



APG NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2020



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

Greetings Dear Friends,

As the holy season of Christmas approaches, we send warmest wishes of Peace and Joy to you and your Cursillo communities. May the shepherds lead you forward in hope, to find Jesus, the world's true light, with Mary, His Mother.

As we reflect on what has been a most difficult year in so many ways, let us give thanks that we were never abandoned and that the Lord continued to walk with us. We trust that the challenges you faced in 2020 have been a time of learning and an opportunity to lead your community in new ways into the future. Let us always be aware that our role as leaders is to be of service for the benefit of all cursillistas in our region.

CONSULTATION

It is always important to consult about issues happening in our worldwide Movement and this we have sought to do with the series of letters we sent you recently about the proposed World Encounter in Argentina in October 2021. It is a difficult situation with the uncertainty of what conditions will be like in relation to the pandemic by then. There are still some questions to be answered by the OMCC about the purpose and agenda of the Encounter, which we will pass on to you when they are received. Thank you for the responses you have already sent to us and we look forward to further correspondence.

We have been highlighting the various countries of our region in our recent newsletters. In this issue, we continue the process with a focus on Korea and we thank them for their report.

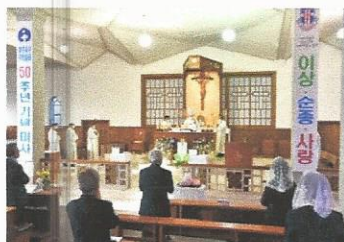
SPOTLIGHT ON KOREA

HISTORY

- In 1967 the Cursillo Movement was introduced into Korea by Filipino Cursillistas, 14 of whom flew to Seoul, and conducted the first weekend in English.
- Within 3 years the Cursillo Movement had spread out across the country and was given in Korean
- From 1994-1997 Korea was the seat of the OMCC and held the V World Encounter.
- From 2014-2017 Korea became the coordinating country of the Asia Pacific Group.
- Since the beginning of the Cursillo Movement in Korea there have been hundreds of thousands who have encountered Christ through the Cursillos.



PRESENT



- All Cursillo programs were cancelled until the end of the year due to Covid-19. These were replaced with videos on communities and forums online.
- The 40th nationwide Cursillo Executive and Leaders meeting was conducted via Zoom.
- Spiritual and community-building activities included prayers for medical teams and patients of Covid-19, visits to shrines of Korean martyrs, bible transcriptions, training and retreats online.
- The Suwon Diocese conducted the 50th anniversary of Cursillo in Korea via You Tube and Zoom. On this occasion there was also a large fundraising project for victims of the seasonal monsoon. Many sacks of rice were donated for the needy

FUTURE

- Upcoming plans include monthly executive and leaders' meetings online.
- A research/support group dedicated to Cursillo growth will be established.
- Refresher courses and retreats with limited numbers will continue.
- Rosary prayer to take place in churches until Cursillo can take place again.

FINANCES

Thank you to the National Secretariats who have been able to send their APG affiliation contributions this year. We understand that with many activities ceasing due to Covid-19 restrictions, it may have been difficult to find funds. We do appreciate your efforts.

AROUND THE APG NATIONAL SECRETARIATS

- The US Military Cursillo in Korea has had a challenging time with leaders unavoidably leaving to take up other military postings. New President Lance Toyofuku has stepped in and has taken on this role. Congratulations Lance and we look forward to working with you.
- The National Secretariat of the Philippines is continuing to prepare for the Second Encounter of Priests in March 2021. President Conrado Dizon hopes that a renewed Cursillo Movement will be of assistance to the local Church.
- Australia is mourning the loss of much loved Cursillista and friend Ted Mohr, aged 96. Ted held important leadership roles within the Movement for many years and especially within the APG. He attended Encounters throughout the region, including the V World Encounter in Seoul. May he rest in peace.

APG COORDINATING COUNTRY

As 2021 will be the fourth and final year for Australia to be the coordinating country of the APG, we urge you to pray and discern which country might take over this role from us in the next term.

A MESSAGE FROM Fr JOHN

Who is our guiding star? As we enter into the season of Advent, we encounter people who journey with us to Bethlehem to witness the birth of the Christ child. In many ways, we begin this season with the end in mind. Yet it is the journey to our destination, which is as important as our arrival. If our focus is more on the future rather than on the present moment, we can lose a sense of who we will be when we arrive.

We can imagine the perfect Christmas where everything will be perfect. Each person receives the gift they need, the meal turns out just the way we want and people get along with each other. Yet it is these noble intentions, which often distract us from being present to our own reality. The coming of the Christ child often encounters us in our poverty, powerlessness and deep need. There is a call to allow him to take the lead day by day.

Much as we desire everything to turn out well he calls us to a deeper encounter that centers the world on God's universal love for us. It calls us to see our world through God's eyes, which seeks to restore the dignity of each person and to respect the creation of which we are part. God broadens our vision to see to the heart of the creation. Our prayer is to encounter God so that God may encounter us with faith, hope and love.

And from us - Thank you all very much for sharing with us the joys and sorrows of life in your communities in this most difficult of years where we have all tried to do our best. We send our love and prayers for a peaceful celebration of Christmas among your families, communities, friends and neighbours.

¡DE COLORES!

Margaret, Fr John, Merran, John & Rhonda
ASIA PACIFIC GROUP EXECUTIVE
CURSILLOS IN CHRISTIANITY





A COLLAGE OF PHOTOS FROM SRI LANKA, KOREA,
and TAIWAN (R.O.C), (Where lockdown has been minimal)



¡DE COLORES!