



APG NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2019



"Make a friend, be a friend, bring your friend to Christ"

Greetings Dear Friends,

We send you all our dearest wishes and prayers as we approach Christmas. We give thanks to God for all the blessing of this year and seek His guidance and support as we look forward to commencing another year in His service in 2020.

Thanks to all who have responded to our request for news of your activities to share with each other in this newsletter. If there are more of you who would like to provide information about what has been happening in Cursillo in your countries, please send it to us and we would be very happy to include your news in our first issue next year.

Cursillo **TAIWAN (R.O.C.)** has had a busy year in 2019, according to Chairman Joseph Chintsang Gao. We thank him for his excellent report and photos. Many activities have been held such as Cursillo weekends, Ultreyas and Cursillo of Cursillos, including one specifically for Spiritual Directors. A National Ultreya was held in September with 145 participants. In addition to events held in many dioceses of Taiwan, they provided Spiritual Directors for a Cursillo for Chinese speakers in Toronto Canada and also for a Cursillo weekend in Changtz, Mainland China. At present there are 138 Cursillistas in Changtz. Plans are under way for the 2020 program. We commend the Secretariat for their activities in Taiwan and also for outreaching to other countries.



It was wonderful to hear from the new Cursillo President of **US MILITARY IN KOREA**, Dave Fortune. The Cursillo Centre has recently moved from Seoul to a more southern location and many changes have been required. Dave is encouraged that attendance numbers are growing and a full Secretariat has been installed. Fr Emil, whom we met at the APG Encounter in Hawaii, is Spiritual Director and there are three other spiritual advisors as well. Our friend, Pat Felder also continues to counsel the community. Changes required by military appointments continue to affect the community, as Cursillistas become posted to other areas. Dave requests our prayers that a Rector will step forward to lead a Men's Weekend in early March 2020. Congratulations Dave, to you and your team, on effectively handling the many challenges that these changes have brought upon you.

We received a wonderful report from President Le Minh in Mainland **VIETNAM** about their fruitful activities, undertaken with much energy in 2019. The Secretariat has focused not only on conducting Cursillo weekends (15 weekends for 493 candidates) but also on deepening the understanding of Cursillo method for their experienced Cursillistas (8 Leaders' Workshops for 399 participants). In addition, a new National Secretariat has been formed and we congratulate President Anton Le Minh and Spiritual Advisor Fr Anton Ha Van Minh and look forward to working with them in 2020. Above all, Vietnamese Cursillo seeks the prayers and support of the CM worldwide, in order that the 5,500 Vietnamese Cursillistas be able to put down deeper roots in the Movement for the benefit of their country.



Good news arrived from Suzanne De Silva in **SRI LANKA**: Cursillistas there are slowly recovering from the April 21st attacks. Some modifications to their schedule were necessary immediately after the massacre for reasons of security, but they are looking forward to coming back to their full schedule next year. Nevertheless, the National Secretariat of Sri Lanka still managed to organise a whole range of events

under difficult circumstances during 2019, commencing with their annual Cursillo Convention in January, entitled "Let us Make Friends for Jesus". Almost every month after that, various events were held including retreats, pilgrimages, a Cursillo information programme for prospective Cursillistas, workshops, Ultreyas and Schools of Leaders. Activities culminated in three Cursillo weekends held in October and November and Christmas Ultreyas will be held in Columbo, Kandy and Chilaw. Their 53rd Annual Convention will be held in January 2020. We give thanks for the wonderful work that the Sri Lankan Secretariat has achieved, in the face of such adversity.

Conrado Dizon also provided us with an extensive report on the activities in the **PHILIPPINES**. The focus continues to be the renewal of Cursillo in their country. We are happy to know that Mrgr. Roberto Espanilla has been appointed as the new Spiritual Advisor of the Philippines.. The First National Assembly was held from 20-22 August in Makati City, attended by Cursillistas from four Archdioceses and ten Dioceses. Awareness and the importance of linking the leaders of the Ecclesiastical Provinces was discussed and a "Pastoral Spiral" was presented. This model shows in visual form, how the strategies that are needed to be put into effect are linked together. A program of Renewal in the CM gave information about the correct way to conduct Three Day Cursillo Weekends and was supported by the provision of official Cursillo literature. This program also encouraged dialogue and consultation with Secretariats in order to develop communication and friendship.



1ST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF CURSILLO SECRETARIATS

It is impressive to see the serious and systematic way that Conrado and his team have worked to renew Cursillo in the Philippines, so that the methodology is clearly understood. We are sure that this will bear much fruit. We give thanks to God for their dedication and will continue to offer our support in any way possible..

We thank National Coordinator of Cursillo **AUSTRALIA**, Ms Anne Moloney for the following report.

Group Reunions, Ultreyas, Cursillo 3 Days, School of Leaders and Workshops have been held in various dioceses around Australia. At the National Secretariat Meeting held in Sydney, September 2019, where representatives gathered, Terrie McLean was appointed as the new National President. Following this meeting, a Reflection Day, focusing on our relationship with Jesus Christ, was held. The theme chosen was "The Way, the Truth and the Life. How do we journey towards a committed Christian Life?" The 2020 National Cursillo Encounter will be held in October with the theme "Cursillo - The Movement on the Move". We are encouraged to learn that in the Lismore Diocese, Cursillo is being supported by Catholic Aboriginal Ministry, in their efforts to hold the next Cursillo Three Days, whilst keeping in mind the process of Precursillo. There is also interest shown by Catholic Education to encourage their teachers in a Cursillo Weekend. Our National Spiritual Advisor, Fr John Armstrong, has become a household name through his weekly blog called "**Walking with Jesus: A pilgrimage of faith relating scripture to daily life.**" His weekly gospel reflection is sent via email to National Secretariat delegates who in turn distribute the material to Cursillistas in their dioceses.



A MESSAGE FROM Fr JOHN

Christmas allows us but a short time to reflect on how God orders our priorities. This time notices that the way God views the world is profoundly different from our own. Often our "Good News" is based on how much we own, what control we have of our own destiny and what influences we have over others. Yet the Christmas story turns this all upside down. Jesus is born in the humblest of circumstances into a poor family and whose message goes out to those who have the least influence. In this, I believe God reveals to us a moment of profound surrender which trusts that God is present in unexpected places and unexpected times. This changes the way we view ourselves and the way we order our priorities. It calls us into a living relationship with God which trusts our whole lives to Divine Providence. We seek to be present so that we can use things well and for the good of our world. We are called to become stewards of creation not masters of the universe! In all things may the peace of Christ disturb you!

And from us – Thank you all very much for sharing with us the joys and sorrows of life in your communities as you seek to be Good News in your own environments. We are united in our diversity and it is always so good to hear from you.

We wish you and your loved ones a happy and holy Christmas, filled with joy, hope, peace and love.

¡DE COLORES!

Margaret, Fr John, Merran, John & Rhonda

**ASIA PACIFIC GROUP EXECUTIVE
CURSILLOS IN CHRISTIANITY**



**A COLLAGE OF PHOTOS FROM VIETNAM, PHILIPPINES, TAIWAN (R.O.C)
OF THE ASIA PACIFIC GROUP**

