



# APG NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY, 2019

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

DEAR FRIENDS,

Greetings once again come to you from your Asia Pacific Group Executive and we trust that all your plans for the year are well under way. We pray for the success of all the activities planned by our member countries and give thanks for the success of those already held.

## KOREA

News has just arrived of the 50th General Assembly of the Cursillos in Christianity, which will be held in Busan, Korea from 28 February to 1 March 2019. Your prayers are requested for those who will be elected and take up their new positions.

## SRI LANKA NATIONAL CURSILLO CONVENTION

Congratulations to the Sri Lankan National Secretariat on the success of their 52<sup>nd</sup> National Convention at the end of January. We thank them for a summary of Talks presented and we hope that this special time of coming together will bear much fruit.

## THREE DAY WORKSHOP IN THE PHILIPPINES

Palanca was very much appreciated by the National Secretariat of the Philippines, for the successful Workshop on Renewal in Cursillo as reported by President Conrado Dizon. They were able to make use of some resources they had requested from us, as well as some copies of the third edition of Fundamental Ideas of the Cursillo Movement.

## APG ENCOUNTER

The second part of our Newsletter will focus very much on the 22<sup>nd</sup> Asia Pacific Encounter at this time and we ask National Secretariats to ensure that everyone from their community who will attend this event in Hawaii, receives a copy of this newsletter. Thank you.

As we mentioned in an earlier edition of our Newsletter, Juan Adolfo Moguel Ortiz, OMCC World President, will attend our APG Encounter, and now we have received the good news that OMCC Spiritual Advisor Msgr. Faustino Armendáriz Jiménez, Bishop of Queretaro, Mexico will also attend.



**22<sup>ND</sup> APG ENCOUNTER,  
'PILGRIMS OF THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY'  
ST. ANTHONY'S RETREAT CENTRE  
HONOLULU 25 TO 28 APRIL 2019.**



**REGISTRATIONS:** Thank you to all the official delegates who have sent in their registration forms promptly by the due date. We are now filling the remaining places with the observers who indicated their desire to attend and to be part of this important event for Cursillo in our region. It is not too late for any others who may wish to attend, whether delegates or observers, so please send in your registration forms without delay. We need to advise numbers to the Director of the venue by **20 March**, and so that is the deadline for the acceptance of all registrations.

**TRANSPORT:** Once your registration has been accepted, please book your airline flights to arrive in time for the commencement of the Encounter on the afternoon of 25 April. Please notify us promptly, so that your transfer from the Airport to the Centre can be arranged. Your registration and accommodation fees are to be paid in US dollars on arrival at St Anthony's Retreat Centre.

**VISA:** Don't forget to arrange your Visa or Visa Waiver for the USA in good time. Sometimes these documents can take some time to be approved. Remember that you will not be able to enter

Hawaii without a valid Visa for the USA. If a formal invitation to the Encounter is required in order to gain a Visa, we can send one to you, on the authority of Hawaiian Cursillo. Please let us know.

**BUS TOUR:** Arrangements have been made for an optional bus tour of Honolulu on Sunday 28 April following the Encounter. The bus tour will take place from 2pm to 6pm and will drop people off at hotels in Waikiki after the tour, or at Honolulu Airport if required. If you are returning home on the 28<sup>th</sup>, flights will need to be booked late in the evening. It will not be possible to stay at St Anthony's Retreat Centre after the Encounter. The cost of the bus tour is payable on arrival and the amount depends on the number of people wishing to take the tour. We will notify you of the cost following the close of registrations.

**COUNTRY REPORTS:** Each National Secretariat is asked to prepare a report for presentation at the Heads of Delegation meeting, whether you will have a representative at the Encounter or not. Your report should contain current activities and plans, focusing on challenges and successes. We ask that your report be forwarded to us by the 1<sup>st</sup> April for inclusion in a booklet, as each country will receive a copy at the end of the Encounter. It is important for us all to gain a picture of what is happening in our International Group.

**FLAG:** Each Country is asked to bring a small national flag to be displayed on their table during the Heads of Delegation meetings.

**PROGRAM:** There will be an Ultreya and Fiesta on the Saturday evening of the Encounter. This will be a chance to celebrate our Friendship in a relaxed way and to get to know each other better.

If you have questions about any of the matters raised in this newsletter, please don't hesitate to let us know.

#### *A MESSAGE FROM Fr JOHN:*

We are just about to head into Lent and it is a good time to notice what obscures the person of Jesus in our daily lives. We are called to be people who fast, give alms and pray. This is central to understanding Jesus as the Way, the Truth and the Life. As we enter into this time it is important to recognise that we can become what we consume. Thus Fasting is not just about the food that we eat even though we recognise Ash Wednesday and Good Friday as formal days of fasting and abstinence.

Rather it looks at how we take into ourselves both bodily and spiritually things which do not build up the Body of Christ. This is why we are not called to fast on our own but in solidarity with each other. We fast from something for someone. This is at the heart of almsgiving and is the logical extension of why we fast. It calls us to recognise those in need who might be able to share the things we take for granted. It calls for our hearts to be open to the possibility that our actions can transform the life of another by a simple act of generosity.

Lastly, we are called to be people who are prayerfully aware of how God leads us each day to give thanks with our lives. Our prayer is not just a matter of our personal relationship with God. It is always deeply communal in joining us to the heart of God and each other. As we journey through Lent may we discover how we can be drawn closer to Christ by listening to His Word and sharing our lives with Him in Eucharist.

Many blessings,

**¡DE COLORES!**

*Margaret, Fr John, Merran, John & Rhonda*

**ASIA PACIFIC GROUP EXECUTIVE  
CURSILLOS IN CHRISTIANITY**