



# APG NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2020

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***“Make a friend, be a friend, bring your friend to Christ”***

## **Greetings Dear Friends,**

It has been a tumultuous start to this year of 2020 and we trust that you and your loved ones are safe and well and that all your plans for Cursillo in your country will bear much fruit.

We wish to thank you for your prayers and messages concerning the terrible fires and floods in Australia during our summer. Extreme weather has been occurring in other parts of the world as well and it seems that there is need for a more urgent response to Pope Francis' call in his encyclical, *Laudato Si* to the crisis of climate change.

The spread of the coronavirus, Covid-19 is also affecting the Church in some countries, especially the protocols around gathering at Mass and receiving communion. It may be affecting your Cursillo activities as well. Let us all pray for each other as we take the necessary steps to protect the health of everyone and for a rapid solution to this worldwide growing problem.

Amongst correspondence received this week from the OMCC Executive Committee was their Bulletin which we have already forwarded to you. We also received the good news from World President Juan Adolfo Moguel Ortiz of the announcement of the VIII World Encounter.

## **VIII WORLD ENCOUNTER – MAR DEL PLATA, ARGENTINA – MARCH 2021**

This letter, addressed to the Presidents of each International Group said: *After meeting and evaluating the realities of our movement in the different dioceses of the world in which it is active, and taking into account the diverse and sometimes new situations that we have to face as an evangelizing group, we consider that the CCM should not only adapt to modern times, but anticipate them to ensure that the proclamation of the Gospel can continue to be carried out in a dynamic, vigorous and attractive way in the third millennium. In other words, that the words of Jesus are understandable, attractive and attainable for contemporary man.*

National Secretariats around the world are asked to keep this month in mind when planning their program for 2021 and are invited to send any issue or situation they would like addressed on the agenda of the Encounter, to the Executive of their International Group for the consideration of the OMCC. The proposed agenda will be advised at a later date.

National Secretariats, please consider attending this Encounter to represent your country. As at all World Encounters there will be matters which will need to be voted on by the National Secretariats. It would be good to have a large contingent attend from the Asia Pacific region.

We will continue to send information about the VIII World Encounter as it comes to hand and encourage you to consider participating in this world event, as it is a wonderful opportunity to experience a large gathering of Cursillistas and celebrate the gift of God's love we have all become aware of through Cursillo.

## **3<sup>RD</sup> ORDINARY MEETING OF THE OMCC**

Prior to the Encounter, Executives from the four International Groups of the OMCC will meet at the same location for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the OMCC. This meeting will be the last to be held during all current Executives' four year term of office (2018-2021).

## **OMCC FUNDRAISING PROJECTS**

In our October newsletter, we mentioned the proposed Three Dollar Campaign and the OMCC Pin Project. Thank you to the National Secretariats which have already responded. We are still waiting on further details from the OMCC Executive Committee regarding the PIN Project and we will advise you as soon as we hear. If you have already commenced collecting donations for the Three Dollar Campaign, please hold the funds until further notice, as we hope to bring you all necessary banking details soon.

## **SAIPAN, CNMI**

Bishop Ryan sends us more good news from Saipan. where the National Secretariat has been in recess for some time. Efforts are being made to restart the Movement this year. Your prayer support would be appreciated.

## **FOCUS ON COUNTRIES**

In future APG newsletters this year, we hope to showcase individual countries, so that we are all familiar with what is happening in Cursillo in our region.

## **APG CONTRIBUTIONS**

APG Treasurer, Rhonda Porteous will send out invoices for this year to National Secretariats in the coming weeks.

## ***A MESSAGE FROM Fr JOHN***

The season of Lent allows us the opportunity to walk more closely with the person of Jesus each day. The threefold discipline of prayer, fasting and almsgiving are centred on the usual temptations that we can face in life. We can too easily worship ourselves through what we spend our money and time on.

Modern-day consumerism tends to tempt us to believe that we are only a real person if we are in control of our finances if we have something worthwhile to occupy our time and that we have an opinion about every subject. Yet Jesus shows us how alluring these temptations to be in control, to be spectacular and to be relevant can lead us to focus on ourselves rather than on the life that God seeks for us.

The Lenten season allows us to surrender our whole life to God in order to be given it back in a new way. The resurrected life shapes our priorities with the vision of God which expands what we see rather than limiting ourselves. It helps our hearts and minds to be focussed on what brings life both for us and for others.

This photo of green shoots, following recent rain, in a fire blackened forest in Australia, speaks to us of both New Life and of Hope.



**¡DE COLORES!**

*Margaret, Fr John, Merran, John & Rhonda*

**ASIA PACIFIC GROUP EXECUTIVE  
CURSILLOS IN CHRISTIANITY**