



APG Newsletter

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

● 4TH QUARTER 2025 ●



23rd APG Encounter 2025 Caleruega, Philippines

Have a Wonderful
CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR



Message from APG Spiritual Advisor & President

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Message from APG Spiritual Advisor

by Fr. Paul Tung Nguyen

Dear fellow Cursillistas in the APG,

This message may reach you after the great feast, but the authentic meaning of Christ's Incarnation is still fresh in our minds and hearts.

First, the Incarnation means that the eternal Son of God took on real human nature (Jn 1:14). The Lord God is no longer distant from us. He enters human history, time, and experience.

Secondly, by becoming a vulnerable child, God shows His love most concretely. Christmas reveals that divine love is humble, self-giving, and close to human suffering.

Thirdly, Christ shares fully in human-like joy, work, suffering, and even death, except for sin. This means no human experience is outside God's concern.

Fourthly, the incarnation is the first step toward redemption. Christ becomes human so that humanity may be saved through His death and resurrection.

Fifthly, by taking on human flesh, Christ elevates human nature. Every person has infinite worth because God chose to become one of us.

Sixthly, Christmas proclaims that God is present and active in the world, not only in heaven. He walks with humans in daily life.

Seventhly, Christ's birth in poverty and simplicity teaches humility, trust in God, and obedience to the Father's will.

Finally, the incarnation calls believers to be Christ-like, to bring God's love, light, and mercy into the world through their own lives.

Aren't all of these occasionally appearing in our Cursillo's most important document: The Fundamental Ideas?

¡De Colores!

Fr. Paul

Christmas Message

by Bro. Conrado P. Dizon

Greetings!

As we conclude the 23rd APG Encounter and approach the end of another year, we are invited to pause and recognize the quiet yet persistent ways God has been at work in our lives. Often, His grace is not loud or dramatic; it comes gently through people who care, through small victories, and through strength we never knew we had.

In this season of Advent, the Church reminds us that hope is not about passively waiting. It is a living trust that God is shaping our future, even when the path ahead is not yet clear. Christ comes to us not only in the grandeur of Christmas but also in the ordinary moments where compassion, patience, and generosity are needed most.

During our five-day encounter in Caleruega, our theme-"Cursillo: A Tool for Evangelization in the Asian Region"-set the tone for the entire encounter. Genuine and authentic friendship brings about an honest sharing of life, lived out as active and responsible baptized persons willing to cultivate a newfound friendship in Christ (John 13:35).

As 2026 approaches, we look forward to a new year, renewed lives, and the bigger challenges of our missionary life as Cursillistas of the world. We, the APG member countries, must act together to keep evangelization in motion with renewed minds and hearts. To succeed in our 23rd APG Encounters Manifestations and Resolutions, we are called to embrace the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety, and Fear of the Lord.

On behalf of the PNCS, we are grateful to all attendees and to our four speakers for their collaboration. It is truly a grace from God that the PNCS was allowed to host the 23rd APG Encounter.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all!





Newsletter from Republic of Korean Cursillo Movement

December 19, 2025

Outdoor Gathering for Cursillo Leaders

On September 27, Seoul Archdiocese Cursillo Secretariat held an outdoor picnic to express gratitude and encourage district leaders from Seoul Archdiocese parish for their outstanding leadership and hard work in pursuit of evangelization.

About 150 Cursillistas including secretariat leaders and priests gathered at Cheongpyeong Natural Recreation Forest. Spiritual Advisor Father Lee Hyeon Jun Luke and President Choi Sung Joo Francesco and several volunteers attended.

Starting with the opening mass, everyone enjoyed a walk in the nature forest, lunch, recreation with lots of lucky draws and awards. It was a moment of repose, joy and healing.



2026 Volunteers workshop

On November 1 and 16, workshop for the 3 nights and 4 days Cursillo volunteers who volunteered for year 2026 were held at the Cursillo Center in Seoul. The training of volunteers, which involved a total of 240 young people, women, and men, included a spiritual lecture under the theme of "Spirit and Mission of Volunteers" by Cursillo Spiritual Advisor Fr. Lee Hyun Jeon and an introduction to each section which will be responsible for 3 nights and 4 days. Also lecture on the attitude of volunteers was given. New volunteers showed special enthusiasm and while senior volunteers showed the mindset of all volunteers. During the closing mass, volunteers made an oath to serve Jesus and participants according to the spirit of Cursillo movement.





A Petition for the Webpage of Cursillos in Japan

by Fr. Jose Ramon Moldenhauer

Dear cursillistas,

I'm currently preparing the new website for Cursillos of Christianity in Japan, and I would love it to be filled with real faces and real voices:

your testimony. Your experience could be exactly the light someone else needs to take the step, come closer to God, or return to the Church. That's why I'd like to invite you to record a short video testimony so we can publish it on the website.

What should the video include?

- Introduce yourself: your name (and, if you'd like, your city or community).
- In a few words, share what the Cursillo has meant for you: what you discovered, what changed in your life, what you're taking with you, and what sustains you today.

Simple guidelines to record it well

- Horizontal video (landscape), not vertical.
- Maximum length: 3 minutes.
- Medium close-up shot: from about the chest/waist up (avoid filming from far away).
- Speak clearly and a bit slowly, so the audio is easy to understand.
- If possible, record in a quiet place with good lighting (ideally with the light in front of you).

How to send it

When it's ready, please email me at joseramon@misionjapon.es and I'll tell you the easiest way to share the file (for example, by sending a link or uploading it).

Thank you from the heart. Truly: your testimony can open new paths for others.

De colores



APG Matters

by Sis. Anne Moloney, *Outgoing Int'l Rep*
Australian Catholic Cursillo Movement

I appreciate the work that APG continues on behalf of Cursillistas and thank you for the great opportunity to meet face-to-face with member countries at the APG Encounter 10-14 Nov 2025. I am aware that our meeting schedules are out of sync and want you to know that the Australian National Secretariat Executive are yet to learn about matters arising from the APG Encounter.

The immediate follow-up for me is to:

- Provide a written report to the Australian National Secretariat
- Highlight the need to present the resolution signed by APG representatives to the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference
- Upon consideration of the resolution, request that the Australian National Secretariat determine the Call to Action for Australian National Secretariat members

I will attend an online meeting for the Australian National Secretariat Executive planned for Friday 19 Dec 2025 to report about the APG Encounter. Possibly, it will take further meetings in 2026 to determine a way forward with the proposals from the APG Encounter.

Thank you for sending the documents for the APG Encounter booklet which will be sent to the Australian National Secretariat Executive. This is a good record of events especially with the inclusion of the talks presented on the three topics.

I was thankful to receive a hard copy of the resolution as we left the APG Encounter. I am aware that you intended to send a copy of the completed signatures. Please be advised that we will wait to receive a copy of the completed signatures before taking the resolution to the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference.

Our Australian Delegation will remember the warmth of the welcome we received in Manila as the candle-light choir sang to us on the first night. The friendships that followed will remain and our memories of the Philippines Experience will not be forgotten. We are truly grateful to the APG Encounter Team and especially to you, Conrado, and to Goreth, who accompanied us around Manila and on our trip north to Baguio. Your hospitality and attention to detail gave us more than we could ever hope for as travellers in a new country.

With wishes for many blessings as we celebrate Christmas.

De Colores,





Meeting of Heads of Delegations and APG Executives

Drafting of Manifestation and Resolutions



Palanca Offering

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

- Seoul Archdiocese, Republic of Korea
 Email: sjoanlee@gmail.com / cursillo@catholic.or.kr

• Men's Cursillo • Women's Cursillo • Youth Cursillo

| | | |
|------------|-------------|------------|
| Mar. 12-15 | Mar. 26-29 | Feb. 26-31 |
| Apr. 9-12 | Apr. 23-26 | Jul. 16-19 |
| May 14-17 | May 28-31 | Aug. 20-23 |
| Jun. 11-14 | Jun. 25-28 | |
| Oct. 8-11 | Sept. 10-13 | |
| Nov. 12-15 | Oct. 22-25 | |
| | Nov. 26-29 | |



We encourage everyone to print the newsletter, translate it into their local language, and share it with friends.



A Touching Experience of 23rd APG Encounter— Taiwan, R.O.C.

by Sis. Teresa Lee

Thanks for the Holy Spirit to make the 23rd APG Encounter successfully accomplished. Especially thanks for the warm encouragement and continuous invitation of Brother Conrado, which pushing me and our delegates to make up our mind to participate this wonderful encounter.

The topic of the Encounter—Cursillo : A Tool for Evangelization in the Asian Region—reacts the challenge and difficulties of nowadays Church in the Asian Region. In Taiwan, we have multiple religions, and Catholics are definite minority. There are just 1% (about 240,000-300,000) of our population (23,000,000). The Protestants are about 5.5% (1,265,000). It's time for all Cursillistas to realize and use our tool to participate in the evangelization mission.

I'm very impressive to be hosted kindly. It's so blessed that one day begins with Holy Mass. We have well-arranged topic, group discussion and reports sharing. We sing, learn and pray together. I have to say that the friendship among Cursillistas really strengthens our faith.

A Journey of a Lifetime

by Sis Remy Jimenez

Attending the APG Encounter in Nov 10-14 2025 at Calleruega Retreat Center in Nasugbu Batangas PH was a real joy for me. The 5 days was Faith filled journey of a life time, meeting old friends and making new friends was a special gift of the Holy Spirit.

Bonding with my kababayan Cursillistas was a beautiful encounter. Before travelling to PH from California I was struggling with my mobility due to past spinal Cord surgery.

However an amazing experience, an encounter with the Lord I was able to navigate the up and down steps (plenty) without any problem. 🙏
God is good all the time. 🙏





“One Spirit, One Friendship”: Celebrating Christmas 2025 and Our APG Encounter

by Bro. Alfred Bongsi

As we reach the end of another year and the soft glow of Christmas warms our hearts, the Asia-Pacific Group (APG) of Cursillo gathers in gratitude and hope. This year, our journey was particularly joyful as we met for the 23rd APG Encounter at the beautiful Caleruega Retreat Centre in Batangas, Philippines. The theme, “One Spirit, One Friendship,” truly came to life as we celebrated the lasting charm of Cursillo and the infinite love of Christ that inspires our movement.



Encountering Christ and Each Other

Cursillistas from across Asia, Australia, and the Pacific came together, showcasing the vibrant diversity and faith of our region. In a world that can sometimes feel divided, we rediscovered the strength of genuine friendship and the joy of journeying together as a synodal Church. Through prayer, learning, and fellowship, we deepened our encounters with Christ, with ourselves, and with one another.

Our theme, “Cursillo: A Tool for Evangelisation in the Asian Region,” reminded us of the vital mission we share. With only a small percentage of the region’s population identifying as Catholic, our calling remains urgent and hopeful. We inspired one another by sharing stories of faith, challenges, and renewal.

Walking Together in Hope

A central message from our Encounter was the call to synodality: to walk together in unity, to embrace our differences, and to trust the Holy Spirit to guide us. Synodality isn’t just an idea—it’s a way of life, a sign that the Church is alive and active. Each of us is called to contribute our unique gifts for the good of all, helping to build Christian communities that shine with the Good News.

I left the Encounter with a deeper appreciation for the challenges faced in each country and a comforting realisation: none of us is alone in our struggles. Cursillo continues to provide answers to life’s big questions—how to be truly happy and how to live our best lives. At its core, Cursillo teaches us that being Christian means putting people at the centre and recognising that we need each other. But Christ always stays at the centre of our lives. As Pope Francis reminded us, “We can grow and bear fruit only if we remain united to Jesus.” Our focus should be on supporting each other after Cursillo because together, we bear more fruit.

The Encounter’s conclusion resulted in a written document: ‘Manifestations and Resolution,’ which reaffirmed our dedication to Christian renewal through personal conversion, prayer, and living as witnesses to the Gospel. We committed to strengthening our Group Reunions and Ultreyas, safeguarding the spirit of the Cursillo Movement, and fostering unity, humility, and collaboration. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we seek to live as a pilgrim Church, building God’s kingdom through joyful witness and service.

Christmas: A Season of Hope and Mission

This Christmas, we celebrate within the Church’s Great Jubilee of Hope. Pope Francis has called us to make this year a pilgrimage of hope, rediscovering the joy of encounter and the strength of community. The APG Encounter showed us that even in uncertain times, God’s love remains alive and active among us. We are not alone; we are Christians with and for others, called to be beacons of hope in our families, parishes, and communities.

Let’s carry the spirit of the Encounter into the new year. Let’s be instruments of friendship and renewal, reaching out to those on the margins and inviting them to experience Christ’s transforming love. Let’s nurture the seeds planted in Batangas, trusting that the Holy Spirit will bring a rich harvest in the years ahead.

De Colores! United in Mission

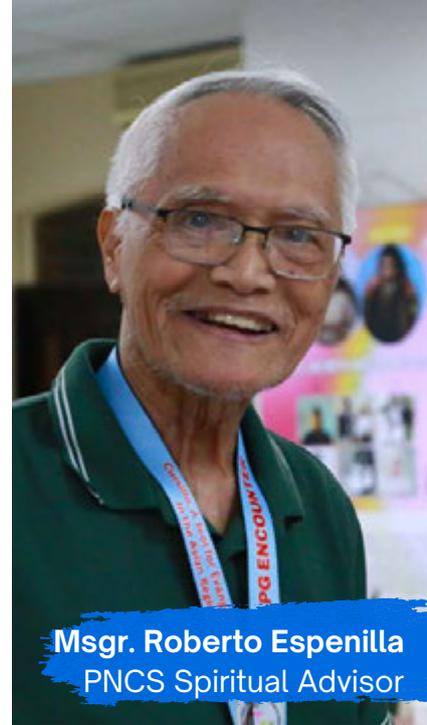
May Christ’s light shine brightly in your hearts this Christmas and always. May our friendship in Christ continue to deepen, and may our shared mission produce fruit for the renewal of the Church across the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.

De Colores!
Alfred





Dr. Alvaro Martinez-Moreno
OMCC President



Msgr. Roberto Espenilla
PNCS Spiritual Advisor



Abp. José Ángel Saiz Menesés
OMCC Spiritual Advisor &
Abp. of Seville Spain



Alfred Bongji
APG Int'l Representative



Bishop Joseph Trần Văn Toàn
APG Speaker &
Bishop of Long Xuyên Diocese



Bishop Daniel Prestor
APG Speaker &
Bishop of San Fernando, La Union



