



APG Newsletter

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

CONNECTED IN MISSION, UNITED IN CHRIST

Lent 2026: A Season of Reflection,
Penance and Renewal

1ST QUARTER
2026

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An Easter Message

My dear Cursilista brothers and sisters,

In just a few days, the Christian world will celebrate the greatest feast of her Faith. Let's reflect on some theological thoughts on the heart of our spiritual life.

First, Resurrection as the Center of Christian Faith. The New Testament insists that without the Resurrection, faith is empty (cf. 1 Corinthians 15). It's not just a miracle, but the decisive act of God in human history, confirming Jesus' identity and mission.

Secondly, Resurrection is a victory over death and sin. "The triumph of life over death" (Saint Augustine of Hippo). Sin and death – seen as humanity's deepest problems – are overcome. The Cross and Resurrection form one mystery: Sacrifice and redemption; victory and new life.

Thirdly, Resurrection is the beginning of the new creation. It is not only about Jesus, but it's also about the renewal of all creation or new creation. "The Resurrection is the cause of our future resurrection." (St Thomas Aquinas). Just as creation began in Genesis, new creation begins at Easter.

Fourthly, Resurrection brings hope and eschatology. Hope for the resurrection of the body, final justice, and eternal life. It reshapes how Christians understand the future with a renewed, embodied existence.

Fifthly, Resurrection helps Christians' participation in the "dying and rising with Christ": "dies to sin, and rises to new life." (cf. Roman 6).

Sixthly, Resurrection gives light in the midst of suffering. It does not deny suffering but transforms it.

Seventhly, Resurrection brings historical vs symbolic interpretations. Symbolic as a metaphor for hope and renewal; historical as a reality, as essential.

Finally, Easter and mission. After the resurrection, the disciples are sent out, and fear turns into courage.

In short, Easter proclaims that in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, God has defeated death, begun a new creation, and opened the way for mankind to share in eternal life.

Happy Easter!

Fr. Paul T. Nguyen
APG, Spiritual Advisor

Message from the APG President

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Since the conclusion of the 23rd APG Encounter, we have passed through the season of Advent and Lent. And now in a few days Easter and the Pentecost will come; as baptized Catholic we have a mission to fulfill.

These past four months have become for us a special period of prayer, reflection, and discernment after we affixed our signatures in accordance with the Manifestations and Resolutions of the Encounter. During this time, we have allowed these commitments to settle in our heart, hoping that our lives today may be better Christian than yesterday.

At this moment, allow me to draw our attention to one of these resolutions, particularly **Resolution No. 4** which call us:

"To foster unity, humility and collaboration among leaders, secretariats, and diocesan movements across the Asia Pacific Region, in the spirit of service and fraternity, while respecting our cultural diversity."

Guided by this spirit, we now look at the **course of action** that will help us translate these resolutions in concrete steps. These actions are not simply tasks to accomplish, but a common path that invites each member country to participate according to its own reality and capacity, always seeking to strengthen our unity and our shared mission in the Cursillo Movement.

First step: Strengthening Our Communion Through the APG Newsletter

Let us actively participate in and support our APG Newsletter, which serves as our only way of communication among member countries. It is a valuable tool for fostering friendship, unity and collaboration within the Cursillo Movement.

For without communication, it becomes difficult to walk together as one community. May the APG Newsletter continue to be a living link that keeps our movement vibrant, united and faithful to its evangelizing mission. Therefore, may we all contribute, engage, promote, and use the APG Newsletter as an instrument in propagating the "Cursillo: A Tool for Evangelization in the Asian Region".

Happy Easter to all!

To be continued in the next issue...

Bro. Conrado Dizon
APG, President



The Holy Spirit is Working in all of us!

The Holy Spirit continues to move and work in all of us.

On November 14, 2025, the final day of the 23rd APG Encounter, the Manifestations and Resolutions were ratified and adopted, affirming Cursillo as a Tool for Evangelization in the Asian Region.

On January 13, 2026, Bro. Andrew Chai was referred to Bro. Conrado by Bishop Mylo Vergara, inquiring about the possibility of organizing a 3-Day Cursillo. He shared that 5-10 Singaporean participants are willing to come to the Philippines to attend.

After several days of communication and discernment, it was agreed that the 3-Day Cursillo will be held on October 22-25, 2026, in collaboration with Bro. Juan Ruiz.

Truly, we witness how the Holy Spirit opens doors, connects hearts, and inspires us to continue the mission of evangelization across our region.

Celebrating 60 Years of English-Speaking Cursillo in Australia

Gratitude, Friendship, and Mission

Sixty years ago, a simple “yes” brought a movement to Australia that continues to shape lives today, both across Australia and throughout our Asia Pacific family.

If you are reading this, chances are you have lived a Cursillo weekend. You know how deeply it changed something in your life. And, if that’s true, then Cursillo matters to you – just as much as it matters to me.

Last year marked 60 years of English-speaking Cursillo in Australia. This year, the Archdiocese of Canberra-Goulburn, my own home diocese, celebrates its 60th anniversary. These milestones invite us not just to look back, but to pause, give thanks, and reflect on where we’ve come from, who we are, and what God is asking of us now.

Where We’ve Come From: A Story of Gratitude

Anniversaries are about more than remembering dates. They remind us that we are part of a living story, one that began long before us and will continue long after us. And every good story begins with gratitude.

Many years ago, a small group of people said “yes” to a bold idea. They trusted the Holy Spirit, trusted one another, and believed that Christian friendship could truly change lives. They had no roadmap and no guarantees, yet they took the first step. They brought Cursillo to Australia.

Sixty years ago, travelling halfway around the world was far more costly and challenging than it is today, in time, money, distance from family, and uncertainty. Yet because of their courage and faith, we are here today: serving, leading, praying, laughing, and still being shaped by grace.

Take a moment to think about the person who invited you to Cursillo. Have you thanked them? Their simple “yes” played a pivotal role in your journey of faith.

Gratitude roots us in the past. But mission always calls us forward.



Continuation...

Who We Are: A Movement with a Mission

Cursillo grows because people continue to say 'yes.' It grows one invitation at a time. Yet each of us belongs to something far bigger than ourselves.

Cursillo is a global movement, united through the OMCC, with communities across continents, cultures, and languages, including our own Asia Pacific Group (APG). We are never alone. We belong to something larger. We walk together.

At its heart, Cursillo exists for one clear purpose:

To make the world more Christian, one person, one moment, one friendship at a time.

This mission doesn't stay neatly contained within a weekend. It continues in our families, parishes, workplaces, and communities through authentic presence, kindness, and courage.

Sometimes this mission looks very ordinary: listening without judgement, encouraging a colleague, standing patiently with someone who is struggling, or quietly witnessing through consistency and love.

We do not replace the Church; we serve her mission. We walk together in a spirit of synodality: listening, discerning, and trusting the Holy Spirit to guide us.

How the Mission Becomes Real: The Three Phases

If mission explains why we exist, the three phases of Cursillo show us how that mission is lived:

Pre-Cursillo - the careful and prayerful preparation.

Cursillo - the powerful three-day encounter.

Post-Cursillo - where everyday life unfolds.

For Cursillo to flourish, all three phases must be alive. While the weekend may light the fire, it is post-Cursillo, our friendship groups, Ultreyas, and ongoing support that keep the flame burning.

Formation, Friendship, and Our Charism

Everything in Cursillo flows from a simple truth:

God transforms the world through personal encounter and friendship.

This is our charism, officially recognised by the Church, and it calls us to ongoing conversion. Formation lies at the heart of this call. True formation is not just about learning roles or organising weekends.

It shapes us humanly, spiritually, doctrinally, and socially, helping us become better people who listen deeply, love generously, and serve humbly. Our Schools of Leaders exist to support this growth and to witness what Christian life lived together can look like.

Looking Ahead with Hope

As the English-speaking Cursillo Movement in Australia celebrates its 60th anniversary, it does so in communion with the wider APG and the global Movement. This anniversary is both a moment of thanksgiving and a renewed call to fidelity.

The future of Cursillo depends not on large initiatives alone, but on continued faithfulness in small and concrete ways: commitment to Post-Cursillo structures, openness to ongoing formation, and willingness to serve when called. Even one faithful response can renew the Movement.

So, let's take a moment to reflect:

Where is God calling each of us to say "yes" right now?

Perhaps it's a recommitment to your friendship group. Perhaps it's inviting a friend to a weekend. Perhaps it's a call to formation, leadership, or service.

I take this opportunity to thank you for your faithfulness. Thank you for your leadership. Thank you for continuing to say "yes." May we all remain grateful and renewed in friendship, formation, and mission.

May our Australian milestone strengthen unity within the Asia-Pacific Group and inspire renewed commitment to friendship, formation, and mission, in service of the Church and the world.

Ultreya! - and thank you for being part of this story.

Alfred Bongi (Australia)

APG International Representative on the OMCC



APG Community Updates

US Military in English Korea

Fr. Emil thinking about the possibilities for a Cursillo weekend sometime this year, marking a milestone as the first since 2016.

He notes that while challenges remain, the discernment process will move forward during the next Ultreya meetings. The community is encouraged to offer their support and prayers for this endeavor.

News from Japan: An Update from Fr. Jose

After a period of dedicated effort to establish the Cursillo movement in Osaka, Fr. Jose shares that he is entering a new season of ministry. Despite his deep commitment to the community he helped nurture at the cathedral, he has received a new assignment—a parish located some distance away.

In a spirit of humble obedience to the bishop, Fr. Jose has chosen to pause the current Cursillo project to prayerfully discern this new path.

He asks for our continued prayers, trusting that God has new graces in store for him, and invites us to join him in seeking a heart that is ever ready to listen to God's will.

Sri Lanka 57th Annual Cursillo Convention

Sri Lanka celebrated their 57th Annual Cursillo Convention last Jan. 25, 2026 with a theme "Enkindle in them the Fire of Thy Love". A time for renewal of their commitment to share in the mission of witnessing to Christ through Cursillo method.

Cursillo Movement Korea

CM Korea has appointed a new International Representative, Julia Jin Jyun PARK, replacing Sis. Joanna Lee.

They are currently engaged in their regular activities while actively preparing for World Youth Day scheduled for August 2027.

Palanca Offering

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

- **Let us seek the grace to turn our shared Manifestations and Resolutions into meaningful action, and help us remain deeply connected to the realities unfolding in every region.**

- **Seoul Archdiocese, Republic of Korea**
Email: cursillo@catholic.or.kr

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Men's Cursillo | • Women's Cursillo |
| Apr. 9-12 | Mar. 26-29 |
| May 14-17 | Apr. 23-26 |
| Jun. 11-14 | May 28-31 |
| Oct. 8-11 | Jun. 25-28 |
| Nov. 12-15 | Sept. 10-13 |
| | Oct. 22-25 |
| • Youth Cursillo | Nov. 26-29 |
| Jul. 16-19 | |
| Aug. 20-23 | |

- **Philippine Cursillo Movement**
Email: cpdizon463@gmail.com

- Men's English Cursillo
Oct. 22-25, 2026
with Singaporean Participants

- **Vietnam Cursillo Movement**
Email: antonminh@hotmail.com

- Vietnam National Encounter,
Feb. 2027

Let us continue our apostolic action—translate this newsletter into your language, print it, and share it with others so more hearts may be reached.



REMINDER:

We affixed our signatures in accordance with the
Manifestations & Resolutions

Cursillos De Cristiandad

Asia Pacific Group

23rd APG Encounter

Caleruega Retreat Center, Nasugbu, Batangas, Philippines

November 10-14, 2025

MANIFESTATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

We, the Bishops and Clergy-Participants, as well as the entire delegations from different member countries in the Asia Pacific Region, representing our local respective churches and Cursillo Secretariats, after five (5) days of learning, sharing, reflection, and prayer, do hereby manifest the following:

1. **Whereas**, the holding of the 23rd APG Encounter has been an experience of an encounter with the Lord and with the brothers and sisters that will elicit new responses in a new way of walking together as a synodal Church;
2. **Whereas**, we recognize the life and mission of the Church today, particularly in its task of evangelization as an ecclesial movement in and for the Church;
3. **Whereas**, we believe that Cursillo can be an effective tool for evangelization in the Australian, and Asia Pacific Regions;
4. **Whereas**, we adhere to the present need of the times for self-renewal in the new evangelization;
5. **Whereas**, we realize that the youth of today is a potent force for the continuity of the movement;
6. **Whereas**, we promise to commit to adopt, promote, and make the Cursillo part of the Evangelization program of our Local Churches.

AND NOW, THEREFORE, and in view of the foregoing, be it resolved as it is hereby resolved:

1. To live and promote ongoing Christian renewal through personal conversion, prayer, and a life of witness rooted in the Gospel;
2. To deepen the Post-Cursillo experience by strengthening Group Reunions, Ultreyas, and the bonds of authentic friendship that sustain Christian Life;
3. To preserve the Charism and integrity of the Cursillo Movement, ensuring that its method does not overshadow its evangelizing purpose;
4. To foster unity, humility, and collaboration among leaders, secretariats, and diocesan movements across the Australian, and Asia Pacific Region in the spirit of service and fraternity considering cultural diversity;
5. To engage in continuous formation and reflection, guided by the Holy Spirit, to respond effectively to the challenges of today's world;



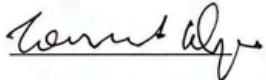
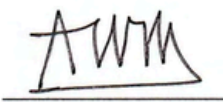
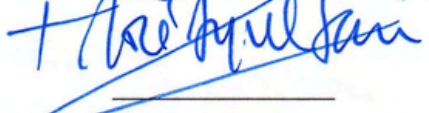
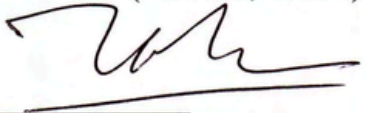
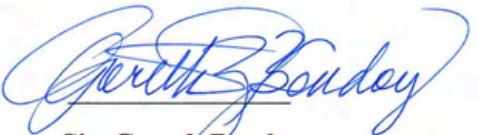
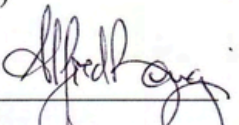
6. To live the Movement's mission as a pilgrim Church building up the kingdom of God, contributing to the renewal of the parishes and dioceses through joyful witness, service, and holiness;
7. To proclaim with conviction that the Cursillo Movement remains a valid and powerful instrument for evangelization and Christian renewal in the present time and for generations to come;
8. To present this manifestation and resolution to the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conference (FABC) and other Bishops' Conference of member countries;
9. To organize, support, and ensure the gathering for the 24th APG Encounter, encouraging active participation from all member countries so that the spirit of unity, friendship, and evangelization continues to flourish in the Australian and Asia Pacific Region.

We therefore conclude that the APG serves as a vital instrument for evangelization in the Australian, and Asia Pacific Regions, as our unity in diversity is manifested through authentic witnessing and nurturing of friendships through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Star of the Evangelization.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the representatives of the 23rd Asia Pacific Group Encounter, do hereby affix their signatures, this 14th day of November 2025 at the Caleruega Retreat Center, Nasugbu, Batangas, Philippines.

Ratified and adopted during the **23rd Asia-Pacific Cursillo Encounter**, hosted by the **Philippine National Cursillo Secretariat**.

Signed:

 Bro. Conrado P. Dizon (President, APG/ PNCS)	 Bro. Alvaro Moreno-Martinez (President, OMCC)	 Abp. Jose Angel Saiz-Meneses (Spiritual Advisor, OMCC)
 Bro. Anthony Think Phan (Vice-President, APG)	 Sis. Goreth Bendoy (Secretary, APG)	
 Bro. Alfred Bongsi (APG Int'l Representative on the OMCC)		



APG MEMBER COUNTRY/s

PHILIPPINES

AUSTRALIA

SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

TAIWAN, REPUBLIC OF CHINA

US MILITARY, KOREA ENGLISH

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

VIETNAM DIASPORA

US MILITARY, OKINAWA, JAPAN

SRI LANKA

GUAM

SAIPAN CNMI

HAWAII

APG SERVICE COMMITTEE

2023-2027



Bro. Conrado P. Dizon
President, Philippines



Fr. Paul Tung Nguyen
Spiritual Advisor, Vietnam



Bro. Anthony Thinkh Phan
Vice-President, Vietnam



Sis. Goreth C. Bendoy
Secretary, Philippines



Sis. Maria Anh Tran
Treasurer, Vietnam Diaspora



Bro. Alfred Bonghi
Int'l Rep. - Australia

**Cursillo: A Tool for Evangelization
in the Asian Region**