



# ONE MAN'S VIEW

**Nonoy Mendoza**

Editor & Publisher  
PinoyGlobal - Filipino Image

## *A Time for CFC Homecoming!*

*"..... a complete vindication of Frank Padilla...."*

WASHINGTON, D.C., May 13 (*PinoyGlobal*) - The *Manila Standard*, quoting the website of the *Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines*, announced that *Couples for Christ Global Foundation* has relinquished control of *Gawad Kalinga*. As such, *Joe Tale* ceases to be chairman of the GK Board, and *Melo Villaroman*, installed in the midst of conflict only last January, steps down as GK president.

This is a complete vindication of *Frank Padilla*, who in September 2007 removed himself from all associations with *Gawad Kalinga*, left CFC Global and revived the original CFC corporation established in 1984, the *Couples for Christ Foundation Inc (CFCFI)* taking on the tradename *Couples for Christ Foundation for Family and Life*. Tale's CFC Global was incorporated only nine years after in 1993, and has since 2007 been known as CFC-GK.

How Frank Padilla acted in prophecy, Joe Tale chose to deal with hindsight and perhaps even "damage control", as his followers in Canada and few stragglers in the United States circulated recently.

Two years ago on September 8, I had a chat while dining with Frank Padilla who was visiting the CFC local chapter in the Washington DC area, and he told me that "CFC should go back to evangelization, as we are better as evangelizers than fundraisers for social development."

I still remember his precise words etched in clarity: "We in *CFCFFL* remain as 'Couples for Christ' We have not left CFC, which is the spiritual body and international movement distinct from the Philippine

corporation. What we have left is the legal identity of '*Couples for Christ Global Mission Foundation Inc.*'"

"GK has replaced holiness with 'heroism' and winning the world for Christ with 'nation-building', winning souls subdued in favor of constructing houses," he further clarified.

*Tony Meloto*, who has been invisible in most of the verbal exchange that found itself in media, but who is GK's most powerful actor, openly confirmed Padilla's assertions as told to another newspaper, *Philippines Daily Inquirer*, "GK is non-partisan. We do not take any side in building a nation in the same manner that we do not pass judgment on any corporation that we engage. We do not even ask them what their products are as long as they want to help."

This of course drew an immediate rebuke from the Catholic Church in the Philippines, when *Bishop Gabriel Reyes*, the chairman of the *Episcopal Commission for the Laity*, denounced the practice of *Gawad Kalinga*, and ipso facto, CFC Global's accepting funds from pharmaceuticals manufacturing abortifacients.

A clarification was later sought from the Vatican, and this was what the late *Alfonso Cardinal Lopez Trujillo* put on ink on November 26, 2007: "Accepting donations from those who promote abortion and contraception will compromise the Gospel of the Family and Life, and will greatly harm our efforts to strengthen and defend the family and life...in this concrete case (referring to GK) the funds offered also comes from actions that are morally evil...accepting that funding creates confusion among the faithful, as

**they give the impression that abortion, and the production, distribution and use of contraception and abortifacients are acceptable practices.”**

As of my last verification, GK has neither given up its partnerships with nor have stopped accepting funds from pharmaceuticals who manufacture and market contraceptives and abortifacients. This makes me wonder what Fr. Ben Nebres, with all due respects, and the Ateneo community with him, is now doing with Tony Meloto. Of course some say now that CFC is totally gone, Meloto needs a new mule, and anyway Fr. Nebres is a Jesuit! And I don't find that at all funny.

As early as September 21, 2007, one of our columnists here in the ***Philippine Global Online (PGON)***, ***Perry Diaz***, wrote “There is only one way for Gawad Kalinga to go: move forward on its own.”

Diaz continues: “By severing its ties with CFC, the Vatican cannot interfere with GK. Gk can then work unrestricted with any group. It would then become a true humanitarian movement and in that capacity do more miracles in uplifting the poorest of the poor, not just in the Philippines but anywhere in the world...”

“***CFCGK*** and ***CFCFFL*** could then reconcile and reunite into one cohesive organization, and continue what they were mandated to perform when the Vatican revognized them in 2000... It's a win-win solution and I'm pretty sure the Vatican couldn't be happier,” Diaz concluded.

The past two years has however been a long period of initially denial and subsequently vindictiveness on the part of CFC Global in its questionable relationship with Gawad Kalinga.

Of course now, in the statement of its international director, Joe Tale posted in [www.cfcglobal.org](http://www.cfcglobal.org), he swallows his tongue albeit a language oozing in diplomatese, “The upscaling of GK, particularly in recent years, has highlighted some fundamental and deepening differences in approach and implementation.”

Second, especially for the first year coming out in conflict, CFC Global launch its warheads with no mercy towards the scapegoat it had chosen, CFCFFL and

Frank Padilla. When the Philippine bishops would not listen to its unorthodoxy, the first attacks of Joe Tale were misrepresentations with the Vatican.

When ***Stanislaus Cardinal Rylko***, president of the ***Pontifical Council of the Laity***, refused to change the name of the **Decree of Recognition** from “Couples for Christ” to suit CFC Global's civil identity, subsequently affirming one CFC with two branches, the minions of Joe Tale and Tony Meloto in the Philippine media vilified not only CFCFFL and Frank Padilla, but Bishop Reyes and Cardinal Rylko.

When this did not work, Tale resorted to lawyering that he knew best in life, launching worldwide propaganda in dioceses and parishes that CFCFFL is not CFC and filing cases against CFCFFL in Manila and CFCUSA in Los Angeles. I heard that they have even initiated law suits in Canada and possibly Singapore.

Coming out of this split with GK now, where lies Joe Tale and CFC Global's moral ascendancy?

Procrastinating for the past two years definitely tells of their lack of prophecy and discernment, if not common sense. They have defamed Church institutions and officialdom. They have exported their scandalous hairsplitting and legalisms worldwide instead of insulating the conflict in the Philippines. And worst, in a classic exhibit of lack of any spirituality and charity, violated 1 Corinthians 6 that prohibits Christians from hurling brethren to court.

It did right when it released Gawad Kalinga. But what lies ahead could even be harder a pill to swallow, and steps to hurdle.

The best option for CFC Global right now is not to hold elections next month for whoever will refresh its failed leadership, walk from Ortigas Ave., across the long Wack Wack block along EDSA onto Shaw Blvd., and submit themselves to the higher ground that CFCFFL has taken for the past two years towards full restoration in the body of Christ and reconciliation and peace with brothers and sisters.

Isn't that what the two great commandments are all about, anyway?

(Comments to: [nonoymendoza@filamimage.com](mailto:nonoymendoza@filamimage.com))