

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



ORGANISMO
MUNDIAL DE CURSILLOS
DE CRISTIANDAD

MCC

OMCC Coordinators:

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

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

2011 April

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Lord is trusting that we are alert to the needs of our brothers and sisters throughout the world. I know that you are praying for and supporting, in whatever way you can, those people affected by the natural disasters occurring so frequently this year.

We reassure our brothers and sisters in the Asia/Pacific area of our constant thoughts and prayers. Those cursillistas we have been able to contact, praise God, are all safe. We continue our prayers especially for the people of Japan.

The OMCC Secretary Margaret reports progress on the Directory. We hope to have it sent out by the end of April. Thank you to those who have offered assistance and information.

FI News: A letter has been sent to all members of the Fundamental Ideas commission with plans for a full meeting of the commission to be held in July.

In my renewed study of the **Charism** I have been reading about the persons closely involved in the early days of the Movement. **Manuel Aparici** – the Leader of Spanish Catholic Action preparing for the pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela set down for August 1948; **Bishop Juan Hervás** – his early contact with Bonnin, his love for the Cursillos and his naming of them as “Cursillos in Christianity” ; **Fr Sebastian Gaya** - who wrote the ‘Pilgrim’s Guide’ and was appointed Spiritual Advisor of Young Catholic Action; then of **Fr Juan Capó** who succeeded him; **Guillermo Estarellas** who was inspired to introduce “De Colores”; and **so many others** in those early years– you can read of them yourself as you continue your personal study of the Charism.

It was with such people as these that Eduardo Bonnin shared his daily life, and ‘*revealed, instilled, inculcated, detailed and lit the light of the Charism that has spread throughout the world..... because the Holy Spirit willed it.*’

This brings me to the topic of **Friendship.**

One Dictionary calls it ‘the state of being friends’ or a ‘liking between friends;’ Another broadens it to “affection between people, pure and unselfish, born out of mutual esteem.” The reality is that life itself tells us what friendship is all about. And this, as we in the Cursillo have been shown, is best understood and valued within the person.

All friendship requires mutual respect. Wherever true friendship exists it is because the persons concerned have entered into the process, long or short, of growing in such a relationship, with meetings, listening and sharing, always with respect, mutual attentiveness, and confidentiality. Within the Cursillo we all know the phrase, “Be a friend, make a friend and bring your friend to Christ.”

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When friendship is alive and active within the community, words take on special meanings. 'We' or 'us' becomes special because of the sharing in the joy that true friendship can bring; our actions can be a positive witness to others - hopefully causing people to say "see how those Christians love one another." Here the Christian has the opportunity to explain why this is so. Our central theme, our special ingredient, is our life in Christ. He is our most valued, loved and dearest friend.

We all share the experience of Cursillo - we are friends in Christ - but personalities clash. In this Lenten season perhaps we could reflect on, and ask ourselves the following questions :

How well and in what context do we understand friendship?

*How do we reconcile this Cursillo concept with our own personal encounters in our fourth day?
 Are we selective in our friendships?*

Do our Cursillo friends in Christ sometimes become just acquaintances?

May our resting in the Spirit this season of Lent bring peace and a renewal of our commitment to the friendship which is at the heart of our Cursillo charism.

Because of my absence from Australia for the month of May - the next newsletter will come out in June as a combined May/June letter. (4 other members of the OMCC executive will also be absent early in the month)

I also take this opportunity to wish you the richest blessings of the Risen Christ. What better way to acknowledge God's overwhelming love for us than to commemorate and celebrate together the life giving ceremonies of Easter in our Parish communities.

Until next month I remain your loving friend in Christ,

De Colores

Yvonne

From the pen of the Spiritual Advisor

The words of the liturgy bring the season of Lent into sharp focus. This is a joyful season, a season of grace as we undertake a renewal of our hearts and minds. The driving force of the renewal is our recall of the great events that brought us to a new way of living in Christ.

What has struck me powerfully this Lent is that Jesus was killed by people who had attitudes and thoughts I can see in myself. Some of these I can list easily. I don't like disturbance to the status quo. I don't like someone being more popular than I am. I don't like my authority being challenged. I don't like having to change my way of thinking and acting.

Those who tortured Jesus before killing him hoped, as all torturers do, that he would admit he was wrong. Even if he didn't, his followers would be so frightened about what might happen to them they would abandon him and his teaching.

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Jesus died without recanting. He died in character – consoling his mother and praying for those executing him. He called Judas, his betrayer, “friend” and meant it. Jesus calls us friends even knowing what we are capable of – we can and do kill goodness and truth. These are great events in the life of Jesus that give us a mirror to know ourselves fearlessly.

The great event we recall is the one that shows Jesus rising from the worst we can do, the cruelty and blood-letting, to assure us that the way out of ourselves is to allow his arms to embrace us and we, ever so self-consciously and hesitatingly, respond and hold on to him who held nothing we did against us. He is the way to life.

Shalom

Fr Adrian