villages and proselytizing? Will you put up huge signs at the village entrance saying "CULTS and SECTS are not allowed"? Let's be realistic and at the same time have faith and trust in God while doing our own formations and CLPs within the villages.

Shouldn't the GK settlers join CFC because we are imposing it on them or should they instead be motivated to join because of the works that CFC do?

FRANK PADILLA: I rest my case. Your viewpoint is precisely how GK has veered away from God's plan that it be part of CFC's evangelistic ministry. If this is your view, then let GK be a social entity and not part of CFC.

FORTES_IN_FIDE: On the contrary it is not. There is no veering away. We are still doing our work of evangelization, by conducting formations and CLPs but we cannot force ourselves on them. It is "expecting something in return" and "imposing" on them, and that is precisely what the Mormons are doing.

14. Is the way you worship at FFL different from the way we worship in CFC? If no, then why separate? What charism does FFL have that CFC does not have? What can FFL achieve that CFC cannot achieve? If there is none, then why separate?

FRANK PADILLA: CFC-GK has veered away from CFC's original charism, which CFC-FFL is restoring.

FORTES_IN_FIDE: That is also the aim of CFC, so for the sake of unity, let's combine our efforts within one united CFC. I and many, many others beg you Bro. Frank, let's end this lamentations once and for all.

15. Can you make an assurance that the FFL you had established will not in the future experience the same kind of crisis that CFC had just gone through?

FRANK PADILLA: Since I am not God, I cannot make any such assurance. However, given the lessons learned in this crisis, there most probably will be no more such crisis in the future for CFC-FFL. If no, then why separate? If yes, how?

FORTES_IN_FIDE: I'm pretty sure there will still be a crisis, because you will not have learned your very own lessons about patience, forgiveness and tolerance. If you have, then you would readily submit yourself to the duly-elected authority of the IC.

While we are divided, we will always be in Lamentations.

16. How will FFL convince all the other Bishops that they are also CFC when there is already an existing CFC?

FRANK PADILLA: We do not need to convince them. They already accept us.

FORTES_IN_FIDE: CBCP says that CFC (led by Joe Tale) retains its Vatican and CBCP recognition. FFL still has to build the trust of each Bishop (except Bishop Reyes) in all local and international dioceses. How are you to go about convincing them? And besides what could be the difference, especially that IC-led CFC will also restore whatever charisms that were deemed lost.

Will you also tell these Bishops that CFC might veer away from its mission and vision and that FFL is actually the true CFC?

FRANK PADILLA: They can see for themselves that CFC-GK has veered away. The three bishops (Reyes, Lagdameo, Villegas) think so. Even Archbp Arguelles expressed great concern at how GK was overcoming CFC (check out his memo).

FORTES_IN_FIDE: Maybe so, but they have now been made aware that these are only isolated cases. And being so, they have not revoked their recognition of the IC-led CFC. They have also given a chance to the present IC for them to restore whatever needs to be restored. So what else will FFL restore? FFL will not restore, but build. What will FFL build? It's own credibility! In the eyes of the people. In the eyes of the Bishops. In the eyes of God.

17. If you and all FFL supporters still consider yourselves "Couples For Christ" in spirit, why is it still important for you that your name will also be called "Couples For Christ"?

FRANK PADILLA: We are not just Couples for Christ "in spirit." We are Couples for Christ. We never left CFC. We have as much right, if not more, to be CFC than those who have veered away.

FORTES_IN_FIDE: Please stop rehashing that "veering away" argument. You were also part of that "veering away" and the present IC (with the Bishops' blessings and support) is very committed to erase that "veering away" issue. This is the reality. You are no longer CFC. You are FFL. CFC has a pastoral structure which you don't submit yourselves to. CFC has a Vatican-registered statute that you don't adhere to. FFL at this time has nothing and is yet to make its own. CFC is recognized by the Vatican and the CBCP. No matter how much Bro. Nonong Contreras twists it, FFL is not.

18. In your book "Fulfilling The Mandate", there is a section on "DISUNITY" on page 149 and you also wrote about this in some of your Ugnayan articles. How will you reconcile or relate what you have written with what your role has been in the division that has happened in our community?

FRANK PADILLA: Again, it is not me who has caused disunity, but the actions of the IC.

FORTES_IN_FIDE: The IC's actions are:

- "VEERING AWAY" that you were also a part of and which they are very willing to correct.
- "WITCH HUNT" that the IC is conducting against Bro. Lachie Agana, which can be considered merely an administrative and pastoral function that they are performing. The IC is not guilty of any wrongdoing. They are in fact the ones investigating if Bro. Lachie Agana is guilty of any wrongdoing.
- "DISOBEDIENCE" to the Bishops which the Bishops have now understood and has forgiven the IC for

Compare that with your actions as follows and as written in your very OWN books: INSUBORDINATION (defied the EA-elected IC, defied the Bishops' show of support for the IC), BUILDING TURF (established separatist FFL group), STOKING CONFLICT & DIVISION (held hostage unity in exchange for IC's resignation) and IMPATIENCE, INTOLERANCE, UNFORGIVENESS (not giving the duly-elected IC a chance to prove themselves).

Forgive me Bro. Frank but, the cause of DISUNITY very clearly points to no one else but YOU.

19. When is obedience and loyalty considered blind?

FRANK PADILLA: When the leadership demands it just like that, without regard for issues, just as the IC is doing. CFC is not a cult.

FORTES_IN_FIDE: The IC does not demand obedience and loyalty. The IC requests for a chance to prove themselves, that they are committed to resolving the “veering away” issues. For me, obedience and loyalty is blind when people follow or continue to follow a leader:

- who does not know how to be a member
- whose separatist actions have been shown to be unjustified and unnecessary
- just because he is the founder while ignoring all his other unjustified actions
- just because he is a kumpare or a mentor or a close friend
- just because he is good in public speaking and in writing books whose contents some of which that he does not even follow and practice
- just because he is charismatic
- just because he is a good preacher while he does not even walk some of his own talks

20. Are you and Sis. Gerry the only one entitled to represent Couples for Christ at the Vatican? Why?

FRANK PADILLA: Anyone who is qualified and recommended and approved is entitled.

FORTES_IN_FIDE: Thank you for your honest answer Bro. Frank.

21. What was your purpose in visiting the Vatican recently?

FRANK PADILLA: To speak with Archbp Rylko and apprise him of the situation of CFC. That is my responsibility as the one who got our recognition and as the one whose name appears in our recognition.

FORTES_IN_FIDE: Thank you for your honest answer Bro. Frank. And indeed it is your responsibility. And as part of your responsibility, did you tell the Most Reverend Archbishop Rylko that you are NO LONGER the head of CFC?