

Thanksgiving 2016

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Thanksgiving is upon us, and we are all counting our blessings. **Among the many blessings that our Lord has given me, I count my faith, my vocation and all of you!**

We have recently experienced our **Chapter of Ministers and triennial Pastoral and Fraternal Visitation. Almost every fraternity was represented**--thank you for your generosity in fulfilling your duty at this busy time of year. We thank **St. Francis Fraternity, Hackensack**, for hosting. The hospitality offered by **Ed Atwood, OFS, Minister**, and the local fraternity members added something very special to the day.

Special thanks to our North Jersey Councilor, **Ron Pihokker, OFS**, for preparing the special prayer booklets; to **Joe Wilson, OFS**, of Most Holy Name Fraternity, for serving as Music Minister at Mass; to our Regional Formation Director, **Ed Wojciechowski, OFS**, and our Regional Vice Minister, **Nancy Conroy, OFS**, for the excellent ongoing formation program; to Regional Secretary, **Kate Asselin, OFS**, and Regional Spiritual Assistant, **Fr. Frank McHugh, OFM**, for arranging hospitality and logistics for our Visitors and Council members; to **Anna Geraci, OFS**, and **Dolores Jules, OFS**, for communications and assistance in preparing for the Chapter; to the **other members of our Regional Executive Council**, without whose support our Region could not serve you; and to **all of you** for your prayers that the Chapter would be a success!

Although we have not received the final report yet, I venture to say that **our visitors were most impressed with our Region and appreciated your constructive comments**. If you would like to share in the events of the day, **the link to the pictures** taken by Robert Stronach, OFS, (photographer and Public Relations for the National Fraternity) is below and will eventually be on our website:

<https://goo.gl/photos/DrVJzKEaBTcsYZFDA>

One more thing before we enjoy our turkey with family and friends:

Last weekend was the end of the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. May it continue in our hearts and around our Thanksgiving tables. Here is a prayer for that very intention:

God our Father,
as the Year of Mercy draws to a close,
help us to remember that Your Mercy is
always with us.

Continue to inspire us to
reach out to our brothers and sisters;
to listen to one another;
to comfort those who are in sorrow;
to love the unlovable;
to give hope and welcome to the strangers among us;
to be patient with those who annoy us.

Help us, Lord, to forgive before we are
asked for forgiveness, and
help us to always remember and act upon the lessons
we have learned during this Year of Mercy.

We thank you and praise you for the great gift of Mercy you have given us this year and every day of our lives. Amen

As we enter the season of Advent, please visit our Facebook page where you will find prayers for every day of Advent.

<https://www.facebook.com/OurLadyoftheAngelsRegion/>

Thank you for your continued prayers for me and for our Regional Executive Council. We are praying for you!

Blessings,

Diane

Diane F. Menditto, OFS

Minister, Our Lady of the Angels Region