



APG NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2020

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

Greetings Dear Friends,

We send our best wishes to you all as we persevere in our Cursillo communities, our parishes and our countries in these times of coronavirus. We are called more than ever to serve each other, particularly those who are ill, isolated, poor, lonely and in financial hardship. While our Cursillo gatherings and Church activities may be curtailed, we are called to try to express our love through small acts of kindness, connecting with one another through phone calls, emails and other online means. Communication remains so important. This may be our new way to be the instruments of God in our environments.

In our last newsletter, we mentioned that we would feature each of our National Secretariats in coming issues, in the lead up to the change of the coordinating country, so that elections can take place next year 2021 for the new APG Secretariat to begin their role on 1 January 2022. In this issue we continue::

SPOTLIGHT ON TAIWAN (R.O.C.)



7th ordinary meeting in Kaoshiung diocese in May

HISTORY:

- Cursillistas from the Philippines introduced and coordinated the first Cursillos in Taipei 2-5 February 1968, so Taiwan (R.O.C.) celebrated 50 years of Cursillo in 2018. There are 7 active Dioceses in Taiwan, each with its own Secretariat.
- Since May 1990 Cursillos in Chinese language has been promoted in North America. A Secretariat has been established in Toronto Canada.
- In 2008 some from the School of Leaders of the National Secretariat led a group to conduct the first Cursillo in Hong Kong. and in 2019 the 3rd Cursillo 3 days led by two cursillistas from Taiwan, was held in mainland China.
- Taiwan (R.O.C) was coordinating country of the APG 2004-2007

PRESENT:

- All news from OMCC & APG has been gratefully received.
- The government of Taiwan has done especially well in protecting their citizens from the coronavirus, for which the cursillistas give thanks to the Lord. By the end of July, they had only 458 cases and 7 deaths.
- Mass has been celebrated in Taiwan online, but since June, the churches have opened for Mass according to regulations and social distancing. Most Cursillo gatherings ceased until June, however diocesan meetings, including some Group Reunions and Ultreyas have been held since then and the new Secretariats of each dioceses have been elected
- A communal workshop for the new secretariats from three of the dioceses was held in July.
- On 1 August the 8th Ordinary Meeting of Cursillo was held in Taipei, with the election of a new President and office bearers for the National Secretariat. A weekend workshop will be held at the end of August for the new Secretariat, and there is planning for Cursillo 3 Days.



Planning for 3 Days



Communal workshop for 3 dioceses

FUTURE:

- A reunion of 100 new cursillistas from three dioceses in the south of Taiwan has been postponed
- A weekend workshop in two of the dioceses has also been postponed until next Spring 2021
- The Secretariat of Taichung Diocese in the central part of Taiwan is preparing to hold a Cursillo 3 Days workshop on October 8-11, 2020
- A three day workshop for all spiritual directors in Taiwan will be held at the end of February 2021.

Your prayers for all these events would be appreciated and we look forward to welcoming members of the new National Secretariat to the Asia Pacific Group.

Taiwanese cursillistas have generously contributed to the Three Dollar Campaign which was launched by the OMCC last September and we thank them for their efforts.

We would like to congratulate President Joseph Gao and the previous National Secretariat of Taiwan for all their work over the last two years. It has been a joy to collaborate with them in friendship through their frequent communication and efficient attention to details. May God reward them for what they have done in spreading God's love through Cursillo in their own country and for being such an important part of the Movement in our Asia Pacific region.

We are happy to receive similar reports from other member countries to publish in future newsletters. Thank you.

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

Letters of condolence have been sent to our OMCC Spiritual Advisor Archbishop Faustino Armendariz Jimenez on the death of his parents, Francisca and Valentin. Mons Faustino celebrated Requiem Mass for his parents recently in Mexico. Our prayers are for his parents, may they Rest In Peace, and for his five brothers who have been infected with the coronavirus as well. We pray also for the thousands of people worldwide who have died of this virus and for all families who grieve.

A MESSAGE FROM Fr JOHN

How do we see the pandemic as a time of blessing rather than a curse? Often our language talks about how we will defeat this unseen enemy but in many ways it has created a far greater enemy which causes distrust to emerge between people and nations. This disruption to the normal rhythms of life has not only damaged the health and the premature death of many people but has also caused life-changing circumstances of employment, migration and travel.

While we had become accustomed to the ease of travel across continents and an easy association of cultures we now see a greater distance separating us which is causing greater tensions to emerge.

As Christians, we are called to live in the world but not become of the world. There is a need to look at the situations through the lens of God's loving presence which always seeks those who are in greatest need and those without a voice. Our prayer needs to be united with those who fear for their future. Our reflection needs to notice how we can live in a way which brings hope to others and our actions need to demonstrate how we are called to be sustained in love. Our lives can become a blessing where our isolation and distance from each other should not cause us to become distant and isolated from God who draws us close to the heart of compassion. In all things, we notice how God is present.

¡DE COLORES!

Margaret, Fr John, Merran, John & Rhonda

**ASIA PACIFIC GROUP EXECUTIVE
CURSILLOS IN CHRISTIANITY**