



APG Newsletter

Make a friend,
Be a friend,
Bring a friend to Christ

● 3RD QUARTER ●

Come and join us at the



23RD ASIA-PACIFIC GROUP (APG) ENCOUNTER

Cursillo: A Tool for Evangelization in the Asian Region



November 10-14, 2025



Caleruega Retreat Center, Nasugbu,
Batangas, Philippines

see page 6

AUSTRALIA – NATIONAL ENCOUNTER 2025



see page 4 & 7

SPIRITUAL MESSAGE

by Fr. Paul Van Tung Nguyen
APG Spiritual Advisor

see page 2

BRIDGING FRIENDSHIP, LIVING MISSION: JOURNEYING...

by Bro. Conrado Dixon
APG President

see page 2

TAIWAN: SECRETARIAT & CURSILLO WEEKENDS

see page 6

FROM STUDY TO MISSION: BRINGING CURSILLO TO OSAKA

by Fr. Jose Ramon Rubio Moldenhauer
Diocese of Osaka, Japan

see page 3

BRINGING THE JOY OF CURSILLO TO ASIA, AUSTRALIA, AND THE PACIFIC

by Alfred Bongti
APG International Representative

see page 4

PALANCA OFFERING..

see page 6

Spiritual Message

by Fr. Paul Tung Nguyen,
APG Spiritual Advisor

My dear fellow Cursillistas in the APG,

As our 23rd APG Encounter draws near, we need to remind ourselves one more time of its Theme and Goal. The Theme is "Cursillo: A tool for Evangelization in the Asian Region." And the Goal is "An authentic friendship would be bolstered by face-to-face contact. And holding the 23rd APG Encounter will elicit responses as a new way of walking together as a Synodal Church."

Our APG's area of responsibility includes the entire Asia, Australia, and all the islands in the Pacific, with a massive population of 4.81 billion out of 8.1 billion of humanity, roughly 59.3%. Yet, the percentage of Catholics in the APG area is only 362 million or around 7.5%. A grave responsibility is vested in all baptized Catholics in the region.

Today, September 20, is the feast day of Saint Andrew Kim Taegon and his companions, the heroic Martyrs of Korea, together with hundreds of thousands of other Martyrs in Asia, such as those in Japan, China, and Vietnam..., among whom Saint Pope John Paul II has canonized hundreds. We have much to learn from them, our ancestors in faith, and we ask for their intercession, defense, and help in our endeavors to evangelize in this twenty-first-century land.

In faithfully clinging to Christ, we may labor in the Church for the salvation of all people in Asia, Australia, and the Pacific Islands.

Looking forward to seeing you all in the Philippines.

De Colores!

Bridging Friendship, Living Mission: Journeying Together to the 23rd APG Encounter

by Bro. Conrado Dizon
APG President

The first thing that comes in my mind when we are appointed as the coordinating country in the APG was to be an instrument in bridging friendship among the APG member countries and renewal in the Cursillo (Cursillistas)

The intention of our visit in Vietnam last 2023 was to brought friendship and understand their culture that is why we request to be fostered by a Vietnamese family.

The continues communication between member countries thru our APG Newsletter and regular virtual meeting brings the member countries closer to each other as community. I use the word community with deep conviction, for within the APG we share one mission and aspiration to bring Christ to the world.

With this forthcoming event, the initiation of the 23rd APG Encounter this November affirms that the APG is indeed a vital force for evangelization in the Asian region. Here, our unity in diversity becomes visible. Every act of participation, every word of support, every shared experience, and every engaging discussion becomes part of a greater, communal effort in the service of the Church.

Come and join us Cursillistas of the world in this apostolic endeavor.

Hoping and praying that by the grace of God, we realize the collegiality in the mission of the church.

De Colores!

Japanese Community

From Study to Mission: Bringing Cursillo to Osaka

by Fr. Jose Rubio, Diocese of Osaka, Japan

Dear community,

A week ago, I graduated from Japanese language school. After two years of study, I am beginning to be able to express myself and understand a little of what people are saying to me. Japanese is certainly the most complex language I have ever studied, and I have studied quite a few.

I must say that I am very happy. I am very happy because during these two years, with God's help, I have been able to protect the time dedicated to studying. This has been a priority for me until now. And even though school is over, I know I must continue studying the language on my own. Because priestly work requires a mastery of the language that exceeds everyday use and requires a great deal of depth, not only in speaking but also in understanding. And I must admit that I am far from having such a command of the language.

However, I have enough knowledge of the language to take on new pastoral challenges to which I can devote time. And one of those challenges is what I want to share with you.

I think I already mentioned that next summer, in August, I hope to be able to hold at least one Cursillo here in Osaka. But there are many things to prepare for that. One of them has to do with the texts needed to carry out this work. This is important not only in the Cursillos in Christianity movement, but also in the Catholic Church. The written word has served, among other things, to bring unity to the whole world. But not just any unity, but a unity based on charity, that is, based on the Holy Spirit.

That is why I have begun the Japanese translation of the book "Fundamental Ideas of Cursillos in Christianity." As you know, this is the bedside book used by all Cursillistas around the world, and it helps us to achieve that unity based on charity that is essential in the Catholic Church.

This book reminds us of the history of the movement and its origins, because it is very important not to forget where we come from in order to know where we are and where we should be going. From this we also learn about the charism that the Holy Spirit inspired in the three initiators of the Cursillo movement. And moved by the Holy Spirit, we can build the three stages that are the precursillo, the cursillo, and the postcursillo.

Another thing that has captured my attention for the past year is the development of Artificial Intelligence. I must say that I am very impressed by its tremendous potential. The evangelizing possibilities that these new technologies bring with them are innumerable. And one of them has to do with this work that I have begun. I have been able to program a robot specialized in translating ecclesiastical texts. I have given it a glossary of terms with their appropriate translations, because, as you know, in Cursillos in Christianity there are terms that have not been translated into different languages, but are still used in Spanish. In addition, there are terms that, if translated literally, would probably lose their original meaning. So I have put all of that into a robot that is translating the book.

And little by little, a parishioner from the Japanese parish who usually corrects my homilies will help me to review the translations.

I hope to be able to send you more news soon, and that one of those pieces of news will be that the book has been translated and reviewed.

A big hug and "DE COLORES".

Australia – National Encounter 2025

by Pablo Rossi, International Rep.
Australia



With the theme Pilgrims of Hope, the National Encounter weekend took place in Varroville, on Sydney's south-western outskirts, from Friday, September 19 to Sunday, September 21, 2025. The weekend featured two notable events:

1. The National Secretariat AGM, where a new executive team was elected.
2. The National Ultreya, a joyful celebration marking the 60th Anniversary of the (English Speaking) Cursillo Movement in Australia.

More than 60 participants gathered from dioceses across the country where Cursillo is active. These included the host diocese of Wollongong, other NSW dioceses such as Canberra-Goulburn, Lismore, and Maitland-Newcastle, the Queensland dioceses of Cairns and Brisbane, and the Perth Archdiocese in Western Australia.

In addition to Australian cursillistas, we were blessed by the presence of Bishop Brian Mascord and Mrs Goreth Bendoy, a representative from the Asia-Pacific International Group, visiting from the Philippines.

Set against a backdrop of natural beauty and warmed by the early spring sun, Carmel House provided a peaceful space for reflection and renewal. God's presence was deeply felt—not only in the quiet moments of prayer, but also in the shared laughter, heartfelt testimonies, and the unity we experienced.

This Encounter rekindled a flame in many of us, and I'm hopeful it will continue to guide our steps in the weeks ahead.

De Colores!

Reflection

by Bro. Alfred Bongti
APG International Representative

Bringing the Joy of Cursillo to Asia, Australia, and the Pacific

Mark your calendars! From November 10 to 14, 2025, the Philippines will warmly welcome Cursillistas from all over the Asia Pacific region for the 23rd Asia Pacific Group (APG) Encounter.

Our theme this year is **“Cursillo: A tool for Evangelisation in the Asian Region.”** Together, let us explore how we can share the joy of Christ with our friends and communities.

Did you know that while 60% of the global population lives in our region, only 12% of them are Christians? As of 2020, the majority (78%) of the world's non-religious or unaffiliated population lives in the Asia Pacific region. Many people have yet to experience the joy of hearing that God loves them. This highlights the immense opportunity we have to share the love of Jesus.

Evangelisation is at the very heart of the Church's mission, and the Cursillo Movement is one of the most effective instruments to make this mission tangible. The genius of Cursillo lies in its simplicity: friendship lived in Christ, nurtured through personal encounter, and extended into environments where faith might otherwise remain hidden. In regions as vast and diverse as Asia, Australia, and the Pacific, Cursillo offers us a practical, adaptable, and Spirit-filled way of sharing the Good News with those around us.

Based in Friendship

Friendship is at the heart of Cursillo. It is our most powerful tool for evangelisation. In Asia, where communal life and family bonds are central, friendship creates natural pathways to Christ. In Australia, where society can sometimes feel individualistic, genuine friendships break through isolation and help build bridges. And in the Pacific Islands, where hospitality and community are hallmarks of culture, friendship in Christ finds fertile ground.

Practical approach: Why not make a new Christ-centered friend each year? Whether it is a colleague, neighbour, or someone you meet through community activities, these friendships can be seeds of evangelisation.

Living the Fourth Day

The “Fourth Day” is where the magic happens. It is the stage where evangelisation truly unfolds. Weekend encounters set hearts on fire, but it is the ongoing life of prayer, study, and action that keeps faith alive and makes it contagious. In the rapidly changing societies of Asia, the secularised cities of Australia, and the village life of the Pacific, living the Fourth Day makes Christ visible.

Practical approach: Let’s promote Group Reunions and Ultreyas that are adapted to local circumstances, such as small online groups in busy cities, house gatherings in rural areas, or open-air Ultreyas where island communities can gather under the stars. Creative flexibility allows the charism to flourish everywhere.

Evangelising through Environments

Cursillo calls us to evangelise not through grand campaigns but by transforming the environments where we already live and work. In Asia, this might mean witnessing Christ in the marketplace or office. In Australia, it could involve bringing the Gospel spirit to sporting clubs, universities, or workplaces. In the Pacific, evangelisation often begins in village life, family gatherings, and cultural celebrations. Each of us can make a difference right where we are.

Practical approach: Each Cursillista might identify one environment they already occupy and ask, “How can I bring Christ here?” A teacher could share hope with students, a parent could live out Gospel joy at home, and a worker could demonstrate integrity in the office. Evangelisation begins where we are.

Witnessing, not teaching

After years in Cursillo, I have come to understand that Cursillo is a movement of witness, not instruction. We make friends, are friends, and bring friends to Jesus through our example. Our lives spark curiosity in others. Once someone is interested, we can invite them into the Church, to take part in the RCIA, or to have a conversation with a local priest. That is where teaching can happen. We need to play to our strengths and collaborate with our sisters and brothers in other movements or organisations within the Church, each playing to their own strengths.

Strengthening Unity Across the Regions

Our Asia-Pacific region is incredibly rich in diversity, with hundreds of languages, cultures, and spiritual traditions. Yet Cursillo reminds us that Christ unites us all. Sharing testimonies, resources, and experiences across countries strengthens our witness. Australian Cursillistas can learn from the vibrancy of Asian faith communities, while Pacific islanders can inspire others with their natural sense of communal joy in worship.

Practical approach: Regional online Ultreyas or newsletters translated into the local languages can connect Cursillistas across borders, fostering a sense of shared mission and allowing small movements in one country to be encouraged by the larger family of the Movement.

Evangelisation as Joy, Not Duty

Remember, evangelisation should be a source of joy, not a burden. Let’s share the joy of knowing Jesus with everyone we meet. Pope Francis reminds us that evangelisers should not appear as if they have “just come back from a funeral.” He said not to look as though we have just eaten a lemon! The Cursillo Movement flourishes when it radiates joy, the joy of knowing Christ, the joy of living in friendship, and the joy of walking together in faith.

Practical approach: Let us encourage every Cursillista to carry the simple message: “God loves you.” Whether whispered in friendship, spoken in testimony, or lived through acts of service, this proclamation remains the most powerful evangelisation tool of all.

A Story of Simple Love

Cardinal Tagle’s story resonates deeply. While volunteering at a place run by Mother Teresa’s missionaries, Cardinal Tagle cared for a dying man named Richard, cleaning him, changing his linens, reading the Bible, and explaining the scripture he had just read to him. At one point, he stopped himself because he realised he was giving a scripture lesson and felt it was inappropriate under the circumstances. Another person, also dying from AIDS, entered the room and, at the foot of the bed, simply said, “Richard, you will soon meet Jesus. Please tell Jesus you love him. Tell Jesus we love him. We love you too, Richard. Goodbye, Richard.”

The Cardinal realised he had been searching for the ‘right’ words when all that was needed was heartfelt love.

Do we share that message? That God loves our friends and families? It is this simple act that will help others come to God.

Conclusion

Each region in Asia, Australia, and the Pacific holds unique challenges and opportunities for sharing the Gospel. The Cursillo Movement, with its emphasis on friendship, community, and daily witness, is perfectly placed to meet these challenges. If we live our Fourth Day intentionally, nurture authentic friendships, transform our environments, and support one another across borders, cultures, and languages, the Good News will ripple out across the seas and continents of our region. Let’s do it with purpose, joy, and enthusiasm.

Cursillo is not just a program; it is a way of life. In the Asia-Pacific, it can be the spark that lights hearts on fire, one friend, one environment, one joyful witness at a time.

23RD APG ENCOUNTER

November 10-14, 2025
Caleruega, Batangas, Philippines

Theme: Cursillo: A Tool for Evangelization in the Asian Region"



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

With joy and anticipation, we share with you the good news of the upcoming 23rd Asia Pacific Group (APG) Encounter, a gathering of Cursillistas from across the Asia-Pacific Region. This special encounter will be held on November 10-14, 2025 at the serene and prayerful Caleruega Retreat Center in Nasugbu, Batangas, Philippines.

This year's theme, "**Cursillo: A Tool for Evangelization in the Asian Region**", calls us to reflect on how the Cursillo Movement continues to be an instrument of renewal and mission in the life of the Church. Amidst the diverse cultures, languages, and contexts of Asia, the Cursillo experience reminds us of our shared calling: to make Christ present in our daily environments and to be authentic witnesses of the Gospel.

The 23rd APG Encounter will be a time of prayer, fellowship, learning, and sharing. Delegates from different countries with difference cultures and languages will come together to strengthen our bonds of friendship, to deepen our understanding of the Movement, and to discern new ways of evangelizing in today's changing world. It will also be an opportunity to celebrate the richness of our cultures and the unity that springs from our common faith.

As we prepare for this encounter, let us continue to pray for one another, that the Holy Spirit may guide our discussions, inspire our reflections, and renew our commitment to the mission entrusted to us.

We invite all participants to prepare their hearts and minds for this journey, and we ask our communities to support us in prayer and solidarity. May this Encounter bear fruit for the Cursillo Movement and for the greater mission of evangelization in Asia and beyond.

De Colores!

Taiwan: Secretariat and Cursillo Weekends

Last May 2025, as updated by President Tsu-Lan Teresa Lee, the Cursillo Movement in Taiwan elected its 31st National Cursillo Secretariat:

- President: Tsu-Lan Teresa Lee
- Vice-Presidents: Ms. Han Ching, Mr. Kao Chien-Heng, Mr. Ji-Min Shi
- Secretary: Ms. Wen-Hsing Chang
- Treasurer: Ms. Hui-Ching Chang
- Spiritual Advisor: Rev. Tarsisius Sigho

This October, Taiwan will conduct Cursillo Weekends, offering participants an encounter with Christ and renewal in Christian friendship. The Cursillo community prays that their leadership may bear abundant fruit for the Church and the Movement in Asia.



Palanca Offering

Please send your palancas to these local contact people, for offering prayers and sacrifices for their upcoming events:

- **Taiwan, Republic of China**
Email: tere0427@ms14.hinet.net
 1. **Men's 162nd Cursillo Weekend**
 2. **Women's 148th Cursillo Weekend from 9th to 12nd October, 2025 in Taipei, Taiwan, R.O.C..**
- **Seoul Archdiocese, Republic of Korea**
Email: sjoanlee@gmail.com / cursillo@catholic.or.kr
 1. **Men's Cursillo Class, Oct. 23-26**
 2. **Women's Cursillo Class, Nov. 6-9**
- **23rd APG Encounter**
November 10-14, 2025
Email: apgencounter2025@gmail.com



🎉 Congratulations, Australia! 🎉

We celebrate with you on the successful National Cursillo Encounter! 🙌
May the joy, friendship, and spirit of evangelization continue to shine in your communities.
De Colores! 🌈❤️



APG SERVICE COMMITTEE 2023-2027



Bro. Conrado P. Dizon
President, Philippines



Fr. Paul Tung Nguyen
Spiritual Advisor, Vietnam



Bro. Anthony Thinh Phan
Vice-President, Vietnam



Sis. Goreth C. Bendoy
Secretary, Philippines



Sis. Maria Anh Tran
Treasurer, Vietnam Diaspora



Bro. Alfred Bongli
Int'l Rep. - Australia

APG MEMBER COUNTRY/s

US MILITARY, KOREA ENGLISH
US MILITARY, OKINAWA, JAPAN
VIETNAM DIASPORA
GUAM

PHILIPPINES
AUSTRALIA
SRI LANKA
HAWAII

SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
TAIWAN, REPUBLIC OF CHINA
REPUBLIC OF KOREA
SAIPAN CNMI

¡DE COLORES!