

OMCC Executive:
Yvonne Carrigan, President
Rev Dr Adrian Farrelly, Sp Advisor
Margaret Morris, Secretary
Derek Moylan, Vice President
Peter McMahon, Treasurer



OMCC Coordinators:

Tam Nguyen,	APG
Hans Perschtold,	GECC
Alberto Stang,	GLCC
Gail Terrana,	NACG

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

February 17th 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters-in-Christ,

Thank you for your messages of congratulations, support and prayers. They are appreciated. Our first month as the OMCC Executive has gone swiftly. We are still learning but certainly moving ahead.

Our thanks to you for forwarding the OMCC Newsletter to the National Secretariats in your region. Our thanks to them for distributing it further afield. The Newsletter is the best way we have to fulfill our responsibilities as stated in the Statutes.

Everything is proceeding with the Statutes. Please remember that the deadline for National Secretariats to submit any addition or changes to your International Group is March 31st 2010

In the past month you may have had a request from your International Group Executive for an update of changes to National Secretariats. Your responses to this will be of great assistance to us as we update the contact Directory and the Website. The Directory will be published and sent to the International Groups for distribution when updating is complete. Thank you for your cooperation.

From August 31-September 5 this year the Congress of Asian Catholic Laity will be held in Seoul, Korea. The OMCC has been asked, through the Pontifical Council of the Laity, to respond to a questionnaire, and to form a 4 person delegation, whose members are from the Asian continent. We will keep you informed of plans for this visit.

This newsletter is an ideal opportunity for us to give an insight into the history and establishment of the Asia/Pacific Group of which Australia is an active member.

"The expansion of Cursillo to Asia and Oceania took place in the decade of the 60's, and it was in the 70's that the Cursillo Movement became firmly established in Asia, mainly in those countries facing the Pacific, including Australia.

At the III World Encounter in 1972 the proposal to create an "Ocean-Pacific Work Group" was first mentioned. However, it was some considerable time before this took place.

The first Asian Cursillo Encounter was held on the island of Guam in 1983. The second was held in Taipei in 1987. The third was held in Caracas immediately before the IV World Encounter in 1988. The fourth was held in 1989 in Sri Lanka. It was not until the V Encounter, which was held in Hawaii in 1990 that the Asia Pacific Group was recognized by the OMCC as the 4th International Group member.

Countries which signed the original agreement were: Hawaii, Australia, Taiwan, Philippines, Singapore, India, US Military in Okinawa and Korea, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Guam and Macau. All member countries of the AP Region originally belonged to the International English Language Group.

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The spread of the Cursillo movement throughout the Asia Pacific region

In 1963 the USA brought the Cursillo Movement to the Philippines and it was Filipino Cursillistas who played a very significant role in the spread of the movement into countries throughout the Pacific.

It was also in 1963 Cursillo was first reported amongst the Spanish community in New South

Wales, Australia. Several Spanish speaking migrants who had been involved in the Cursillo Movement before migrating to Australia, conducted weekends for men and women in 1963 and 1964. However the USA provided a small team who were joined by Spanish Cursillistas who could speak English to conduct the first English speaking weekend in 1965.

The USA also brought Cursillo to Sri Lanka in 1964.

The CM in Hawaii began in 1965 when a few men were sent, with approval of the Bishop, to California to make a Cursillo. These were the people who brought Cursillo to Hawaii.

In 1965 Cursillo was introduced into Vietnam by a group of Filipino Cursillistas who served in the allied forces in South Vietnam. The first few Cursillos were given in English to the Vietnamese government officials and military personnel in Saigon and the movement quickly spread throughout South Vietnam until 1975 when the communists took over South Vietnam. Since 1975 many Cursillistas were amongst the refugees who settled in different countries throughout the world. Vietnam in Diaspora established a Cursillo Movement in Canada 1977, America 1981, Australia 1992, and France 1993. Vietnam in the Diaspora was granted official membership of the Asia Pacific Group in 1992.

In 1967 the CM was introduced into Korea by Filipino Cursillistas. 14 of them flew to Seoul in May, and conducted the first weekend in English. Within 3 years CM had spread out across the country.

1968 the first weekends were held in Taiwan and were introduced by a team of Filipino Cursillistas.

1968 the first Cursillo weekends were held in Japan, with a team from the USA. This was the first Cursillo in the world given through interpreters because neither the priest nor the team knew Japanese.

Cursillo weekends were also held in Thailand and on Guam for the first time in 1968.

The movement was established in Singapore in 1971 and in 1988 a team of Cursillistas from Australia traveled to Singapore in an effort to re-establish the movement, however there were many difficulties and little is known of what has happened to the Singapore movement at this time.

A group from Guam visited Saipan to explore the possibility of extending the movement in the CNMI. Saipan sent 4 men and 4 women to Guam to attend a Cursillo weekend in October 1992. The first Cursillo weekends were held in Saipan in 1993.

In 1993 leaders from Korea came to Sydney, Australia to conduct Korean speaking men's and women's 3 days, and in June 2007 the Oceania Korean Cursillo Movement (in Australia) became a member of the Asia Pacific Group.

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The US Military bases of Okinawa and Korea also have Cursillo Movements and are members of the Asia Pacific Group. India has been a member of AP Group, but contact has been lost and no details regarding history are available. Cursillistas from Taiwan have taken Chinese speaking Cursillo to the United States and weekends have been conducted in Los Angeles and San Francisco."

This is just a snapshot of the Asia/Pacific Group. Later we hope to introduce you to the current Executive members of this International Group.

Let us continue to pray for one another, remembering especially those countries affected by natural disasters. May the Spirit guide and protect you in the days ahead.

Until next month. De Colores!

Your sister in Christ,

Yvonne

Yvonne Carrigan. President/Speaker – OMCC Executive Committee

From our Spiritual Advisor

The season of Lent is almost upon us. For six weeks we prepare to celebrate the death and resurrection of the Lord with prayer, fasting and almsgiving. The preparation is done best when we see ourselves responding to Christ alive and active in and through the Church. In fasting he leads us to know ourselves. How do we act when the bridegroom is taken away from us, when we do not sense or feel his presence? Do we hunger to know him better as we willingly abstain from food or other activities that nourish our lives, such as entertainment or sporting activities? In prayer we open the doors of our heart and patiently wait for the Lord to make himself known to us. In this patient waiting we acknowledge it is the Lord, not us. It is his timetable that dictates the meeting not ours.

In almsgiving we generously give of the material possessions we have so that others can benefit from the richness God allows us to call our own. In the giving away we proclaim that we are stewards entrusted with richness for the benefit of others as well as for our own legitimate needs. Walk well with the master over these weeks. Come to know better the sight of his face and the sound of his voice.

Shalom.

Fr Adrian