



April 8, 2013

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 **2013 *Convivenza*** of Our Lady of the Angels Regional Fraternity to be held on **Saturday, April 27, at St. Francis of Assisi R.C. Church, 50 Lodi Street, Hackensack, NJ 07601**. You should already have received a “save the date” invitation card earlier 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 a.m.** Please enter by the Bingo Hall doors on Holt Street, plan on bringing a **brown bag lunch**. The day will include **Mass at noon** and will **conclude by 3:00 p.m.**

This year, we will be continuing our reflection on Evangelization and the principles of Social Justice in our Church with a presentation by Father Jud Weiksnar, OFM, Pastor of St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Camden, NJ. Certainly with the surprise election and example of our new Holy Father, Pope Francis, we have much as a Church and as an Order to consider around this topic. We look forward eagerly to Father Jud’s presentation, on a topic to which he has devoted his ministry.

Each year, our host fraternity, St. Francis Fraternity in Hackensack, holds a Baby Shower for Birth Right and Several Sources. Everyone is invited to bring an unwrapped baby gift to be donated to these charities.

At our Convivenza, you will receive written information concerning our **Regional Retreat** which this year will be held on the weekend of **August 2-4, 2013** at the beautiful **Mt. Alvernia Retreat Center in Wappingers Falls, NY**. A flyer is available on our website under announcements with further details. Please see <http://www.ourladyoftheangelsregion.org/announcements.html>

This year, we will offer one single track, a general retreat for professed members and candidates in the initial formation process together hearing the same presenter. Candidates in formation will have an opportunity for a separate discussion group with their fellow candidates and the formation team after each presentation. This way we can all be present to support our candidates in prayer hearing the same input while still offering the candidates an opportunity for special interaction within their own group. Our speaker will be Father Gene Pistacchio, OFM, Provincial Spiritual Assistant to the Secular Franciscan Order from Holy Name Province. Father Gene comes to us from Boston, MA. It should be a great retreat experience. I hope you will encourage your fraternity members and candidates to participate. As we will be together for August 2nd, we will be able to celebrate our great Regional Patronal Feastday, Our Lady of the Angels!

I look forward to seeing everyone on Saturday, April 27th at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Hackensack. Until then may you continue to enjoy the great season of Easter filled with the experience of the Risen Lord.

Fraternally,

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

Ron Pihokker, OFS
Regional Minister