

Approved by the Vatican 25 April 2005

INTERNATIONAL STATUTES OF COUPLES FOR CHRIST

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1.0

Nature and Purpose

1.1

COUPLES FOR CHRIST (CFC) is a private international association of faithful of pontifical right recognition.

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

1.3 COUPLES FOR CHRIST throughout the world is one unified work, with unity of vision and mission. It

1.4 COUPLES FOR CHRIST is a missionary body, and the families throughout the world that make up CFC.

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 be

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

2.2.1 *Individual renewal* . COUPLES FOR CHRIST takes the basic message of Christianity and pro

2.2.2 *Family renewal* . As couples renew their commitment to God, they al

2.2.3 *Church renewal* . As individual families are renewed, they form a netw

2.2.3.1 COUPLES FOR CHRIST is con

2.2.3.2 COUPLES FOR CHRIST is committed to building up vibrant Christian com

2.2.4 *Societal/national/global renewal* . COUPLES FOR CHRIST, in r

2.3 COUPLES FOR CHRIST carries out its mission of renewal throughout the world by focusing on three

2.3.1 *Evangelization and Church renewal* . COUPLES FOR CHRIST is ca

2.3.1.1 Every CFC member is to be an

2.3.2 *Family life renewal* . COUPLES FOR CHRIST's wo

- 2.3.2.1 COUPLES FOR CHRIST is con
- 2.3.2.2 COUPLES FOR CHRIST seeks
- 2.3.3 *Total Christian liberation* COUPLES FOR CHRIST is co

3.0 Membership

- 3.1 Membership in COUPLES FOR CHRIST is open to any validly married Catholic
 - 3.1.1 COUPLES FOR CHRIST draws its membership from al
 - 3.1.2 Though a Catholic community, COUPLES FOR CHRIS
- 3.2 Those who want to join COUPLES FOR CHRIST go through a seminar called a
 - 3.2.1 After the CLP or Youth Camp, those who finish are invit
- 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.

- 3.3.1 Such termination of membership is decided and implem
- 3.3.2 Any member may voluntarily leave COUPLES FOR CH

4.0 Corporate Life and Formation

- 4.1 Those who join COUPLES FOR CHRIST are made part of a small cell group ca
 - 4.1.1 The household meetings are normally held in the homes
- 4.2 All members undergo continuing formation both in the Christian life and also in t
 - 4.2.1 The first-year formation program, mandatory for all coup
 - 4.2.2 Beyond the first year, there are other teachings and cou
- 4.3 Members of COUPLES FOR CHRIST are related to one another as brothers an

5.0 Organization

- 5.1 COUPLES FOR CHRIST in a particular territorial area is divided into sectors, cl
 - 5.1.1 The household is the basic cell grouping in CFC. It is a v
 - 5.1.1.1 Every CFC member has to belo

- 5.1.1.2 A lack of faithfulness to household
- 5.1.1.3 The composition of household g
- 5.1.2 A unit is a grouping of from 3 to 7 households, and is led
- 5.1.3 A chapter is a grouping of from 3 to 7 units, and is led b
- 5.1.3.1 Chapters are normally split from
- 5.2 When the number of chapters in a particular territorial area has grown, clusters r
- 5.3 When the number of clusters in a particular territorial area has grown, sectors m
- 5.4 All chapters within a territorial area are under the authority and supervision of an
- 5.4.1 An Area Council may not be necessary during the initial
- 5.4.2 An *area* would r
- 5.5 At the opportune time, when it is deemed necessary, a National Council may be
- 5.6 Overseeing and promoting the life and mission of CFC throughout the world is th
- 5.7 CFC groups in a particular country or area may establish COUPLES FOR CHRIS
- 5.7.1 Such juridical personality however does not supercede t

6.0

Leadership and Government

- 6.1 There are many levels of leadership in COUPLES FOR CHRIST. Whatever the
- 6.1.1 Except for the CFC International Council, leaders are ap
- 6.1.2 Leaders are chosen on the basis of capability, pastoral
- 6.1.3 Leaders may be removed if it becomes obvious that the
- 6.2 Household Heads are appointed by the Chapter Head in consultation with the U
- 6.3 Area Council members are appointed by the Area Head (provincial, state, etc.),
- 6.3.1

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.

- 6.3.2 The Area Council is headed by an Area Director, who is
- 6.4 National Council members are appointed by the Country Coordinator, in consult
- 6.4.1

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.

- 6.4.2 The National Council is headed by a National Director, v
- 6.5 The Country Coordinator is appointed by the CFC International Council upon the
- 6.5.1

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 International Council are selected by the Seniors Ass
- 6.6.1 The Seniors Assembly is composed of Sector Heads in
- 6.6.2

The CFC International 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 th
- 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.

- 6.6.3 The CFC International Council is the overall top governi
- 6.6.3.1 Policies of CFC groups in differ
- 6.6.3.2 In cases of different interpretati
- 6.6.4 As a Catholic community, only Catholics may become m
- 6.6.5 The CFC International Council is headed by a CFC Dire
- 6.7 Other offices and positions of leadership may be set up and utilized from time to

7.0 The International CFC Community

- 7.1 The worldwide CFC family has the same basic mission throughout the world. Ou
- 7.2 The worldwide CFC family is guided by the following principles: unity and uniform
- 7.2.1

Unity . COUPLES FOR CHRIST throughout the world is one body, one family, one an

7.2.2 *Uniformity* . CFC groups throughout the w

7.2.2.1

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 that 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.

7.2.3

7.2.2.2
Interdependence
7.2.3.1

COUPLES FOR CHRIST does
. The worldwide CFC family is a

A CFC group within a particular country will decide on its own specific plans and strategies with which to

7.2.3.2
7.2.3.3

Being a global partnership, the v

Whenever possible, CFC groups should be open to sharing their resources with other CFC groups. This

7.2.4

7.2.3.4
Accountability
7.2.4.1

The worldwide CFC family shou
. The different CFC groups thro

CFC groups in the different countries should take initiative in pursuing the CFC vision and mission, and

7.2.4.2
7.2.4.3

CFC Manila functions as the ce

The CFC International Council accredits CFC groups as officially part of the international CFC communi

7.2.4.4

The CFC International Council a

8.0
Finances

8.1

The worldwide work of COUPLES FOR CHRIST is generally financed through the

8.2

The finances of the different CFC groups in different countries are handled separately

8.2.1

Within a particular country, finances of different CFC groups

8.3

CFC members are encouraged to also contribute generously to the material and

8.4

For its work with the poor, COUPLES FOR CHRIST will seek partnerships with

8.5

No CFC group will undertake any fundraising activity outside of the group itself

8.6

COUPLES FOR CHRIST maintains an International Mission Fund (IMF) in Manila

9.0

CFC as a servant within the Catholic Church

9.1

COUPLES FOR CHRIST is a Catholic community, though open to membership

9.2

COUPLES FOR CHRIST seeks to be a servant to and lay arm of the Catholic Church

9.2.1

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.
- Building communities among the poor within the territory of 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.
- Support for parishioners in irregular unions, according to the teaching of the Catholic Church.
- General support of parish life and activities.

9.3

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

9.3.1

COUPLES FOR CHRIST recognizes, defers to and actively submits to the authority of the bishop as she

9.3.2

COUPLES FOR CHRIST looks to having a Spiritual Adviser appointed by the bishop for the CFC group

9.3.2.1

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

9.3.2.2

COUPLES FOR CHRIST is open to a visitation from the bishop at any CFC meeting or event, and to any

9.3.3

On the national level, a Spiritual Adviser for COUPLES FOR CHRIST may be designated by the Catholic

9.3.4

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

- 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 C

9.4.1

COUPLES FOR CHRIST is committed to rise in defense of the Catholic Church against the forces that s

9.4.2

COUPLES FOR CHRIST will conform to and support official and orthodox Church teachings and stands

9.4.3

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

9.5

COUPLES FOR CHRIST is and will remain as a lay community with lay leaders

9.6

COUPLES FOR CHRIST will be open to and will pursue ecumenical relationships

9.6.1

COUPLES FOR CHRIST will follow whatever guidelines on relationship with non-Catholics that the bisho

9.6.2

COUPLES FOR CHRIST will not appoint a non-Catholic in leadership over Catholic members, unless su

10.0
CFC Family Ministries

10.1 COUPLES FOR CHRIST has established direct ministries to non-couples in order to build the COUPLES FOR CHRIST.
10.1.1

The CFC Family Ministries are an integral component of the Christian community that is COUPLES FOR CHRIST.

10.1.2

The CFC Family Ministries are an integral component of the Christian community that is COUPLES FOR CHRIST's work of building the COUPLES FOR CHRIST.

- 10.2 *CFC Kids for Christ (KFC)* This is a children's formation program for children with a Christian background.
- 10.3 *CFC Youth for Christ (YFC)* This is an evangelistic ministry to young people with a Christian background.
- 10.4 *CFC Singles for Christ (SFC)* This is a ministry for single men and women with a Christian background.
- 10.5 *CFC Handmaids of the Lord (HOL)* This is a ministry for widows, older unmarried women, separated women, and divorcees.
- 10.6 *CFC Servants of the Lord (SOL)* This is the counterpart of the Handmaids for the men.

11.0
CFC Social Ministries

11.1 COUPLES FOR CHRIST has established various Social Ministries in order to witness to the world and build the COUPLES FOR CHRIST.
11.1.1

The CFC Social Ministries are an integral component of the Christian community that is COUPLES FOR CHRIST's work of building the COUPLES FOR CHRIST.

11.2

The various CFC Social Ministries are the following:

- FLAME Ministries Inc. (Social communications).
- CFC Educational Foundation Inc. (Education).
- CFC Medical Missions Foundation Inc. (Health).
- The Sword of Gideon (Armed services ministry).
- Isaiah 61:1 (Prison ministry).
- FEED (Family enrichment and education).
- Teodora: In Defense of the Authentic Woman, Inc. (Empowerment of women)
- St. Thomas More & Associates (Socio-political renewal).
- The Tekton Guild (Socio-economic renewal).

- The Oikos Society (Socio-environmental renewal).

11.2.1

Social Ministries may be added or deleted upon the decision of the CFC International Council.

11.3

The social dimension of ~~THE GAWAD KALINGA~~ COUPLES FOR CHRIST, finds its ultimate purpose in cleaning up the world

11.3.1

Gawad Kalinga is an integrated, holistic and sustainable approach to the work of poverty reduction. Its e

**12.0
CFC Special Ministries**

12.1 COUPLES FOR CHRIST has established various Special Ministries in order to f
12.2

The various CFC Special Ministries are the following:

- Priests for Family and Life.
- Nuns for Christ.
- Missionary Society of St. Francis and St. Paul (for lay celibates).
- Jacob's Well (for those in irregular unions).

**13.0
Amendments**

13.1 Any National Council throughout the world can propose amendments to these s
13.2 Amendments may be adopted upon the affirmative vote of the members of the C

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Amended by the CFC Council September 25, 2004.

Amended per inputs of Pontifical Council for the Laity, March 1, 2005.

These Statutes, in their original form, are deposited in the Archives of this Dicastery.

From the Vatican, 25 April 2005

(signed)

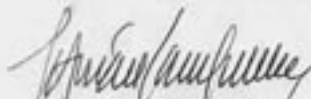
Guzman Carriquiry

Under-Secretary

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