



Secular Franciscan Order



**OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS
2011-2014
REGIONAL FRATERNITY
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e-Troubadour News

January 2013

CONNECTING THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN COMMUNITY THROUGHOUT THE REGION.
ELECTRONICALLY PUBLISHED ON A MONTHLY BASIS BY THE
*OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS REGIONAL FRATERNITY
OF THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER IN THE USA.*

Submissions for February *e-Troubadour News* must be received by January 28.



HAPPY NEW YEAR

Dear brothers and sisters in St. Francis,

e-Troubadour News, is our electronic publication listing timely information on a monthly basis with event listings from our Local, Regional and National Fraternities. It's mission is to enable Secular Franciscans throughout our region to gather with one another on a more frequent basis to share our Franciscan charism and bond with one another.

Every fraternity is strongly encouraged to send their upcoming event information for e-publication. Events can include special days of recollection, missions, notice of upcoming professions, fraternity fundraising events, open houses, lectures, etc. The *e-Troubadour News* is available online on our regional website:

<http://olangels.tripod.com/troubadour.html>

May God bless each and every one of you abundantly in this New Year and may all your personal and fraternal endeavors be blessed.

Now, LET US BEGIN ...



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Order](#)

2013 REGIONAL CALENDAR

—Mark your Calendars—

details will follow when available

Regional Chapter of Ministers

See pg 3-4 for complete details

Saturday, January 19, 2013

9:00 am—4:00 pm

St. Francis of Assisi Church—San Damiano Hall
129 West 31st Street, between 6th and 7th Aves.
New York, NY 10001

Bring a brown bag lunch.

JPIC FUN Manual Workshop

Saturday: March 2, 2013

10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Manhattan location, Brown bag lunch

Mark the date. More info to follow.

Manhattan Cluster Meetings

Saturday: January 5, 2013

10:00 am — 12:00 Noon

Additional meetings to be held on:

February 23, June 1, September 21

St. Francis of Assisi Adult Education Center, Room 5
139 West 31st St, between 6th and 7th Aves.

Manhattan Cluster Picnic

Saturday, July 20, 2013

11:00 am — 3:00 pm

Manhattan Cluster St. Clare's Feast Day

August 11, 2013

Mark the date. More info to follow.

Manhattan Cluster

St. Elizabeth and Louis Feast Day

November 17, 2013

Mark the date. More info to follow.

CHAPTER OF MINISTERS LETTER

Dear Fraternity Minister,

I am writing to announce the convocation of our Regional Chapter of Ministers which had been scheduled originally for November 10 and postponed in the aftermath of hurricane Sandy.

The Chapter will meet on **Saturday, January 19th, 2013.**

It is the serious responsibility of every fraternity minister to be present or to send a delegate to the Chapter meeting in their place.

The Chapter of Ministers is the meeting of the full Regional Council of our Regional Fraternity—the highest governmental body of our Regional Fraternity. Article 63 of the General Constitutions of the Secular Franciscan Order defines the Regional Chapter in the following way, “

The regional chapter is the representative organ of all the fraternities existing within the confines of a regional fraternity, with elective and deliberative power.”

This is the Regional Council which is constituted by all of the local fraternity ministers within our Regional Fraternity together with the members of the Regional Executive Council.

As the elected local minister of your fraternity, one of your most serious responsibilities to the Order is to represent your local fraternity at this annual meeting and in this way participate in the governance of the Regional Fraternity.

Our principal speaker for the on-going formation portion of our meeting will be Sister Lillian Alam, FMM. Sister was formerly a staff member with Franciscans International and is currently on the Pastoral staff at Holy Name of Jesus Church, 96th Street in New York. She will address the issues surrounding human trafficking.

This year, the Chapter of Ministers meeting will take place at St. Francis of Assisi Church in the San Damiano Hall, 129 West 31st Street, New York, NY 10001. The local fraternity should reimburse the local minister or delegate for any expense involved for transportation to and from this meeting.

There will be time for dialogue with your fellow fraternity ministers and Regional leadership, setting the future direction of our Region, and of course, we will also engage in the important business items before the Chapter including the Regional Budget.

In order to prepare yourself for the discussion, I ask that you please review the enclosed documents:

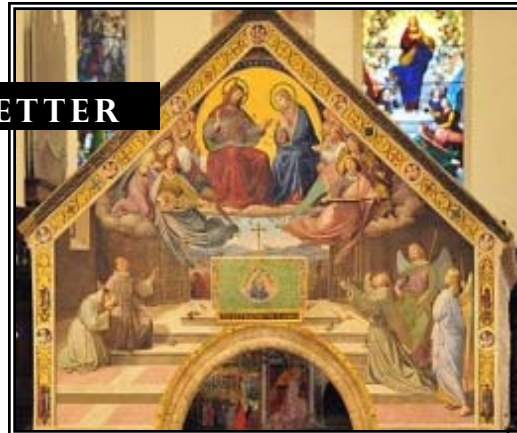
- the proposed agenda/schedule of the day (SEE PAGE 4)
- the directions to reach St. Francis of Assisi Church in New York City are posted on our website.

Please be sure to complete the attendance form (posted on our website) indicating either your attendance or naming a delegate to represent your fraternity. A delegate should be a member of your local fraternity council but if this is not possible, then they must, at least, be a permanently professed member. Every fraternity must be represented at this important meeting. Please be sure to complete and send this form even if you sent one in earlier in preparation for the November meeting which was canceled. As different circumstances may mean different observers, or delegates or whether you will be able to represent your fraternity, you must re-submit this form to Kate Asselin, OFS, Regional Secretary, by January 5th, at the address indicated on the form.

Any member of the Secular Franciscan Order is welcome to attend this meeting as an observer. You must indicate the name of any observer who plans to attend on the form. There is no cost for attendance at this meeting. You are requested to bring your own lunch.

I look forward to seeing you on January 19th, 2013 at St. Francis of Assisi Church, San Damiano Hall in New York City, NY. Please pray for the success of our Chapter.

Fraternally,
Ronald L. Pihokker, OFS
Regional Minister



CHAPTER OF MINISTERS AGENDA



[Our-Lady-of-the-Angels-Region-Secular-Franciscan-Order](#)

Our Lady of the Angels Regional Fraternity
Chapter of Ministers
January 19th, 2013
St. Francis of Assisi Church
San Damiano Hall
129 West 31st Street
New York, NY 10001

9:00 Registration

9:30 Opening Prayer

Roll Call

Welcome by Regional Minister/ Introduction of Speaker
On-going Formation—Sister Lillian Alam, FMM
The tragedy and the challenge of Human Trafficking.

Approval of Minutes of Chapter 2011

Reports:

- Minister
- Spiritual Assistant
- Vice-Minister
- Formation Director
- Treasurer's Report

12 Noon Mass

Lunch

1:45 Budget Review and Approval

New Business

Closing Prayer

4:00 Adjournment

FOR ONGOING FORMATION

CIOFS MONTHLY DOSSIERS

Available on the CIOFS website at:

<http://www.ciofs.org/portal/index.php?lang=en>

Available in English, Spanish, French and Italian.

HELP NEEDED

ST. ANN'S SOUP KITCHEN IN NEWARK, NEW JERSEY NEEDS YOUR HELP!

"....For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me..."

Saint Matthew 25:35

Secular Franciscans are looking for volunteers in St. Ann's Soup Kitchen (located in Newark, NJ) serving the homeless and working poor. The homeless population of Newark has been steadily rising for the past decade. Now with economic hardships the nation over, the situation is even worse. Not only are there more homeless and jobless, but there are less people who are able to donate due to their own economic misfortunes.

St. Ann's Soup Kitchen is operated by Franciscan Charities, Inc., and provides about 250 meals a day (sometimes about 300). We need especially volunteers on every third Monday between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm. We can pick you up. For more information about Franciscan Charities, Inc. or to volunteer to help please call 973-732-4736 or log onto <http://www.franciscancharitiesinc.org>.

St. Ann's Soup Kitchen & Food Pantry, 103 16th Avenue, Newark, NJ 07103

Contact: Anna Zielski, OFS (732) 325 7779 (c); or Carl Pierre, OFS (908) 230 6707 (c)



YEAR OF FAITH 2012 2013

Brothers and sisters, let us join with the Holy Father and Christians around the world in praying for these special needs:

- That during this Year of Faith, Christians may deepen their knowledge of the mystery of Christ and joyfully bear witness to the gift of faith in him.
- That the Christian communities of the Middle East, which frequently suffer discrimination, may receive the strength of fidelity and perseverance of the Holy Spirit.

Presence in the World Commission

JANUARY

2013 Formation Program

During its meeting in October 2012, the CIOFS Presidency, entrusted the Presence in the World Commission with the task of offering a brief, web-based formation course to help Secular Franciscans better engage in the social realm by meeting the challenges set forth in the *Conclusions* from the 2011 OFS General Chapter in Sao Paulo (Brazil).

Every monthly dossier will be divided into four sections: a brief theoretical treatment of the theme; a list of other sources, organizations and websites that deal with the theme; the description of a concrete case study; and some questions aimed at encouraging dialogue in fraternity and/or some practical suggestions for concrete action.

This course's first dossier deals with the role of the laity in society.

It is now available on the CIOFS website at:

http://ciofs.org/portal/images/PIWC/PIWC_Formation/PIWC_2013_01_EN.pdf

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Attached please find a letter from Sister Ann Lyons, Executive Director of the Franciscan Federation, along with a membership application. For those who were present in Denver at the National Chapter, you know that I reported to the assembly that I had made contact with the Franciscan Federation on behalf of the Ad Hoc Committee on Spiritual Assistance, to seek the possibility of reaching out to the Franciscan Federation membership of Third Order Regular Brothers and Sisters communities to consider ministry among our fraternities as Spiritual Assistants.

Sister Ann was very receptive and invited us to advertise in their publication--which is in process. She also extended an invitation for all Secular Franciscans in the US to individual membership in the Franciscan Federation. This is an opportunity for real Franciscan networking and collaboration. As I mentioned at the gathering in Denver, I suggest that at least, each Regional Minister join and extend the invitation to each local fraternity minister, who may, in turn, invite any of the members of their local fraternity to join. As you will read in the accompanying attachment, this will afford you information and access to the Annual Conference of the Federation at member prices as well as receiving their monthly newsletter.

I think it is well worth our effort to encourage this relationship and hopefully, it will attract some of the Sisters and Brothers to consider the Spiritual Assistant ministry among us.

Please give it your consideration and pass it along to your local fraternities.

Fraternally,
Ron Pihokker, OFS
Regional Minister



Dear Fraternity Member,

Francis' rule contains the "stuff" of the future. Early Franciscans were not recognized for a particular work, their way of life was their message and every member had a part to play in living out the message. Hopefully, the Franciscan Federation is characterized by the same determination, dedication, commitment and vision that carried Francis and his followers to renewal in the 13th century. We are a Federation of interdependent communities who are bound to one another in a covenant of love, mutual support and fidelity. We do not exist for ourselves but for the sake of furthering the Franciscan charism.

With this in mind, we are offering membership to the various fraternities of our Secular Franciscan sisters and brothers so that we widen our membership base to include all followers of the Third Order Rule. The cost of membership is \$20.00 which is the cost for each individual sister/brother in the member communities of the Federation. As members of the Federation you will receive our monthly newsletter **Musings** which contains information on Federation activities, Commission work, Region workshops, job openings and Franciscan resources as well as listings of retreats and presentations offered throughout the country. Using an online electronic newsletter provides the capability to link information posted on the Federation website, on websites of retreat centers, universities and colleges and other organizations with whom the Federation continues to network. You will also be given membership rates for our Annual Federation Conference.

The AFC 2012 (Annual Federation Conference) was held in Cincinnati, Ohio on July 27—July 30, 2012. The theme of the Conference was "Releasing Energies to Love: Creative Fidelity in the Church" with keynote presenters: Marelene Weisenbeck, FSPA and Joseph P. Chinnici, OFM. Our presenters looked at "current experiences in our fractured and wounded church through the lens of the call to creative fidelity and its application within our Franciscan tradition."

Next year the AFC 2013 will be held at the Marriott Pittsburgh City Center, July 17—22, 2013. The theme of the conference is "Franciscan Life in Evolution" and the presenters are Ilia Delio, a well known Franciscan author and Keith Warner, OFM.

The Federation is only beginning to appreciate the depth and breadth of the transformation occurring as we begin responding in new ways to our experience of the holy in our midst. We are called to a new exploration of the struggles and possibilities that a Franciscan vision suggests. We embody the hope that we can live out the Third Order Rule to the benefit of all.

Peace and all good,

Sr. Ann Lyons, fssj
Executive Director



Office Use Only: Date: _____

Amt: _____ Check # _____

Database Musings

SFO Associate Membership
Franciscan Federation
Application Form
January 1, 2013 – December 31, 2013

Print clearly:

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address _____ Phone: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Name of Fraternity _____ Region _____

Please sign me up to receive the monthly e-newsletter Musings.
Musings is emailed on the 8th of each month.

DUES: \$20.00 per year

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

Please make your check payable to the Franciscan Federation
(The Federation does not accept credit cards)

Mail check and form to: Franciscan Federation
SFO Associate Membership
National Office
P.O. Box 29080
Washington, D.C. 20017

**FOR PUBLICATION OF YOUR EVENT
CONTACT:**

Anna Geraci, OFS
161-B Cross Slope Ct., Manalapan, NJ 07726
Email: TroubadourEditor@aol.com
<http://olangels.tripod.com/troubadour.html>

**'The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make His face shine upon you
and be gracious to you;
the LORD turn His face toward you
and give you peace.'**

Numbers 6:24-26

MEDITATION

Two Goals for Your New Year

by Joe Difato | from *The Word Among Us*

When I was in college, I dreaded semester finals. Sometimes, I had three finals on one day.

When I graduated, I was glad because I thought my testing days were over. I was wrong.

As I have grown older, I have come more and more to look at life itself as a test. Each day, year, and decade tests my integrity and my honesty, my willingness to follow Jesus. They test my ability to develop long-lasting and loving relationships. They test my desire to attain the maximum that God has for me during my life. They test my ability to love and nurture my marriage and my family. The tests of life do not end with graduation. In fact, they go on—even until the end of our days.

But I've found something that helps me to approach these tests in the different areas of my life. It's the simple strategy of setting goals. We need goals. They help us stay focused and on course.

And so, at the beginning of each new year, my wife Felicia and I go out. We set aside a special time to review the previous year and to set our goals for the new year. We do not end until we have covered five primary areas: our marriage, our children, our finances, our health, and our spiritual life with God.

I encourage you to discover the power of goal-setting for yourself. Take some time to identify your goals for the year. Write them down, and measure your plans on a quarterly basis. Plans and goals grow more accurate over time as we address them and adjust them.

Make it one of your goals to pray. If you don't already pray every day, try your best to set aside some time and sit with Jesus even for just ten minutes each day. Tell him that you want to stay close to him all year long and that you will do your best to let nothing separate you from his love.

Which brings me to the second goal. In the coming year, all of us will once again face a series of tests and trials. Although these will vary from one person to another, here is a general principle that can guide all of us as we move ahead toward the Lord. The principle is this: No matter what comes your way—good or bad, happy or sad—be sure to “let nothing separate you from the love of Christ” (Romans 8:35).

If it's increased income, a new house, success, pleasure, a big promotion or whatever, do not let it separate you from the love of God. If it's sickness, suffering, loss of a job, problems at home, or whatever, do not let it separate you from God. Let nothing—not even your own weaknesses, failures, and sin—separate you from the love of God.

Incorporate this sound piece of advice into your family plan for this new year. Make it your goal to let nothing separate or divide your marriage and your family. Make it your family goal to put on love and to let your love cover the multitude of weaknesses that are in your family and in every family (1 Peter 4:8).

May God bless us all, as we begin this new year!