



APG NEWSLETTER

MAY 2020

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

Greetings Dear Friends,

We trust that you and your communities are safe and well as we navigate through this period of pandemic. No doubt you have found new ways to keep in touch with Cursillistas in your countries, even though many of the usual activities may have gone into recess temporarily. We know that the Lord accompanies us through these difficult days, as He assured us that He would be with us always.

VIII WORLD ENCOUNTER

Thank you for your responses to our letter of 16 April, requesting your input as to the viability of holding the VIII World Encounter in March 2021 in Argentina. Overwhelmingly our countries advised that this date is too early, due to so many unknown factors surrounding Covid-19 and when it will be safe for each country to resume normal life. It may also be a long time before International travel, as we have known it, can resume with the potential for an increasing cost of airfares. We conveyed your opinions to the OMCC Executive.

In our reply, we also made the suggestion that perhaps a World Ultreya might be a more appropriate event than a World Encounter, expressing the opinion that an Ultreya would be an opportunity for the Cursillistas of the World to gather, give thanks and rejoice at the conclusion of the pandemic. Our thoughts were that this could be a time of sharing our stories, hopes and concerns as we listened to the voice of the Holy Spirit seeking the best way forward for Cursillo, in adapting to different conditions in a post-pandemic world.

On 12 May we received correspondence from the OMCC Executive that a World Encounter of Leaders would be held in Argentina, on a date to be confirmed, most likely in the second half of 2021. We will keep you advised of further details as they come to hand.

THE PHILIPPINES 2nd NATIONAL CURSILLO PRIESTS ENCOUNTER



Conrado Dizon, Cursillo President of the Philippines sends us news that this Encounter will be held in Cebu from 11-13 March 2021. It will be an important step in the renewal of Cursillo in their country. Topics being considered are the Essence and Purpose, the Method and Strategy of Cursillo, as well as the role of priests in the Precursillo, the Three Days and the Postcursillo phases. We will bring you more news as it is received.

APG COORDINATING COUNTRY 2022 – 2025

As time goes on, we remind you that the term of Australia as Coordinating Country for the APG will conclude on 31 December 2021. It will be necessary to take some time over the coming months to prayerfully discern which of our countries might become the next Coordinating Country, so as to allow a period of handover before 1 January 2022. In our last newsletter, we said that we would feature each of our National Secretariats in the coming issues so that information is known about each one. It is the National Secretariat of a country which can nominate themselves or another country to be the coordinating country of the APG. Following voting by each country, the National Secretariat of the chosen coordinating country chooses the personnel from their country who will be the Executive Committee of the APG.

As Australia will be passing on the baton to another coordinating country, we feature them first::

AUSTRALIA

The Australian National Secretariat has been making considerable efforts to remain connected with the Dioceses and to support their work in service of Australian Cursillistas. During the time of Coronavirus,

online means such as Messenger, Zoom, Google-duo, teleconferences, phone and email have enabled people to keep in touch in their Group Reunion and Ultreya communities.

Newsletter editors have continued to circulate Diocesan Cursillo news, including prayer, study and encouragement. Other resources have been our National Spiritual Advisor's reflections, youtube clips and other links to Church news and online Masses.

Diocesan Secretariats have suspended all physical gatherings in line with instructions from local government and Dioceses. All planned Three Day weekends planned for June, July and August have been postponed, though some Teams have continued to prepare via email. Planned fundraising events have also been postponed. The National Encounter set down for October 2020, has now been postponed to 2021.



Whilst sharing faith is possible, having deeper discussions as part of Precursillo is not as easy under present restrictions. A conscious effort is needed to maintain contact with those who are considering a Cursillo Three Days in the future. At present, phone conversations offer the best way to have this contact.

OTHER COUNTRIES

We ask each country to please forward news to us of how you are coping through this pandemic, what plans you have and how you have adjusted your way of living the Gospel with others at this time. As we mentioned earlier, we will feature a different country in each of our bi-monthly Newsletters.

A MESSAGE FROM Fr JOHN

Come, Holy Spirit fill the depths of our hearts. Rekindle in us the fire of your love that we may be recreated. In celebrating Pentecost we are called to recognise how the Holy Spirit wells up inside bursting forth with life and hope. In this time of the pandemic, we are called to trust more deeply in how we are called to live in communion with God and with each other. It allows us to notice and become aware of the gifts entrusted to us for the good of the whole community. As Christians, we join together to celebrate how we are animated into action as people who transform our world. May our prayer always draw more deeply into unity with God and with each other. May we discover the treasure within us which is ever ancient and ever new.

Let us all continue to pray for each other, for an end to this pandemic and that we may live in Peace in our World. Come Holy Spirit ...

¡DE COLORES!

Margaret, Fr John, Merran, John & Rhonda

**ASIA PACIFIC GROUP EXECUTIVE
CURSILLOS IN CHRISTIANITY**