



APG NEWSLETTER

February 2021

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

Greetings Dear Friends,

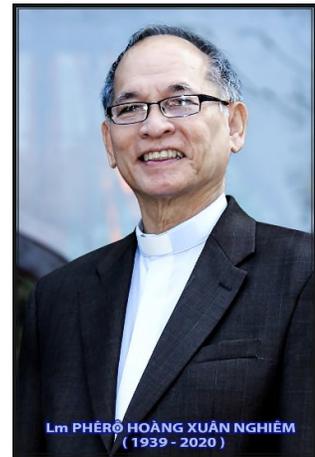
As we enter a new year, we continue to pray for all the people of our world and for an end to the pandemic which has afflicted everyone so badly over the past year. We congratulate the Cursillistas of our Asia Pacific region who have worked tirelessly to assist their own communities and environments. The adoption of technology has enabled you all to continue to communicate and to keep Cursillo activities going, despite restrictions. You have met the challenges without fail and Cursillo will be stronger because of your efforts. We are sure that the pandemic will be overcome by the power of your prayer and faithfulness.

In 2021, we continue to highlight our countries. In this issue, we focus on Vietnam.

SPOTLIGHT ON VIETNAM

HISTORY

- The first Cursillos took place from 1967 to 1975, supported by the late Cardinal and Venerable Francis Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan who experienced Cursillo in The Philippines.
- From 1975 to 2006 no Cursillo Weekends were allowed in any Diocese but Cursillistas continued to express their Cursillo spirit in their way of life, faith and friendship.
- During this time, many Cursillistas fled to different parts of the world and resettled in the USA, Canada, Australia and France. These Cursillistas were re-established as Vietnam in Diaspora.
- Since 2006 some priests and Cursillistas have returned and re-established Cursillo in Vietnam. Spiritual Director, the late Peter Nghiem Hoang Xuan is credited for this.
- In 2006 the provisional National Secretariat was established.
- In 2016 the president of the Bishop’s Conference officially approved of the Cursillo Movement.
- In 2017 on its 50th anniversary of the Cursillo Movement in Vietnam, they once again became an active member of the APG. Nearly 5,000 Vietnamese Cursillistas are living their 4th Day in Vietnam and around the world.



PRESENT



Cursillo has had to adhere to strict national rules to fight the pandemic, which have had a good result. There were no fatalities in the first wave of the virus and only 35 in the second wave which came last July, due to relaxing the restrictions and welcoming tourists into the country. Since the pandemic has been controlled, Cursillo activities have resumed, including Ultreyas and an inter-Ultreya gathering was held in Ba-Ria on 12 December.



On 16-18 November, the

National Secretariat organised a training course for 90 assistants from various dioceses. This first training course in Vietnam after 1975 was very successful and brought joy and confidence to Cursillo leaders.



All Catholics in Vietnam pray every day for the end of the epidemic.

We feel that the National Secretariat of Vietnam has made amazing progress with extending the Movement to new Dioceses and the range of activities it has promoted. Thank you very much for this report and many interesting photos from National President Anthony Le Minh and his Executive. Well done!

CONSULTATION

Thank you for your patience over recent weeks, as we sent you several Important Letters in the lead up to the Virtual Extraordinary Meeting of the OMCC on 22 January 2021. These are significant issues for the future of our worldwide Movement. We have sent you the texts of APG presentations at the Meeting. We now await the decision of the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life at the Vatican about the proposals which were put forward by GECC and GLCC. We will inform you about this as soon as we hear. We know that the Holy Spirit guides our Movement and so we have confidence that the best possible outcome will prevail.

UPDATE OF CONTACT DETAILS

With the new year, we renew our request for you to let us know if you have held an election recently. It is most important that the correspondence we send goes to the current office bearers of your National Secretariat. If this is the case, please send us new contact information if your national leaders have changed. Thank you.

A MESSAGE FROM FR JOHN

In a recent book by Pope Francis called "Let us Dream: A Path to a better Future," he makes three points, which are vital to any conversation, especially as we journey together as pilgrims.

- a. A respectful mutual listening, which allows differences to harmonize. To meet each other with respect and trust to receive the new thing the Spirit wishes to reveal to us, especially in this time of the pandemic.
- b. An invitation to discover breakthroughs, to look in places we have not noticed before, in being faithful to sharing the Good News.
- c. The need for patience in seeing what affects all, should be discussed by all.

I believe that the heart of our Movement is our ability to companion each other as friends drawn together by the Spirit. This is especially important when we recognise the rich diversity of nations who make our Movement. In all things, we notice both our diversity and our unity in the Trinity. God Bless.

Once again, we thank you for your messages and prayer support for our President Margaret Morris. She is facing a long journey of recovery as she is assisted by doctors and physiotherapists to walk again. We hope that she will be able to return to her own home soon. Meanwhile, she is still very much the head of the

APG Executive and we consult her about every decision. Margaret is encouraged in knowing that so many Cursillistas hold her in their minds and hearts.

De Colores

¡DE COLORES!

Margaret, Fr John, Merran, John & Rhonda

**ASIA PACIFIC GROUP EXECUTIVE
CURSILLOS IN CHRISTIANITY**

Collage of Photos from Vietnam



A little Christmas present



Another little present



Let's go



Support each other



Their house



Two priests, but one wears two-colours sandals



Visit to Father Ly, a priest who fights for human rights



Visiting another retired priest