

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 November

Dear Friends in Christ,

I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the many brothers and sisters of Cursillo who respond to our OMCC newsletter. It is our privilege to be able to communicate with the "world" of Cursillo each month. Australia no longer seems so far away from you all.

The year is fast drawing to a close and in this season of Advent we wait eagerly to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child. Our prayers more than ever need to include those who will be far from home at this season; those unable to celebrate, and especially those in war-torn countries.

Palanca:

As you are aware the GLCC is holding their National Encounter in Santo Domingo from 18-20 November. I ask you all for your prayerful support for this important meeting. Unity, charity, joy, and above all concern for each other, must be evident in our gatherings – despite our differences.

I also ask your special prayers for members of the Fundamental Ideas Commission who are working on chapters of the Fundamental Ideas book.

SINCERITY:

St Catherine of Sienna once said, "If you are what you should be, you will set the whole world ablaze."

This leads us to ask the question: *What were we created to be?* A simple answer would be: *the object of God's love.*

In cursillo we have come to realise that to be sincere Christians all we need do is humbly acknowledge and fully accept the reality that God loves us. I say fully, because it involves every fibre of our being, our head as well as our heart, in fact our whole being. When we are earnestly integrating this truth into every aspect of our lives, then we can say that we are sincere Christians.

This friendship with God is a mystery to us, since we are all too aware of our failings and shortcomings. It is no use wearing a mask. God, in fact knows us completely, as the beautiful psalm 139 states: "Oh Lord, you have searched me and you know me." But what is called for is a metanoia, or change in attitude. Instead of focusing on ourselves, we shift our focus to God and His unconditional love for us.

St Paul tells us that the love of God is so great it is beyond our understanding. Our formation as Christians involves an ever deepening realisation of this love, despite and perhaps especially, during those times when we turn away from Him. Our involvement in cursillo helps us to come to grips with this unconditional love and all its consequences for our lives. We begin to see ourselves and our neighbours as we truly are - beloved sons and daughters.

Life in Christ becomes one of continual conversion and transformation, as long as we remain open - open hearts, open minds, open eyes, open ears, open hands. This posture that is a hallmark of cursillistas, is one of total surrender to God's love. It leads to the joy of being fully alive. If we are sincere then, our lives become a joyful reflection and expression of God's love.

A sincere Christian aligns themselves with the outcasts, befriends the lonely, suffers with those who are suffering, is a light to those in darkness and is a liberating presence to all who feel imprisoned. But these things are not an end in themselves, nor done in the hope of some future reward. They are fruits of the Christian's friendship with Christ and it is our sincere desire that all our brothers and sisters will come to experience this friendship as well.

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Ghandi recognized that the world would be transformed if only Christians lived the gospel with all sincerity.

Charism:

As Philip said in John 1:46 *“Come and see for yourself”* I will continue to urge you to study the Charism of our Movement. Keep in mind that Christ, in order to reach mankind, did not become a structure – he became a man, a person, and lived life as we do, in our homes, streets, environments.

Peace and blessings

Until next month, your friend in Christ

Yvonne

From the pen of our Spiritual Advisor

On All Souls Day in 2005 I presided at a celebration of the Eucharist in Portuguese. No, I do not speak the language. I was staying however in the provincial house of the Marist Brothers in Sao Paulo along with Yvonne and her husband, David. We were attending the World Encounter. I had heard mass in Portuguese a few times and the chaplain to the brothers was absent for the feast so I offered to help out. We made it through the celebration in what turned out to be a passable first effort and appreciated by the community.

Driving around the city later that day I realised how different the celebration in Brazil was to how we celebrate it in Australia. Few people visit the cemeteries. The flower sellers are not out in force. What is the same is the concern we have for those who have died and who may still be in need of help from us. The word of God assures us that to pray for the dead is a holy and wholesome thing to do. The reason for praying is that they may be released from their sins.

From the Church's teaching on purgatory we know that death can find us basically centred on God but still focused on ourselves – the side effects of sins we have allowed to be part of our lives. For us to enjoy the sight of God fully we need release from this lingering attachment to self. The release and the readjustment is painful. We know the struggle we have in this life when we die to ourselves to live for others, to overcome selfishness. We know the joy of the freedom that comes from living in grace, freedom from shame, from worry about being found out in some wrong-doing, freedom to be ourselves, to enjoy the simple things of life without pretence.

In every celebration of the Eucharist we are in communion with those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith: those seeing the face of God and those still waiting for that sight. We are different parts but form one body. What happens to one part always affects the rest for good or for ill. As we pray for those in need of our prayers and are prayed for by those interceding unflinchingly for us in God's presence the Body is alive with the love we have for each other. May we never see ourselves as unconnected individuals, but always alive with the Spirit that Christ gave us to complete his work on earth.

Shalom

Fr Adrian