



March 7, 2014

Secular Franciscan Order Our Lady of the Angels Regional Fraternity

Dear Fraternity Minister,

May the Lord give you Peace!

It is my pleasure to invite you and all the members of your fraternity to participate in the **2014 *Convivenza*** of Our Lady of the Angels Regional Fraternity to be held on **Saturday April 5th, 2014 at Holy Name of Jesus Church, West 96th St. at Amsterdam Ave, Manhattan, NYC.** You will receive a “save the date” invitation card announcing some of the details of this day.

You will recall that *Convivenza* is an Italian word which means literally, “a living together” and this is an opportunity for all of the members of Our Lady of the Angels Regional Fraternity to come together in fraternal life for a day of sharing, community and formation. This is our “chapter of mats”—at which we call together all of our sisters and brothers as St. Francis did when he gathered the Friars together to share their experiences and ministries. It is very important to realize that we belong to a world-wide Order. We are not only members of our own local fraternities, but are also members of Our Lady of the Angels Regional Fraternity; and so your presence and support of the Regional Fraternity’s activities and especially of this once a year “family reunion” is of vital importance.

We will begin with **coffee and registration at 9:00 am.** Please enter by the lower Church by the side doors on W 96th St. Plan on bringing a **brown bag lunch.** The day will include **Mass at noon** and will **conclude by 3:00pm.** This year, we will be hearing a presentation on the topic of “Renewing the Church, the Franciscan Charism and the Challenge of Pope Francis.” Our speaker will be Father Kevin Tortorelli, OFM, Director of Adult Education at St. Francis Church W. 31st New York. We look forward eagerly to Father Kevin’s presentation, on a topic which is at the heart of every Franciscan and is heightened by our Holy Father’s timely words especially in his latest Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel). We will also spend some time reflecting on leadership of the Order especially as we prepare for our Regional Elections later this year.

At our *Convivenza*, you will receive written information concerning our **Regional Retreat** which this year will be held on the weekend of **August 1-3, 2014** at the beautiful **Mt. Alvernia Retreat Center in Wappingers Falls, NY** which will be led by noted author and theologian, Fr. Dan Horan, OFM. A flyer will be available on our website under announcements with further details. Please see <http://www.ourladyoftheangelsregion.org/announcements.html>

I look forward to seeing everyone on Saturday, April 5th at Holy Name of Jesus Church on West 96th St. New York City. May your Lenten experience draw you closer to the Lord and may the Lord give you his Peace!

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ron Pihokker".

Ron Pihokker, OFS
Regional Minister

Holy Name Parish
207 W 96th St
New York, NY 10025-6337
(212) 749-0276

George Washington Bridge (Lower Level is better)
to Henry Hudson Parkway South DOWNTOWN
Exit at 95th Street
Follow curve of exit and proceed to W. 95th Street
Pass through 3 lights (Riverside Dr., West End Ave., and Broadway)
You can park in a garage between Broadway and Amsterdam Ave.
The church is on the corner of Amsterdam and West 96th Street.
Holy Angels Chapel entrance is on W. 96th Street (go down the stairs).