

Secular Franciscan Order

Our Lady of the Angels Regional Fraternity



October 14, 2014

Dear Fraternity Minister,

With this letter I am convoking the annual Regional Chapter of Ministers meeting to be held on November 15th, 2014. This meeting will also consist of the **Regional Elections of our Regional Fraternity which occurs every three years**. National Minister Deacon Tom Bello, OFS, will be the Fraternal Presider and will conduct the election process.

It is the serious responsibility of every fraternity minister to be present or to send a delegate to the Chapter meeting in his or her 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 OFS define 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.

This year, the Chapter of Ministers meeting will take place at St. Francis of Assisi Church in the Church Hall, 50 Lodi Street, Hackensack, NJ 07601. 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.

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

- Proposed agenda/schedule of the day
- 2013 Pastoral Visitation report
- Directions to reach St. Francis of Assisi Church in Hackensack, NJ
(Upon arrival, check posted signs for entrance.)

If you have any items which you would like to propose for the agenda, please send them no later than **November 1st** to Diane Menditto, OFS, 160 Overlook Avenue, 16F, Hackensack, NJ 07601 or via email to: dianefmdfm@aol.com

Please be sure to complete the enclosed form indicating either your attendance or the name of a delegate that will 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 complete and return this form via surface-mail to Kate Asselin by no later than November 1st.**

Any member of the OFS 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.

PLEASE BRING YOUR COPY OF THE AGENDA AND THE 2013 VISITATION REPORT WITH YOU TO THE CHAPTER MEETING ON NOVEMBER 15th.

I look forward to seeing you on November 15th at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Hackensack, NJ.

Please pray for the success of our Chapter and the Regional Fraternity Elections.

Fraternally,



Ronald L. Pihokker, OFS
Regional Minister