



COUPLES FOR CHRIST

USA

A Private International Association of the Faithful of Pontifical Right

Building the Church
of the Home,

Building the Church
of the Poor

Families in the Holy Spirit Renewing the Face of the Earth

Brief History & Overview of Couples for Christ (CFC)

- Couples for Christ (CFC), formally the Couples for Christ Global Mission Foundation, Inc., is a Catholic organization intended for the renewal and strengthening of Christian family life.
- It started with just 16 couples in 1981 as part of a Prayer Group called “*Ligaya ng Panginoon*” (LNP or “Joy of the Lord”) in the Philippines, separated from LNP in 1993 and grew to a worldwide movement. CFC is highly evangelistic driven by its global vision of “Families in the Holy Spirit Renewing the Face of the Earth” and sustained by its core values of “Pro-God, Pro-Family, Pro-Life and Pro-Poor.” Today, CFC is in more than 100 countries.
- Through the course of the years other ministries were added. In 1993, CFC began to establish the Family Ministries and now we have: Kids for Christ (for children ages 4-12), Youth for Christ (for children ages 13-21), Singles for Christ (for single men and women ages 22-40), Handmaids of the Lord (for widows, mature women, divorced women and single mothers), and Servants of the Lord (for widowers, mature single men, divorced men and single fathers). In later years, in order to address the needs of the materially poor, social ministries were established gradually evolving into an umbrella organization which is now called ANCOP (**ANS**wering the **Cry** **O**f the **P**oor)
- CFC is called to take up the very mission of Jesus in bringing glad tidings to the poor, both spiritually and materially, through its two-fold global mission of “Building the Church of the Home and the Church of the Poor.”
- CFC accomplishes its mission by vigorously pursuing its four global goals of: 1.) Evangelization and Formation, 2.) Family Renewal, 3.) Total Christian Liberation, and 4.) Effective and Efficient Governance.
- For Spanish speaking people, we also have the full equivalent of CFC in Spanish: *Parejas Para Cristo* (PPC)
- In March 11, 2000, CFC was granted Vatican recognition as an International Association of the Faithful of the Pontifical Right, through the Pontifical Council for the Laity. In April 25, 2005, the Vatican confirmed CFC’s recognition and issued the definitive approval of its International Statutes.
- Membership in CFC begins upon completion of the Christian Life Program (CLP). Members are made part of a small cell group called a Household which meets weekly for encouragement and mutual support in their Christian life.
- CFC grows mainly through the establishment of localized units in different parishes. CFC members are organized into Household cell groups (a group of 8 to 14 individual members, or 4 to 7 couples), which are led by a Household Head. Multiple households form a Unit, multiple units form a Chapter, multiple chapters form a Cluster, and a Sector can be formed depending on the amount of clusters in the area.
- CFC provides a continuing program of pastoral and spiritual formation which includes Church teachings, Scriptures, Christian relationships, recollections and retreats. We are one with the Church and regularly seek her guidance through our Spiritual Director. Its members support their parish priests and are available for parish services. CFC is a working model for the development of Basic Ecclesial Communities and can hasten the formation of a strong and vibrant parish community.

CFC's Vision and Mission



CFC GLOBAL VISION

FAMILIES IN THE HOLY SPIRIT RENEWING THE FACE OF THE EARTH

Moved by the Holy Spirit, one with the Catholic Church, blessed to witness to Christ's love and service, Couples for Christ is a united global community of family evangelizers that sets the world on fire with the fullness of God's transforming love.

CFC GLOBAL MISSION

BUILDING THE CHURCH OF THE HOME AND THE CHURCH OF THE POOR

We are Couples for Christ. We are committed to live in God's righteousness and holiness, evangelizing people through a life of love and service; we shall work for the renewal of families that will serve God and build generations of Christian leaders; and, we shall pursue Total Christian Liberation through social justice, respect for life, and work with the poor.

CFC GLOBAL GOALS

1. EVANGELIZATION AND FORMATION

To strategically locate in the world to evangelize peoples and inculcate a way of life based on Gospel values.

2. FAMILY RENEWAL

To strengthen and defend the family as a basic unit of society and of the Church in accordance with God's plan.

3. TOTAL CHRISTIAN LIBERATION (Justice, Life, and Poor)

To help the least of our brethren based on Matthew 25:40, "Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me."

4. EFFECTIVE / EFFICIENT GOVERNANCE

To provide effective and efficient support services to fulfill the vision and mission of CFC.



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Couples for Christ (CFC), is an International Association of the Faithful of Pontifical Right, listed among the 122 associations published in the Directory of the Pontifical Council for the Laity.

We have reproduced below the information which you will find in the 2006 printed copy of the Directory or in the more accessible on-line Vatican Website:

http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/laity/documents/rc_pc_laity_doc_20051114_associazioni_en.html

PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR THE LAITY INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS OF THE FAITHFUL DIRECTORY

The nature and purpose of this Directory

(excerpts taken from the Preface)

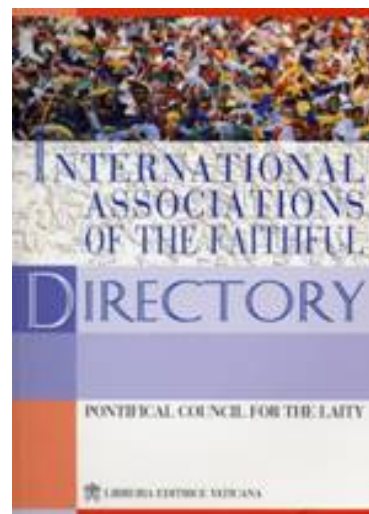
The Directory is a response to the invitation extended by John Paul II to the Pontifical Council for the Laity in *Christifideles Laici* to draw up a list of associations which have received the "official recognition and explicit approval" of the Holy See.

This Directory of the associations of the faithful is designed to be a resource on which the pastors of the Church can draw to find useful information when first coming into contact with any particular lay association, and as a practical tool to assist them in the performance of their ministry; it is also designed for the associations of the faithful themselves, as a stimulus to become better acquainted with one another in a spirit of ecclesial communion; and lastly it is for all those who wish to find out more about the world of Catholic lay associations, to study it more closely.

Reiterating the urgent need for a new evangelization, John Paul II constantly referred to the role of "forms of association, whether of the more traditional kind or the newer ecclesial movements, which continue to give the Church a vitality that is God's gift".(23) The Pontifical Council for the Laity is confident that the Directory will help to bear testimony to this.

All the forms that were submitted, in different ways and at different times, by the associations who responded to this request were carefully examined and the information was painstakingly extracted to ensure uniformity in the way the data would be set out... Particular care has been taken to spell out the charisms at the origin of the associations listed in the Directory, always seeking to safeguard the concepts and keywords that characterize their particular experiences.

Stanislaw Cardinal Rylko
Titular Archbishop of Novica
President of the Pontifical Council for the Laity



of

OFFICIAL NAME	COUPLES FOR CHRIST
ACRONYM	CFC
ESTABLISHED	1981
HISTORY	The Couples for Christ Association was established in Manila, Philippines, by 16 married couples belonging to a Catholic Charismatic Renewal prayer group. It works for Christian couples wishing to deepen their faith by helping one another to revive their relationship with our Lord and to allow themselves to be renewed by the power of the Holy Spirit. Within a few years, the association was recognised by the Philippines Bishops' Conference, and its new approach to evangelisation spread in the parishes as a programme for the renewal of family life. On 11 March 2000 the Pontifical Council for the Laity decreed recognition of Couples for Christ as an international association of the faithful of Pontifical Right.
IDENTITY	CFC is made up of families who have taken up Christ's exhortation to be leaven and light in the world, and to spread the Good News of the liberation of humanity. Through their commitment to the Church's evangelising work, promoting peace and justice, defending the poor and the oppressed, and promoting the unity of Christians, they cooperate with the work of the Holy Spirit who gives life to a new humanity. Membership of CFC entails acceptance of the Christian Life Programme, of a programme of instruction designed to impart to all the members of the association the essentials of the faith, helping them to rediscover the sense of their vocation to marriage and to renew their faithfulness to God every day, to their vows which bind them as husband and wife, and to their commitment to support one another. CFC pursues its objectives through family pastoral programmes aimed at making the family a "domestic Church", and through pastoral programmes attentive to the needs of the poor.
ORGANISATION	CFC is governed by the <i>International Council</i> , with its headquarters at Manila, under which there are the <i>National Councils</i> . Under the National Councils can be <i>Regional Councils</i> , and under these the <i>sectors</i> , and under these the <i>chapters</i> , which are the grass roots units of CFC. Non-Catholic Christians may also become aggregate members of the association.
MEMBERSHIP	CFC has some 980,600 members, and is present in 76 countries as follows: Africa (16), Asia (18), Europe (24), North America (8), Oceania (6), and South America (4).
PUBLICATIONS	<i>In His Steps</i> , a quarterly publication of Biblical reflection; <i>Mothers</i> , a fortnightly magazine; <i>Ugnayan</i> , a fortnightly newsletter.
WEB SITE	http://www.cfcglobal.org.ph
HEADQUARTERS	Couples for Christ 349 Ortigas Avenue - Greenhills East Mandaluyong 1554 - Philippines Tel. [+63]2.7270681 - Fax 2.7275777 Email: cfcglobe@info.com.ph

Since the publication in 2006 of the Directory in English, please note the following changes for CFC:

CFC web site address is now: <http://couplesforchristglobal.org>

As of August 2011, CFC is now present in **123** rather than **76** countries.

New Headquarters Address: 156 20th Avenue

Cubao, Quezon City 1109

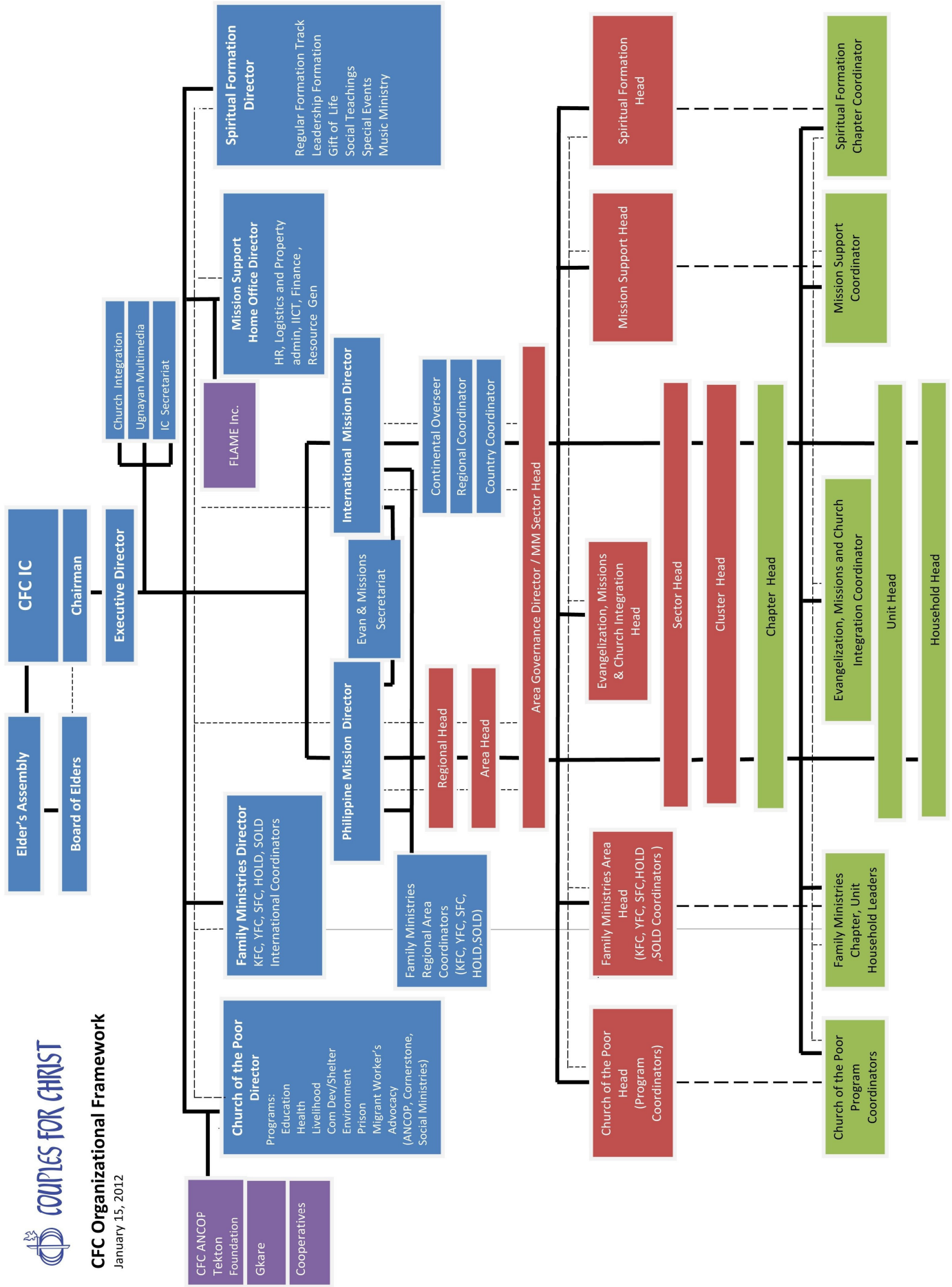
Philippines

Tel. (+63)2-709-4868; Fax (+63)2-709-4844

For more information on-line about CFC in the USA, please refer to: <http://www.couplesforchristusa.com>



CFC Organizational Framework
January 15, 2012





COUPLES FOR CHRIST

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THREE NEW IC MEMBERS ELECTED

In keeping with amendments to the CFC bylaws, a new set of three new IC members were elected during the regular annual meeting of the Elders Assembly last Wednesday, June 27 at the One Esplanade in Pasay City.

The election was preceded by a recollection and the celebration of the Mass by Rev. Fr. Gerry Tapiador, former parish priest and rector of the Cathedral Shrine and Parish of the Good Shepherd, Novaliches.

During the Elders Assembly meeting, CFC Chairman Ricky Cuenca reported on the accomplishments of the previous year while Finance Director Nonoy Dalman presented a report on the financial status of CFC.

The elected officers will serve for three years, or up to June 30, 2015. They are reelectionists Filemon (Jun) Uriarte and Alromanof (Mannix) Ocampo and new member Arnel Santos. They join the six incumbent IC members, namely: Ricardo (Ricky) Cuenca, Ermelo (Melo) Villaroman, Jr., Jose (Joe) Tale, Emmanuel (Manny) Garcia, Emmanuel (Nonoy) Dalman and Jose (Joe) Yamamoto.



156 20th Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City 1109, Philippines
Telephone Numbers (632)709-4873 Fax Number (623)709-4844
Email: cfcmultimedia@gmail.com
www.couplesforchristglobal.org

The new set of International Council members for the year 2012-2013 are shown in above photo (left to right): Melo Villaroman, Jr., Manny Garcia, Joe Tale, Jun Uriarte, Arnel Santos, Mannix Ocampo, Joe Yamamoto, Ricky Cuenca and Nonoy Dalman.

The election was one of the highlights of CFC's 31st anniversary celebrations. The Family Ministries Congress and the International Mission Core Gathering were held on Tuesday, June 26 while the Church of the Poor Congress was held yesterday, June 28.

Currently ongoing is the Global Leaders Summit, to be followed by the Anniversary Fellowship Night later in the evening. The grand anniversary celebrations will happen at the Quirino Grandstand on June 30.



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Ref. No. 12-55

July 9, 2012

MEMO

FOR : The CFC Global Family
FROM : Arnel M. Santos
CFC Secretary
RE : New Set of Officers for CFC

Proclaim the Greatness of the Lord!

In a prayerful and Spirit-filled meeting held last Wednesday, July 4, 2012, the CFC International Council elected from among them, the following officers:

Chairman	-	RICARDO B. CUENCA
Executive Director	-	ERMELO E. VILLAROMAN JR.
Treasurer	-	EMMANUEL M. DALMAN
Secretary	-	ARNEL M. SANTOS

As one united family in Christ, let us pray that the Lord will continue to grant them the grace to be ablaze with the fire of the love of Jesus.

God bless us all.



ARNEL M. SANTOS
CFC Secretary

No. 156, 20th Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City 1109, Philippines
Telephone Numbers: Trunkline (632)7094868 Fax Number (632)7094844
Email: cfcmultimedia@gmail.com
www.couplesforchristglobal.org



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CFC USA National Council 2014-2015 Contacts

Name	Position	E-mail	Mobile Number
Eric Villanueva	CFCUSA National Director	ericcfcusa@gmail.com	818-631-5620
Rod Bustos	Evangelization & Mission	rod_bustos92@live.com	301-646-0864
Ding De Guzman	Treasurer	dingcfc.ca@hotmail.com	408-263-6401
Toffee Jeturian	Pastoral Formation Office Coordinator/ BCOP	toffeejet@yahoo.com	714-609-9119
Tat Reyes	Special Events and Full-time Worker Coordinator	tatreyes@aol.com	678-895-0011
Jojo Reandalar	Family Ministry/ Compliance	jojolaguna@yahoo.com	914-564-6974
Roger Santos	CFC USA National Secretary/ Catholic Church Relation Overseer	rjsusa@gmail.com	848-459-8019



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CFC USA REGIONAL HEADS 2014 -2015

REGION	AREAS	REGION HEAD	EMAIL	MOBILE PHONE
1. Northwest-A	AK, OR, West WA	Bert Araneta	atenarab@aol.com	818-612-2945
2. Northwest-B	ID, MT, East WA	Lito Crisolo	litocrisolocfc@gmail.com	818-523-5481
3. Southwest-A	North CA, CO, NV, UT, WY	Ricky Coronel	rcor950825@aol.com	909-591-4195
4. Southwest-B	AZ, South CA, HI, NM	Jack Macalalad	jacintomacalalad@msn.com	832-605-2649
5. Northcentral-A	IA, IL, IN, MI, WI	Tony Ventura	tonyventura1@aol.com	828-398-3733
6. Northcentral-B	MN, NE, ND, SD	Cris Kagahastian	ckagahastian@us.westfield.com	310-445-2437
7. Southcentral-A	AR, LA, TX	Rafy Estrera	rcest@aol.com	510-367-1739
8. Southcentral-B	KS, MO, OK	Alex Santos	asantos.cfcil@gmail.com	224-475-2334
9. Northeast-A	CT, DE, MA, ME, NH, NJ, NY, East PA, RI, VT	Norbee Perrin	norbyperin@yahoo.com	301-529-2357
10. Northeast-B	DC, MD, OH, West PA, VA, WV	Romy Dacayanan	dacayanan@optionline.net	609-481-8505
11. Southeast-A	GA, FL, AL, MI	Art Fausto	artminfausto@aol.com	864-351-9149
12. Southeast-B	SC, NC, KY, TN	Rod Bustos	rod_bustos92@live.com	301-646-0864

INTERNATIONAL STATUTES OF COUPLES FOR CHRIST

1.0 Nature and Purpose

1.1 COUPLES FOR CHRIST (CFC) is a private international association of faithful of pontifical right recognized by the Pontifical Council for the Laity. It is committed to the work of global evangelization and renewal, with the goal of winning the world for Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

1.2 COUPLES FOR CHRIST started in June 1981 in Manila, Philippines, which now functions as the center for its global work.

1.3 COUPLES FOR CHRIST throughout the world is one unified work, with unity of vision and mission. It is one family, related through mutual love, respect and unity of heart and mind. It is one army, working tenaciously to establish and spread the Lord's dominion on earth.

1.4 COUPLES FOR CHRIST is a missionary body, and the families throughout the world that make up COUPLES FOR CHRIST are to be families that will be instruments of the Holy Spirit in renewing the face of the earth.

2.0 Vision and Mission

2.1 COUPLES FOR CHRIST is called to rise in defense of the family which is God's work. It is called to bring families back to the plan of God. It is called to bring the Lord's strength and light to those who are struggling to be truly Christian families in the modern world.

2.2 COUPLES FOR CHRIST works for Christian family renewal at various levels--the individual, the family, the larger community.

2.21 **Individual renewal.** COUPLES FOR CHRIST takes the basic message of Christianity and proclaims it anew so that those who hear it can make a renewed commitment to God in a way which will allow them to receive a fuller experience of the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

2.22 **Family renewal.** As couples renew their commitment to God, they also renew their commitment to one another and to their Christian family life. Gradually, the new life that they find in the Lord filters down to all their family relationships.

2.23 **Church renewal.** As individual families are renewed, they form a network of committed Christian families which not only support one another but also strengthen the Church of which they are members.

2.24 **Societal/national/global renewal.** COUPLES FOR CHRIST, in raising up holy Christian men and women, likewise raises up responsible members of society and patriotic citizens of countries.

2.3 COUPLES FOR CHRIST carries out its **mission of renewal** throughout the world by focusing on **three basic areas** -- evangelization, family life renewal, and Church renewal.

2.31 **Evangelization.** COUPLES FOR CHRIST is called to a work of evangelization that is rapid, massive and global.

2.311 Every CFC member is to be an evangelizer and is to live an evangelistic lifestyle.

2.32 **Family life renewal.** COUPLES FOR CHRIST's work of evangelization, formation and support is situated in the context of Christian family living.

2.321 COUPLES FOR CHRIST is committed to the defense and strengthening of families and of Christian family values.

2.322 COUPLES FOR CHRIST seeks to build a network of committed Christian couples and families throughout the world.

2.33 **Church renewal.** COUPLES FOR CHRIST is committed to work for Catholic re-evangelization first and foremost, but looks to the ideal of Christian unity and will also serve the other Christian Churches whenever possible.

2.331 COUPLES FOR CHRIST is committed to building up vibrant Christian communities in the parishes, dioceses and localities where its members congregate.

3.0 Membership

3.1 Membership in COUPLES FOR CHRIST is open to any validly married Catholic couple.

3.11 COUPLES FOR CHRIST draws its membership from all sectors of society--young and old, rich and poor, educated or illiterate, etc. COUPLES FOR CHRIST transcends all racial, cultural, economic, educational, social and other distinctions.

3.12 Though a Catholic community, COUPLES FOR CHRIST is open to membership by non-Catholic Christians, who can join as associate members. Associate members can participate fully in the non-sacramental life and mission of COUPLES FOR CHRIST, and must recognize and defer to the Catholic nature of the community. Non-Catholic associates, though remaining faithful to their Church, have to accept, respect, and defer to the principles and teachings of the Catholic Church on marriage, human sexuality, and the family.

3.2 Those who want to join COUPLES FOR CHRIST go through a seminar called a **Christian Life Program (CLP)**. The CLP is an integrated course leading into a renewed understanding of God's call to Christian couples, to a personal response of accepting Jesus as Lord and Savior, and to receiving a renewed outpouring of the Holy Spirit on their lives.

3.21 After the CLP, those who finish are invited to join COUPLES FOR CHRIST by making their commitment to *"The covenant of the Couples for Christ"* and are then integrated into the body.

3.3 Membership may be terminated by the leadership for any of the following reasons:

- * Serious unrepented wrongdoing.
- * Gross unfaithfulness to the covenant of CFC.
- * Public opposition to CFC teachings and culture, as well as official Church teachings.
- * Ongoing disruption of good order in the community.
- * Any other act that would seriously undermine the life and mission of CFC.

3.31 Such termination of membership is decided and implemented by the Chapter Head. The member terminated has the right to appeal, in which case the decision on his/her termination will be deliberated on and decided by the succeeding higher levels of leadership, and if necessary, all the way up to the CFC Council.

3.32 Any member may voluntarily leave COUPLES FOR CHRIST at any time and for any reason.

4.0 Corporate Life and Formation

4.1 Those who join COUPLES FOR CHRIST are made part of a **small cell group** called a **Household**. The Household is composed of from 4 to 7 couples who meet weekly for mutual support and encouragement in the Christian life, under the direction of a Household Head.

4.11 The **Household meetings** are held in the homes of the group members, on rotation basis. A typical meeting would involve some time for prayers, a time for sharing or discussion, and finally some time for fellowship.

4.2 All members undergo continuing formation both in the Christian life and also in the life and mission of CFC.

4.21 **The first-year formation program**, mandatory for all members, consists of the Christian Life Program, the Covenant Orientation, the Marriage Enrichment Retreat, and Evangelization Training.

4.22 Beyond the first year, there are other teachings and courses which are made available to the membership. Some are mandatory for various levels of leadership while others are optional.

4.3 Members of COUPLES FOR CHRIST are related to one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. As such, their relationship is not to be functional but should reflect the intimacy of Christian love, caring and sharing.

5.0 Organization

5.1 COUPLES FOR CHRIST in a particular territorial area is divided into chapters, units and households.

5.11 The **Household** is the basic cell grouping in CFC. It is a working **Basic Ecclesial Community**. It is in the household where members share their lives more intimately and support one another in their spiritual growth.

5.111 Every CFC member has to belong to a household, from which he/she is to draw personal life support.

5.112 A lack of faithfulness to household meetings for no acceptable reason is ground for termination of one's membership in CFC.

5.113 The composition of household groups is not permanent but is changed from time to time, to accommodate numerical and territorial growth, and for pastoral reasons.

5.12 A **Unit** is a grouping of from 4 to 7 households, and is led by a Unit Head.

5.13 A **Chapter** is a grouping of from 4 to 7 units, and is led by a Chapter Head. The chapter is the basic pastoral subdivision of the community that is COUPLES FOR CHRIST.

5.131 A chapter is a relatively independent and autonomous part of COUPLES FOR CHRIST. It has its own leadership, its own evangelization program, its own formation. However, its life and mission is always in line with the overall CFC life and mission, and it is also subject to the direction of the overall worldwide leadership.

5.132 Chapters are normally split from year to year, to accommodate growth through the creation of new chapters. A chapter is not to grow indefinitely in size, but is limited by the allowable number of units, which in turn is limited by the allowable number of households.

5.2 When the number of chapters in a particular territorial area has grown, clusters may be established, led by Cluster Heads. Their task is to oversee the life and mission of the various chapters within their cluster.

5.3 When the number of clusters in a particular territorial area has grown, sectors may be established, led by Sector Heads. Their task is to oversee the life and mission of the various clusters within their sector.

5.4 All chapters within a territorial area are under the authority and supervision of an Area Council, whose task is to oversee the life and mission of CFC in that area.

5.41 An Area Council may not be necessary during the initial stages in the growth of CFC in a particular area. It should be formed at the opportune time, as decided by the overall leadership.

- 5.42 An area would normally conform to the political subdivisions of a particular country. These may be provinces, states or any other territorial subdivision of a country. Should any of these areas be too large, it is possible to further subdivide a particular area into two or more areas.
- 5.5 At the opportune time, when it is deemed necessary, a National Council may be established. It is the task of the National Council to oversee and promote the life and mission of CFC in a particular country.
- 5.6 Overseeing and promoting the life and mission of CFC throughout the world is the CFC Council based in Manila.
- 5.7 CFC groups in a particular country or area may establish COUPLES FOR CHRIST as a foundation or corporation or formal association, in accordance with local and/or national laws, for purposes of conducting transactions as a juridical entity.
- 5.71 Such juridical personality however does not supersede the more basic reality that COUPLES FOR CHRIST is part of the body of Christ and is an international Christian community with its own organization, government and patterns of life.

6.0 Leadership and Government

- 6.1 There are many levels of leadership in COUPLES FOR CHRIST. **Whatever the level, it is to be a servant leadership, in the example of Jesus.**
- 6.11 Except for the CFC Council (Manila), leaders are appointed by those over them, done through prayerful discernment.
- 6.12 Leaders are chosen on the basis of capability, pastoral experience and growth in holiness and discipleship. Leaders are not chosen merely on the basis of seniority in CFC membership, experience or leadership in other religious organizations, or leadership in secular organizations.
- 6.13 Leaders may be removed if it becomes obvious that they are no longer able to carry out their responsibilities effectively.
- 6.2 **Household Heads** are appointed by the Chapter Head in consultation with the Unit Heads and the CLP Team Leader. Unit Heads are appointed by the Chapter Head. Chapter Heads are appointed by the Area Council.
- 6.3 **Area Council** members are appointed by the Area Head (provincial, state, etc.), in consultation with the elders of that particular area, and subject to the approval of the National Council (for areas within a country) or Country Coordinator (for the different countries).
- 6.31 The Area Council has the following role and responsibilities:
- * To promote the vision and mission of CFC within its area.
 - * To govern CFC in its area.
 - * To ensure preservation of the CFC vision and culture.
- 6.32 The Area Council is headed by an **Area Director**, who is appointed by the Area Head.
- 6.4 **National Council** members are appointed by the Country Coordinator, in consultation with the elders of that particular country, and subject to the approval of the International Mission Director.
- 6.41 The National Council has the following role and responsibilities:
- * To promote the vision and mission of CFC throughout the country.
 - * To oversee and coordinate the work of CFC in the country.

* To ensure preservation of the CFC vision and culture.

6.42 The National Council is headed by a **National Director**, who is appointed by the Country Coordinator.

6.5 The **Country Coordinator** is appointed by the CFC Council upon the recommendation of the International Mission Director.

6.51 The Country Coordinator has the following role and responsibilities:

- * To oversee the life and mission of CFC in a particular country.
- * To promote and support the CFC mission throughout the country.
- * To help integrate the CFC country group into the international CFC community.

6.6 The members of the CFC Council are selected by the Seniors Assembly from a list of nominees prepared by the incumbent Council and the Board of Seniors.

6.61 The Seniors Assembly is composed of Sector Heads in Manila, Area Heads and Regional Heads for Philippine provinces, Regional Coordinators, Directors and Mission Directors in Manila, National Directors of major ministries, and members of the CFC Council and the Board of Seniors, together with their respective spouses (if any).

6.62 The CFC Council has the following role and responsibilities:

- * To promote the establishment of CFC throughout the world.
- * To support and oversee the life and mission of CFC throughout the world.
- * To approve the establishment of CFC groups in new areas and accredit them as officially part of the worldwide CFC family.
- * To appoint Country Coordinators.
- * To act as guardian of the CFC vision and culture.
- * To act as final arbiter of all disputes within the international CFC community.

6.63 The CFC Council is the overall top governing body for the international CFC community. It is the overall policy-making body that determines major policies for the entire body.

6.631 Policies of CFC groups in different areas throughout the world should always conform to policies set by the CFC Council.

6.632 In cases of different interpretations as to the meaning or application of these statutes, the interpretation of the CFC Council will prevail.

6.64 As a Catholic community, only Catholics may become members of the CFC Council.

6.65 The CFC Council is headed by a CFC Director, who is appointed by the CFC Council.

6.7 Other offices and positions of leadership may be set up and utilized from time to time as needed, to be determined by the CFC Council.

7.0 The International CFC Community

7.1 The worldwide CFC family has the same basic mission throughout the world. Our task is to serve the Lord basically in three areas: **Evangelization, Family life renewal, and Church renewal.**

7.2 The worldwide CFC family is guided by the following principles: **unity and uniformity, independence and interdependence, autonomy and accountability.**

- 7.21 **UNITY.** COUPLES FOR CHRIST throughout the world is one body, one family, one army. It is to have one vision and one mission. It is one united work of the Holy Spirit. It is to live out one culture, the Christian culture that transcends national, racial and social differences.
- 7.22 **UNIFORMITY.** CFC groups throughout the world are to be distinguishable in any part of the world by any member. This is accomplished by uniformity in the most important elements that make a group a part of the worldwide CFC family.
- 7.221 Concretely, CFC groups are expected to do the following:
- * Bear the name “Couples for Christ”. A local translation of this name may also be used.
 - * Adopt the same logo.
 - * Adopt the same statements of mission and philosophy.
 - * Adopt the same covenant of CFC.
 - * Adopt the same initiations course into CFC, which is the Christian Life Program.
 - * Adopt the same formation program for the first year of membership.
 - * Place all members into Households which meet weekly for mutual support and formation.
 - * Adopt similar pastoral and leadership structures, which evolve as the CFC group grows.
 - * Foster the same charismatic spirituality.
- 7.222 COUPLES FOR CHRIST does recognize the need for local cultural adaptation in some cases, as long as such, do not compromise the essentials of the CFC life, and as long as the same are approved by the CFC Council.
- 7.23 **INDEPENDENCE.** The worldwide CFC family is a global partnership of CFC groups in different countries, all acting within the framework of the overall CFC vision and mission, but doing so independently of each other.
- 7.231 A CFC group within a particular country will decide on its own plans and strategies with which to carry out the CFC mission, but always in line with CFC’s global direction and thrusts.
- 7.24 **INTERDEPENDENCE.** Being a global partnership, the work and well-being of every CFC group is a matter of concern for all others. All CFC groups should be open to extending support and cooperation to other CFC groups.
- 7.241 Whenever possible, CFC groups should be open to sharing their resources with other CFC groups. This would include human pastoral resources, finances, teachings, effective programs and strategies, etc.
- 7.242 The worldwide CFC family should form a network of prayer and intercession.
- 7.25 **AUTONOMY.** CFC groups in the different countries basically run their own affairs and are to take initiative to pursue the CFC vision and mission.
- 7.251 CFC groups in the different countries should work towards being self-sufficient, self-reliant and self-supporting. Every CFC group should try to have all the resources (human, financial, logistical) it needs with which to carry out the CFC mission.
- 7.26 **ACCOUNTABILITY.** Though independent and autonomous, the different CFC groups throughout the world are accountable to the Lord for their life and service, and as a concrete and practical expression of this, are accountable to the CFC International Council (Manila) for the conduct of their life and work, while preserving always the rights of the local Ordinary.
- 7.261 CFC Manila functions as the center for the work of COUPLES FOR CHRIST throughout the world. The CFC International Council (Manila) is tasked with overseeing the global work of CFC, strengthening the life and mission of CFC throughout the world, and preserving the unity of the worldwide family.

7.262 The CFC International Council accredits CFC groups as officially part of the international CFC community, and may remove such accreditation for any valid reason or just cause.

7.263 The CFC International Council acts as the ultimate arbiter for any unresolved conflicts or disputes within the international CFC community, while preserving always the dispositions given by the universal legislation of the Church.

8.0 Finances

8.1 The worldwide work of COUPLES FOR CHRIST is generally financed through the voluntary contributions of its members.

8.2 The finances of the different CFC groups in different countries are handled independently of each other.

8.21 Within a particular country, finances of different CFC groups may be handled separately for convenience or practicality, but the National Council ultimately takes responsibility for the proper handling and disposition of all CFC funds within the country.

8.3 CFC members are encouraged to also contribute generously to the material and financial needs of their parish.

8.4 No CFC group will undertake any fundraising activity outside of the group itself in the name of COUPLES FOR CHRIST without first securing the approval of the National Council, or by the Area Council if so delegated by the National Council.

8.5 COUPLES FOR CHRIST maintains an **INTERNATIONAL MISSION FUND** (IMF) in Manila, which is used to establish COUPLES FOR CHRIST in new countries or areas. CFC members and area and country groups are encouraged to contribute to this fund as part of their participation in CFC's global work.

9.0 CFC as an agent of renewal within the Catholic Church

9.1 COUPLES FOR CHRIST is a Catholic community, though open to membership by non-Catholic Christians.

9.2 COUPLES FOR CHRIST seeks to be a servant to and lay arm of the Catholic Church in the work of evangelization, family life renewal and Church renewal.

9.21 In particular, COUPLES FOR CHRIST can serve the parishes in the following ways:

- * Pursuance of its basic mission of re-evangelization and family life renewal.
- * Promotion of its family ministries to reach non-couples within the parish.
- * Offering of special programs/courses for parishioners, such as the CFC Marriage Preparation Program.
- * Undertaking specific services, such as sponsorship of a weekly Mass.
- * General support of parish life and activities.

9.3 COUPLES FOR CHRIST will live out its life and mission in communion with the bishops.

9.31 COUPLES FOR CHRIST recognizes, defers to and actively submits to the authority of the bishop as shepherd of his particular diocese.

9.32 COUPLES FOR CHRIST looks to having a **Spiritual Adviser** appointed by the bishop for the CFC group within his diocese. Such Spiritual Adviser may be the bishop himself, or at his option, a priest or religious appointed by him.

9.321 The Spiritual Adviser's competence is in doctrinal and liturgical matters, and will not involve organizational matters.

9.322 COUPLES FOR CHRIST is open to a visitation from the bishop at any CFC meeting or event, and to any special meeting to be called by the bishop for any purpose.

9.33 **On the national level**, a Spiritual Adviser for COUPLES FOR CHRIST may be designated by the Catholic bishops' conference of that particular country.

9.34 COUPLES FOR CHRIST is to ask the bishops, in their role as shepherds, to provide spiritual formation for its members.

- * Retreats and recollections for leaders and members.
- * Instruction on Catholic and theological doctrines.
- * Updates on the Church stand on various important issues.
- * Consultation on moral and theological issues that come up.

9.4 COUPLES FOR CHRIST is committed to the renewal and strengthening of the Catholic Church.

9.41 COUPLES FOR CHRIST is committed to rise in defense of the Catholic Church against the forces that seek to destroy or weaken it.

9.42 COUPLES FOR CHRIST will conform to and support official and orthodox Church teachings and stands on issues.

9.43 COUPLES FOR CHRIST is committed to the communication of the Catholic faith in all its integrity to its Catholic members.

9.5 COUPLES FOR CHRIST is and will remain as a lay community with lay leadership, and with its particular vision, mission, culture and programs.

9.6 COUPLES FOR CHRIST will be open to and will pursue ecumenical relationships in accordance with the posture of the local Church hierarchy.

9.61 COUPLES FOR CHRIST will follow whatever guidelines on relationship with non-Catholics that the bishop may have for his diocese.

9.62 COUPLES FOR CHRIST will not appoint a non-Catholic in leadership over Catholic members, unless such is cleared with and approved by the bishop or Spiritual Adviser or parish priest. Such leadership is in terms of personal care or service, but not governance involving the establishment of policies.

10.0 CFC Family Ministries

10.1 COUPLES FOR CHRIST has established direct ministries to non-couples in order that every member of the family and every member of the parish may have an opportunity to be part of a support environment of committed Christians.

10.11 The CFC Family Ministries are an integral component of the Christian community that is COUPLES FOR CHRIST. They are not merely outreaches of COUPLES FOR CHRIST but rather are varied expressions of the one body and one work that is COUPLES FOR CHRIST.

10.12 **The CFC Family Ministries** constitute COUPLES FOR CHRIST's work of **BUILDING THE CHURCH OF THE HOME**.

10.2 **CFC KIDS FOR CHRIST (KFC)**. This is basically an in-house children's formation program for CFC members' children with ages from 4 to 12.

10.3 **CFC YOUTH FOR CHRIST (YFC)**. This is an evangelistic ministry to young people with ages from 12 to 21.

10.4 **CFC SINGLES FOR CHRIST (SFC)**. This is a ministry for single men and women with ages from 21 to the 40's.

10.5 **CFC HANDMAIDS OF THE LORD (HOLD)**. This is for widows, older unmarried women, separated or divorced women, and women whose husbands are unable to join them.

10.6 **CFC SERVANTS OF THE LORD (SOLD)**. This is the counterpart of the Handmaids for the men.

11.0 CFC Special Ministries

11.1 COUPLES FOR CHRIST has established various Special Ministries in order to work for total human liberation, and for justice and peace in the world.

11.11 The CFC Special Ministries constitute COUPLES FOR CHRIST's work of **BUILDING THE CHURCH OF THE POOR**.

11.2 The various CFC Special Ministries are the following:

- * Social communications.
- * Children's education.
- * Sustainable community development in depressed areas.
- * Medical missions.
- * Armed services ministry.
- * Prison ministry.
- * Family enrichment and education.
- * Empowerment of women.
- * Socio-political renewal.

11.21 Special Ministries may be added or deleted upon the decision of the CFC Council.

12.0 Amendments

12.1 Any National Council throughout the world can propose amendments to these statutes.

12.2 Amendments may be adopted upon the affirmative vote of the members of the CFC Council (Manila).

* * * * *

Approved by CFC Council March 1996

Approved by CBCP July 1996

Amended January 26, 2000

The following were the approved amendments: **January 16, 2009**

1. **Fixing the term of IC membership to a maximum of THREE (3) consecutive two (2) year-terms, or a total of SIX (6) consecutive YEARS.** *Previously, there were not term limits for IC members.*
2. **Entrusting the nomination for IC membership to the Elders Assembly.** *Previously, the nominations were made by the incumbent International Council and the Board of Elders.*

3. **Setting the requirement that only members of the Elders Assembly may be allowed to hold proxies.** *Our previous Bylaws were silent on this point.*
4. **In case of vacancies in the International Council other than the expiration of the term, the vacancy may be filled (for the remainder of the term of the vacated position), by a majority of all the members of the IC present that constitute a quorum.** *Our previous Bylaws were silent on this point.*
5. **Amendments to the Bylaws may be approved by a majority vote of all the members of the Elders Assembly (from the present 2/3 vote requirement).** *This follows accepted corporate practice.*

We are also both humbled and filled with joy at the wonderful affirmations and opportunities for interaction that happened during the past weekend. **We are grateful to the many members in Metro Manila who hosted the provincial and international delegates, including the clergy.**

Our community has come a long way from the conflicts of the past. We are indeed moving forward, and as we have again experienced in these recent activities, **we are moving as one – in purpose, in mission, in love.**

God bless us all.

FOR THE CFC INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL:


JOE TALE
CFC Director

THE CONCENTRIC CIRCLES, THE CROSS AND THE DOVE



The CFC logo has **three (3) elements**: the concentric circles, the cross, and the dove.

The CFC logo stands for who we are and what we are for.

THE CONCENTRIC CIRCLES



These stand for 2 wedding rings, one on top of the other. They depict Christian marriage, where two have become one. They stand for the unity between husband and wife, a unity manifesting itself in mutual love and service. The ring also points to our family life ministry. The family is to be the focus as well as the foundation of our work.

THE CROSS



This stands for the cross of Christ. The central position of the cross states that Christ is at the center of our lives and of our work. The cross is also an empty cross. It shows that Christ is risen. By his death and resurrection, Christ conquered sin and death, and won for us our salvation. Finally, the cross stands for the radical Christian life we are called to. It is a life where we are to take up the cross of Christ (Mt. 16:24).

THE DOVE



The dove represents the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit Who is our guide, our counsellor, our advocate. He is the Spirit of truth. He is the source of power and strength for the Christian life.

The dove also indicates the charismatic dimension of our spirituality. We are to pursue our work of renewal with the full use of all charismatic gifts at our disposal (1 Cor. 12:4-11).

The circles also stand for the globe or the world. Christ is at the center. He is the King of kings and the Lord of lords. Our work is to participate in the fulfillment of God's plan: to bring all things in the heavens and on earth into one under Christ's headship (Eph. 1:10).

Also depicted is the establishment of CFC worldwide family, the one global community under the lordship of Christ. The circles also suggest the ever widening network of renewed families in Christ. The light and life of Christ radiates outwards and touches the lives of more and more people. CFC is an evangelistic movement, intending to bring Christ to all people and to all places.

CFC is a work of Christ which raises up Christian couples and establishes Christian families committed to the work of evangelization and winning the world for Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Christian Life Program (CLP)

What is the Christian Life Program (CLP)?

The CLP is an integrated course intended to lead the program participants into a renewed understanding of God's call to them as Christian couples. It runs for a total of 13 separate sessions, usually held once a week. Most sessions consist of three basic ingredients:

- a teaching,
- a group discussion, and
- a time for fellowship.

Each session would normally last for about 2 1/2 hours.

What are the goals of the CLP?

The CLP has two basic purposes: evangelism and spiritual renewal.

To evangelize is to take the basic message of Christianity and to proclaim it anew so that those who hear it can make a renewed commitment to the Lord in a way which will allow them to receive a fuller experience of the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

What is the content of the CLP?

The CLP runs for a total of 13 consecutive sessions usually held weekly, divided into an orientation session and then 3 modules of 4 sessions each. The topics of the 12 sessions are:

Module No. 1: THE BASIC TRUTHS ABOUT CHRISTIANITY

1. God's Love
2. Who is Jesus Christ?
3. What it means to be a Christian.
4. Repentance and Faith

Module No. 2: THE AUTHENTIC CHRISTIAN LIFE

5. The Christian Ideal: Loving God
6. Loving Your Neighbor
7. The Christian Family
8. Life in the Holy Spirit

Module No. 3: LIVING A SPIRIT-FILLED CHRISTIAN LIFE

9. Receiving the Power of the Holy Spirit
10. Growing in the Spirit
11. The Life and Mission of the Couples of Christ
12. Transformation in Christ

CFC INITIAL FORMATION PROGRAMS

Basic Formation Program

Christian Life Program (CLP)
Covenant Orientation (CO)
Financial Stewardship (FS)
Marriage Enrichment Retreat (MER)
Spiritual Gifts Training (SG)
Evangelization Training (ET)

Foundations of Christian Living (FCL)

Sons & Daughters of God
Brothers & Sisters in the Lord
Growing in Faith Knowing God's Will
Overcoming the World
Overcoming the Flesh
Overcoming the Work of Evil Spirit/ Repairing Wrongdoing
The Christian & Money
Headship and Submission
Faithfulness and Order
Unity in Christ

The Christian and His Emotions (CE)

Emotions in our Christian Life
Christian Love and Desire
True and False Humility
Guilt and Repentance
Righteous and Unrighteous Anger
Fear

Christian Personal Relationships (CPR)

Learning to Love One Another
Honor and Respect
Taming the Tongue
Correction
Working out Conflicts in Relationships
Relating with People Outside of CFC

Fruit of the Holy Spirit (FHS)

The Image of God
Love and Discipline
Meekness and Aggressiveness
Joy and Sorrow
Faithfulness and Self-Control
Patience and Perseverance

Living As People of God (LAPG)

Our Basic Commitment
Functioning as a Body
Governance & Personal Direction
Peace & Discipline
Unity & Disagreement
Our Personal Responsibility

Leadership Training

CLP (Facilitators) Training

Household Leaders Training (HLT)

Being a Servant
The Household Purpose, Dynamics & Leadership
Being Leaders of Households
Building up a Relationship with your Members
Zeal for Righteousness
Good Example
Singlemindedness for God
Brotherly Love
Evangelistic Headship
The Ministry of Encouragement
Correction, a Pastoral Tool
The Power to Intercede
Prayer
Faith in God
Humble Leadership
Evaluation

Unit Leaders Training (ULT)

The Unit Head as a Pastoral Leader
Shepherds after God's own Heart
Being a Burden or a Blessing
The Power of Prayer
Call to Discipleship
Total Surrender to God
Fit For the Fight
Earthly and Heavenly Treasure
On Fire or Burned Out?

Chapter Leaders Training (CLT)

Orientation
The Role of Elders in CFC
The Elder as Shepherd
Our Multi-Faceted Identity
The Humility of a Christian Leader
The Character of an Elder
Maturity of Character
Perseverance
The Deceitful Bow-Dangers in Pastoral Life

Other Retreats/Workshops

Marriage Enrichment Retreat 1 & 2 (MER)
Mission Core Group Retreat (MCGR)
Scripture Sharing
Tongues Workshop
Prophecy Workshop
Healing Workshop
Speakers Training
Music Ministry Workshop
Marriage Preparation Retreat

COUPLES FOR CHRIST
MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT RETREAT

The Marriage Enrichment Retreat (MER) is part of the first-year formation program in CFC. The MER is usually given six months after the end of the CLP. All couple-members are expected to take the MER.

Goals of the MER

1. To present to the couple-participants some important areas of Christian marriage and family life, which form the foundation for our life together as married couples and as members of CFC.
2. To foster a better understanding and appreciation of God's plan for marriage and family life, and to get the couple-participants to commit themselves to living out God's plan.
3. To provide the couple-participants with an effective environment of prayer, learning and Christian fellowship, in which they can begin working on their marriage relationship together so that it may be founded more solidly on Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Elements of the MER

There are various elements in the MER that work together in order to provide the couple-participants with an overall environment that is conducive to learning about and living out God's plan and call to them. These elements are:

1. **PRAYER.** Being a retreat, the schedule provides adequate time for both personal and communal prayer. Prayer is an effective way of discovering God's call and responding to that call with faith and humility.
2. **TEACHINGS.** The MER has seven talks which examine important areas of Christian marriage and family life. The talks not only present teachings based on the Bible, but also practical guidelines for daily living.
3. **COUPLE DISCUSSIONS.** After every talk, the husband and wife meet exclusively with each other to discuss what was presented and to consider specific aspects of their marriage and family life that they need to work on.
4. **ACTION PLANNING.** Towards the end of the MER, the couple will again sit down to formulate specific steps they will do in order to put what they have learned into practice.
5. **FELLOWSHIP.** As part of fostering an informal and relaxed atmosphere, and also enhancing the personal relationships among the couple-participants, the MER provides structured interaction throughout the retreat, especially during the evening program and entertainment.
6. **EUCHARIST.** As the climax to the whole MER, Holy Mass is celebrated. During the Mass, the couples renew their marriage vows and offer to God their action plans.

MER talks

1. Serving God through Christian marriage
2. The Christian couple as a pastoral team
3. The role of a Christian husband
4. The role of a Christian wife
5. Effective communication in marriage
6. Healing our marriages
7. Building our homes for God

Schedule

There are two alternative schedules for the MER.

The first starts on a Friday evening and ends on Sunday at noon. There is one talk on Friday, five talks on Saturday, and a final talk on Sunday. This is the recommended schedule.

An alternative schedule is provided, which starts on Friday evening and ends on Sunday afternoon. Here there is no talk on Friday, four talks on Saturday and three on Sunday. This schedule can be used for situations where the participants may not be able to reach the retreat venue early enough (due to distance, work, traffic). This schedule is longer (with less time for family on Sunday), probably a little more expensive, and provides less cause for celebration on Saturday evening (less inputs and discussion, and no prayers for inner healing yet).

Yet a third schedule is possible, and this is using Schedule B but eliminating Friday evening. The Orientation is inserted on Saturday morning. The advantage is less time invested, with resultant lower cost. However, be aware that this MER is very important for our marriage and family life, and we should think not in terms of investing less time but rather more. Further, if people come late on Saturday morning, the whole schedule is adversely affected.

The MER may be conducted on days other than a weekend.

COUPLES FOR CHRIST
MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT RETREAT II

The Marriage Enrichment Retreat II (MER 2) is part of the formation program available in CFC. It is available to all member-couples starting from their second year in CFC. It is an optional program for the general membership and for household leaders, but is required for unit leaders and up.

The talks in MER 2 are the following:

1. What makes a Christian marriage work
2. Unity in marriage
3. Communication
4. Sex in marriage
5. Christian parenting
6. Empowering our marriage

The content of MER 2 does not duplicate what has already been given in the first MER. However, certain principles and points would inevitably be touched upon again.

MER 2 is recommended for all CFC member-couples, even for those who might see some topics as of limited relevance for them (e.g., those with no children). The retreat should be seen as a good way for the couple (1) to have time off by themselves to strengthen their personal relationship, and (2) to gain wisdom on marriage and family life, especially for those in leadership in CFC.

The retreat would normally start on the evening of the first day and end by noon of the third day. Alternatively, it may be held over two days, beginning early morning of the first day and ending in the afternoon of the second day. The retreat schedules, not necessarily on a weekend, do not provide for a Lord's Day celebration and a Mass. There should be a Lord's Day celebration if the retreat encompasses a Saturday evening.

CFC Family Ministries

CFC Couple Coordinators together with full-time **Pastoral Workers** are available to assist our family and social ministries, helping younger members bring forth their gifts, talents and passions to share in our CFC Vision of Families in the Holy Spirit Renewing the Face of the Earth, Bringing Glad Tidings to the Poor.



CFC Kids for Christ aims to provide a Christian support environment for the children of Couples for Christ members who are between the ages of 4-12.

Specific programs are available for the **Junior Kids**, ages 4 to 8, and the **Senior Kids**, ages 9 to 12.

Age specific, exciting and fun-filled, these are the **FOUR CHARACTERISTICS** for our **Kids for Christ** programs:

1. **FUN** - activities are enjoyable and stimulate the child's creativity, perception, and sensitivity.
2. **FRIENDSHIP** - activities encourage members to build strong friendships with one another.
3. **FAITH** - activities explain Christian faith elements in kids language.
4. **FREE & RESPONSIBLE EXPRESSION** - activities respect the kids for who and what they are and what they can be.

The gender fair foundation values of the **KFC's Power Programs** are for:

- **male kids** : the development of Courage, Compassion, Competence and Commitment.
- **female kids** : the development Faith, Confidence, Love and Strength.



CFC Youth for Christ aims to provide a Christian support environment for young teenagers between **13 to 21** years of age. The program is oriented towards meeting the needs of our young people to BELONG, to BE MOTIVATED, to BE USEFUL, to be GOOD EXAMPLES, to BE CHRISTIAN WITNESSES

Age specific, exciting and fun-filled, these are the **FOUR CHARACTERISTICS** for our **CFC-YFC** programs:

1. **FUN** - activities are enjoyable and stimulate the child's creativity, perception, and sensitivity.
2. **FRIENDSHIP** - activities encourage members to build strong friendships with one another.
3. **FAITH** - activities explain Christian faith elements in kids language.
4. **FREE & RESPONSIBLE EXPRESSION** - activities respect the kids for who and what they are and what they can be.

CFC-YFC is established over 100 countries around the world including Canada. It is present in parishes, as well as in various high schools and universities. Annually, for the last ten years, CFC Youth for Christ gathers over 10,000 of its members worldwide in an **International Leaders Conference** during the summer. A conference is a focal event in the life of YFC, a time to celebrate God's goodness in the coming together of young brothers and sisters who love the Lord. The three-day weekend is highlighted by talks, creative and sports competitions, vibrant worship, wholesome entertainment, and so much more.

The future of CFC-YFC is directed towards giving the youth a worthwhile cause to support as we seek to address, in our small way, the plight of the poor and the less privileged and the social and environmental issues that trample on the youth's human dignity: abortion, drugs, sexual immorality, corruption and even the damage done to the environment.

CFC SINGLES FOR CHRIST

CFC Singles for Christ aims to provide a Christian support environment for single men and women who are at the crossroads of their state of life, choosing between marriage, a religious vocation, or single blessedness.

Singles for Christ as a support environment:

- teaches the individual the right values to build their future on;
- surrounds the individual with well-meaning friends who have positive influence;
- provides the individual with opportunities to meet potential partners in life who believe in the same Christian goals and values;
- involves members in services that prepare them for the responsibility of marriage and family life;
- helps those with a vocation for the priesthood or religious life to discern their calling.

SFC uses a three-pronged evangelization approach: **Attraction, Retention and Transition.**

- **Attraction** establishes creative ways of bringing single men and women to community.
- **Retention** keeps members actively involved through community life experience and innovative formation.
- **Transition** involves the proper transition of youth to singles and singles to couples, or to their chosen vocation.

CFC *Handmaids of the Lord*

The CFC Handmaids of the Lord is a community of Christian women actively involved in helping other women renew and live to the fullest their Christian faith. It provides women, who are single parents, separated or divorced, widows, and married women wanting to be part of a women's Christian faith community. Realizing the difficult life and role that these women play in family and society due to loneliness, rejection and fear, HOLD provides pastoral guidance and support.

CFC-HOLD's formation program teaches that:

1. the woman is a beautiful creation of God, chosen for greatness and designed for excellence;
2. while loneliness, rejection and fear in their lives are real, they have God who loves them and cares for them through community;
3. to fully experience a life of joy and fulfillment, they need to heal, forgive, and decide to be happy and productive; and,
4. by serving other women whose circumstances are similar to theirs, they thank God and gain empowerment.



The CFC Servants of the Lord (SOLD) is a community of men who are married, separated or divorced or widowers. They could also be husbands of women overseas workers or expatriates themselves. SOLD provides an environment wherein they will be empowered to manage their lives accordingly and overcome a life of loneliness and depression.

It is a reality that, unlike women who can easily share their feelings with friends, men tend to keep their emotions to themselves. However, an all-male group like the SOLD has been proven to be beneficial to men who have undergone or are experiencing this kind of situations. SOLD activities revolve around the spirit of community offering pastoral formation and establishing camaraderie among its members through fellowship and sports programs.



ANCOP (ANswering the Cry Of the Poor) is CFC's ministry for the poor. In unity with the Catholic Church, and with Christ as the center of its work, ANCOP USA seeks to uplift the lives of the poor in areas where CFC operates, to restore their dignity as children of God, and to promote the spiritual transformation of the poor and their benefactors. Through ANCOP, CFC proclaims Christ in word and action consistent with its mission of Building the Church of the Home and the Church of the Poor. ANCOP is the totality of our ministry to the Poor and encompasses work with:

1. ANCOP Communities for the poorest of the poor especially in the 3rd world, through its Community Development Program (CDP) which is holistic in nature and addresses the needs of the poor for:
 - a. decent shelters
 - b. Christian values formation
 - c. child educational support,
 - d. food sufficiency
 - e. livelihood, and
 - f. health.
2. Communities for Christ - affordable housing for Church missionaries, CFC full-time workers and needy CFC members particularly in the 3rd world
3. Prison Ministry
4. Migrant Workers

CFC caretaker teams are the backbone of ANCOP communities. ANCOP gives priority to the spiritual transformation of the poor beneficiaries by bringing Christ into their lives while dismantling the patterns of despair and feeling of abandonment which overwhelm the lives of the impoverished. ANCOP starts with establishing caring relationships with those who are among the most used, abused and neglected of society. It then moves quickly to help restore the dignity of the poor as children of God, helps them appreciate God's love and revitalizes their capacity to hope and dream.

The caring spirit moves strongly to become a sharing one, and ANCOP symbolizes the revolution of love and the vision of total Christian liberation. It begins with the CFC leadership and membership through the "padugo" system (bleeding for a cause), which institutionalizes the giving of resources and exemplifies the culture of sharing. The ideals of ANCOP state that "no one is too poor that he cannot share, that no one is too rich that he cannot care." ANCOP reflects the determination of CFC and its partners to heal relationships in society, from within the family to the national

environment. Rebuilding broken relationships translates to bridging gaps between people, and opens new and unlimited opportunities for human interaction and the exchange of resources.

Gift of Life Ministry

From its very inception, Couples for Christ has been and staunchly remains **pro-God, pro-Family, pro-Poor and pro-Life**. A strong pro-life stance is very much in line with CFC's way of life as well as its work for total human liberation.

In response to the encyclical letter of Pope John Paul II, The Gospel of Life, CFC established the "Gift of Life" ministry in order to raise consciousness among its members, as well as others, on the sacredness of life as a basic value rooted in the dignity of man. This is due to the imminent defeat of the "culture of life" by the "culture of death" as a consequence of the worldwide legalization of abortion, capital punishment and euthanasia as well as other anti-life practices.

CFC's pro-life stance is enveloped in its life and culture through the promotion of natural family planning, fertility awareness and human sexuality, chastity education, advocacy and lobbying for pro-life legislation, among others.

Our Main Objectives are:

1. To defend and advance the "culture of life."
2. To protect the right to life, upon which all the other inalienable rights of individuals are founded and from which they develop.
3. To preserve the family and its moral values, recognizing the sacredness and sovereignty of the family as the basic institution of society.
4. To establish a voice for the family against forces that seek to destroy the family and life, through fora, media and other channels of communication.
5. To provide information on, assistance to and continuing education for family, culture and life issues.
6. To promote the truth that "every crime against life is an attack on peace, especially if it strikes at the moral conduct of people."
7. To support CFC in its work of evangelization, family renewal and total Christian liberation.
8. To collaborate with all other religions and sectors of society in its campaign for life.

Some Anti-Life issues we aim to promote awareness on are:

- Abortion
- Contraception
- Sterilization
- Population Control
- Euthanasia
- Capital Punishment
- Divorce
- Prostitution
- Embryonic Stem Cell Research
- Human Cloning
- In-Vitro Fertilization
- Homosexual Acts
- Sex Educations devoid of moral values (renamed as “Values Clarification)
- Abolition of Legal Parental Rights
- Eradication of Motherhood as a basic vocation of women
- Eradication of religion
- Consumerism
- Secular Humanism
- Situational Ethics and Moral Relativism
- Re-definition of Family to include gay marriages
- Gender Issues such as Radical Feminism
- Sexual Permissiveness
- Disarmament