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,APGHans Perschtold,GECCAlberto Stang,GLCCGail Terrana,NACG

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

March 10th, 2010

To our Brothers and Sisters in Cursillo

De Colores! Once again the time has gone swiftly between newsletters! We have received much correspondence and have endeavored to respond quickly. If we have omitted any replies please excuse us, and give us a gentle reminder!!

These last few weeks we have been given many opportunities to speak to the Lord about our brothers and sisters throughout the world. In South America – especially with the human tragedies in Chile and Haiti; in Europe with flooding and quakes in Spain, Germany, Portugal and France.

We ask God to comfort and strengthen those communities, governments and individuals affected by these events; to grant them courage in their trials, and hope for the future. Let us offer continuous prayer and Palanca.

We send our newsletter each month in English, and in Spanish. Because we are an English speaking group with no other fluent language skills between us, and because the majority of Australians speak only one language, we have to find translators for most correspondence. Praise God, every one is willing to help and we now have a small roster of translators. Thank you for your acceptance and understanding.

Our work on the Directory has commenced, with a copy of the current directory sent to all International Groups for updating and corrections. We will keep you informed.

The Fundamental Ideas Commission programme is under review by our Executive. Pray for us, please, as we work to find a smoother and faster way forward with this project.

This month we introduce the members of the NACG executive committee.

<u>Tony Escamilla, Vice President</u>: Hi, my name is Tony (Antonio) Escamilla. If it is not apparent by my name, I am the son of Spanish immigrants to the USA and as such I am bilingual (Spanish and English). I live in Northern Kentucky in the Diocese of Covington with my wife Mary Beth and my beautiful 15 month old daughter Elena. I lived Cursillo in Covington in 1984 and have served the Cursillo community in the Diocese of Covington in varies roles. I most recently served our community by being a member of the Region IV service team for the last 4 years. I am humbled and astonished that God has asked me to serve our community on a global level. My prayer is to be the good and faithful servant He has called.

Tony Hernandez, Secretary: I began my Cursillo journey in September 1967 in Miami Florida. I attended School of Leaders regularly and served on various Cursillo weekends in the capacity of table professor. In 1992, I served as Rector for the first time. We then moved to Fort Worth, Texas where I have served in various capacities on the Secretariat, including Lay Director from 2005-2008; as well as serving on weekends including twice as Rector. I have been married to my wife Yolanda for 42 years; we have two sons and one daughter, all married. On November 1, 2009, we became grandparents to Alexander Christian, an adopted child whom we love dearly. Due to my Cuban background, I look forward to working with my brothers and sisters from the Caribbean, as well as all of North America. May God bless us all as we seek to do His will.

Fr. Einer Ochoa, Spiritual Advisor: I was born in Cenotillo, Yucatan, Mexico. I was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of San Antonio, on May 25, 1985 and I have been the pastor at St. Agnes Church in San Antonio, Texas since 2003. My vocation to the priesthood started as a child, I played at being a priest and celebrating Masses. I wanted to go to the seminary when I was 12 years old; my father, however, wanted me to first finish high school. I later graduated as a school teacher in Merida, the city capital of Yucatan State and worked in Mexico for 15 years before coming to the United States to join my family in San Bernardino, California in 1974.

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I lived my Cursillo in February 1976 in Riverside, CA. Cursillo was significant for me because it awakened in me a desire to know and live my faith more deeply and seriously. As I grew stronger in my faith, I became more aware of my longings for the priesthood. One of my professors at San Bernardino Valley College, guided me to my first steps to the priesthood. In 1980, I entered Assumption Seminary and was ordained a priest in the Archdiocese of San Antonio.

My priesthood has been enriched by the experiences in ministering to a number of religious groups and movements: Knights of Columbus, National Association of Hispanic Priests, Catholic Charismatic Renewal, Marriage Encounter, San Andres USA, the Legion of Mary, Blue Army, Precious Blood devotion, Los Angeles de Maria, in Mexico (an association ministering to children with AIDS) and Servants of Jesus and Mary. In Cursillo, I served as Spiritual Advisor in the Archdiocese of San Antonio since 1997, I am Co-spiritual Advisor for Region 8 in the US and just recently served as National Spiritual Advisor to the US National Secretariat from July 2005 - November 2009. Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas, Pray for us! St Paul, Patron of Cursillo, pray for us!! DeColores!!

<u>Gail Terrana, President</u>: I am married for 32 years to my husband Gary who is a Permanent Deacon in the Diocese of Buffalo and we live in Niagara Falls, NY. We have one son, Gary Michael who is married to Abigail and one beautiful granddaughter, Addison (almost 2 years old) who all live in South Carolina. I lived my Cursillo in 1986 and have been active in Diocesan, Regional, and National Secretariats. I just completed my service to the OMCC as Vice President in 2009.

Thank you to Gail and her committee for sharing with us. In our Group Reunions and Ultreya gatherings we are offered the perfect opportunity to give balance to our daily lives, particularly through the sharing of our Piety, Study and Action. We encourage you to continue faithfully to use these tools.

As I struggle to fulfill my personal Lenten goals, I pray that your Lenten disciplines give you encouragement and hope, both in your personal lives, and in the spreading of the Gospel through your Apostolic Action.

We look forward to 'talking' with you again very soon.

Your sister and friend in Christ,

Yvonne OMCC President

From our Spiritual Advisor

Ultreya was a word new to us when we lived our 3 days. It was another of those Spanish words that we had to learn. Enter the word in the translation service provided by Google and no English translation appears. Apparently because it is one of those utterances that are part of most languages that aren't words yet are used to motivate people to keep going. We Australians are used to cheering on our national sporting teams with the chant: "Aussie, Aussie, Aussie, Oi! Oi! Oi! Ask Google to translate "Oi" and you will come up with nothing. Say the phrase within earshot of most Australians and they will know immediately what it means. It is used to encourage a team to do its best.

Two weeks into Lent can we hear the saints, the great crowd of witnesses of the letter to the Hebrews cheering us to do our best in fighting the good fight, in running the race that Paul uses as a description for life with all its challenges? Are we encouraging each other to embrace the spirit of this joyful season of grace when we apply ourselves to live the life of grace more fully and more recollectedly than we usually do?

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This mutual encouraging is a key element not only at our Ultreyas but in our Group Reunions. Sharing our lives honestly with each other at these times we receive the encouragement we need to keep persevering with our response to God and our efforst to seek the well-being of those who are part of our lives.

We have been with Our Lord at the Transfiguration. We long for the future transfiguring of our own bodies when they become like his in glory. But, even here and now, our faces change and appear new to others as we come alive to how deeply God loves us. Our faces come alive when we see loved ones after a time of separation. The change needs no effort on our part. It just happens. So too with us and God. Let it happen and rejoice in it. And if anyone asks why the smile on our lips and the sparkle in our eyes, let them know. It may be just the message of encouragement they need to hear.

De Colores.

Fr Adrian Spiritual Advisor