

**Date: Tue, 20 May 2008 16:07:08 +0800**  
**To: Recipient list suppressed:**  
**From: Easter Group <eastergroup@gmail.com>**  
**Subject: BISHOPS AND NEW ECCLESIAL MOVEMENTS**

## **BISHOPS AND NEW ECCLESIAL MOVEMENTS**

**New ecclesial movements such as CFC have been recognized by the Church as God's blessings for the work of the third millennium. This is why CFC was officially recognized by the Vatican, the only one for the whole of Asia. CFC works as an integral part of the one Church, according to her life and mission.**

**While ecclesial movements are given wide autonomy, in order not to stifle the Spirit and its particular charism, the pastoral solicitude of the hierarchy is still very important. The bishops provide guidance, wisdom and protection. This is especially the case when there is conflict within the movement, as happens many times, and especially as such conflicts involve the very top leaders. Where do they then turn to? They should turn to the bishops.**

**CFC ultimately split because the top leadership of CFC, the Int'l Council (IC), did not submit to the discernment of ecclesiastical authority. The bishops (Archbp Lagdameo, Bp Reyes, Bp Villegas) only intervened in order to correct the veering away, and did it out of great love for CFC. But the IC refused the strong recommendations of the 3 bishops, reneged on the win-win agreement approved by the bishops, showed continuing disrespect to their Spiritual Director by not following his directives (such as giving all CFC members his letters addressed to all) and by distorting his actions (thus causing him to formally correct them at least 3 times).**

**All the disrespectful actions of the IC led to the resignation of Bp Reyes as their Spiritual Director. Such is an unprecedented move! In resigning, Bp Reyes said that he would always side with what was right and true. He had found that CFC under the IC had veered away and had been disobedient to the bishops, and were no longer following his wise advise and directions to them. With the resignation of their very own Spiritual Director, the non-submission to ecclesial authority by CFC under the IC was complete. CFC had lost the guidance, wisdom, discernment, and moral grounding that could only come from the bishops.**

**Having rejected the bishops, CFC-GK, through its apologists, even now attacks them, attacking even Cardinal Rylko of the Vatican. Now they also no longer have their founder, in whom the charism of the ecclesial movement is vested. Having lost the guidance and protection of the pastors and shepherds of the Church, CFC under the IC may simply have lost what is good, true and beautiful.**

**CFC-FFL**

---

## **RESPECTING THE CHARISMS OF ECCLESIAL MOVEMENTS**

**VATICAN CITY, 17 MAY 2008 (VIS) - The Holy Father today received in audience a group of bishops, participants in a seminar promoted by the Pontifical Council for the Laity to reflect on the question of**

**pastoral solicitude towards ecclesial movements and new communities.** The seminar was held from 15 to 17 May at Rocca di Papa near Rome.

"Ecclesial movements and new communities", said the Pope, "are one of the most important novelties the Holy Spirit has generated in the Church in order to put Vatican Council II into effect. ... Paul VI and John Paul II were able to welcome and discern, to encourage and promote, the unexpected emergence of the new lay groups which, in various and surprising ways, restored vitality, faith and hope to the entire Church".

Although "no small amount of prejudice, resistance and tension has been overcome", said the Holy Father, "there remains the important task of promoting more mature communion among the components of the Church, so that all charisms, while respecting the specific nature of each, may fully and freely contribute to constructing the one Body of Christ".

Pope Benedict then turned to consider the theme of the seminar - "I ask you to reach out to the movements with great love" - an exhortation he himself had addressed to a group of German bishops on their "ad limina" visit in 2006. "Reaching out with great love to movements and new communities", he said, "impels us to an adequate knowledge of their situation, avoiding superficial impressions and reductive judgements". This helps us to understand that such movements "are not a problem, ... they are a gift from the Lord, a precious resource to enrich the entire Christian community with their charisms".

"Difficulties and misunderstandings on particular points do not justify [an attitude] of closure", said the Pope. And he told the prelates that they must "closely accompany" the movements and new communities "with paternal solicitude" so as to put to good use "the many gifts they bear, gifts we have learned to know and appreciate: their missionary drive, their effective courses of Christian formation, their witness of faithfulness and obedience to the Church, their sensitivity to the needs of the poor, and their wealth of vocations.

**"The authenticity of the new charisms is guaranteed by their willingness to submit to the discernment of ecclesiastical authority", the Holy Father added. In this context he indicated that bishops "must examine and test the charisms in order to recognise and evaluate that which is good, true and beautiful, that which contributes to increasing the sanctity of individuals and of the community. And when it is necessary to intervene in order to correct", he concluded, "such interventions must also be expressions of 'great love'".**