



**OUR LADY  
OF THE  
ANGELS  
REGIONAL  
FRATERNITY  
  
2006-2008  
REGIONAL  
COUNCIL  
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Julia McCants, SFO

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**SPIRITUAL ASSISTANTS:**

Fr. Thomas A. Crangle,  
OFM Cap.

Fr. Richard Trezza, OFM

# OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS REGIONAL FRATERNITY SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

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July 17, 2008

Our Lady of the Angels Regional Fraternity Ministers

My dearest Brothers and Sisters,

I hope you, your families, and fraternities are all enjoying the beauties of the summer and Brother Sun! We have been blessed with some perfect days through which we see the beauty of creation and God's great love for us.

Several things we will discuss in this letter have to do with upcoming events and policy.

1. After much discussion over many months, the Regional Executive Council is putting into **immediate** effect an interim policy that the entire body will vote upon during the Chapter of Ministers. We have arrived at this decision after observing problems in many fraternities throughout the Region due to election of officers who are not sufficiently prepared to take on the role of elected council member within the fraternity. This may be due to the individual being newly professed, or the individual newly joining the fraternity.

In order to preserve, enhance, and protect the health and well-being of all local fraternities and their members throughout Our Lady of the Angels Regional Fraternity, the following policy is effective immediately.

**No newly professed member** may be elected to or appointed to any Council position unless he/she has been professed in that fraternity and has been active in the life of that fraternity for a minimum of three (3) years. In addition, **No professed member** who transfers into another fraternity may be elected to or appointed to any Council position unless he/she has been active in the life of that fraternity for a minimum of three (3) years.

Again, in order to safeguard all the fraternities in our Region, we believe that this is the best course of action to take. All ministers or their delegates will vote on this policy during the Chapter of Ministers. I pray you will all agree.

2. The Regional Picnic, as you know, is this coming **Saturday, July 26**, on the property of the Franciscan Sisters at Ringwood, NJ. I hope you will all come! Please bring your food and drink, lawn chairs, bathing suits and towels. The pool and lifeguards, picnic tables, and grill are provided. This is a wonderful opportunity for all Our Lady of the Angels Regional Fraternity members to meet and socialize with those of other fraternities. Please bring lawn games, bats and balls, Frisbees, or any other game you may have to play with your fellow Franciscans and share in true Franciscan joy! If you can, please let me know how many will be coming from your fraternity. The cost is the same as last year: \$10.00 per person for anyone over the age of 14. Those attendees who are younger than 14 are free. It should be a wonderful day of good food, fun, play, and sharing! Now how Franciscan is that?! Our seraphic Father Francis would be proud!

3. We hope to have an extraordinary meeting for ministers and those seeking council offices in the fall, perhaps on **Saturday, October 11**. More information will follow as details unfold. However, please mark your calendars in pencil!

4. The regional retreat is at St. Mary's Villa, Sloatsburg, NY (just down the road from the Franciscan Sisters at Ringwood) on **Friday through Sunday, October 24 – 26**. The retreat master will be Fr. Kevin Cronin, OFM, a member of the Liturgy of the Word ministry. Please have all fraternity members return their completed registration forms to Richard Spana, SFO, who has taken over the duties of the regional retreat from John Ras, SFO. We should all thank John for the wonderful job he has done for us over these past years.

5. Election for new regional officers will be held at the Chapter of Ministers on **Saturday, November 1, 2008**. The fraternal national electorate delegate is Deacon Tom Bello, SFO, the National Vice-Minister. We do not yet know who the friar delegate will be. Please consult your fraternity and pray for enlightenment as you nominate individuals for office. Remember, your councilor **MUST** be from your cluster. For those who have been nominated, please also pray for guidance about whether or not you have the time and talent for the job or jobs for which you have been nominated. Also, please return your forms to Julia McCants, SFO in a timely manner.

**Every fraternity must be represented by the minister or the minister's duly authorized delegate. If there is a delegate taking the minister's place, that delegate must have a letter of authorization from the minister.**

You may remember that 10 of our local fraternities neglected to come to the 2007 Chapter of Ministers, which was our national visitation. That was a disgrace, a tremendous embarrassment to this Region, and a black mark against our Region in the eyes and records of the National Fraternity. There is no excuse for a minister not attending or not sending a delegate. If this occurs again this year, then we must look at the appropriateness of that/those minister(s) to retain their office. Please remember that taking on the duty of minister REQUIRES his/her attendance (or that of a delegate) annually at the Chapter of Ministers or any meeting of ministers that is called by the Executive Council. If a minister cannot fulfill this duty, then that minister may be removed from office. It is far too long that we have been asking, reminding, writing, calling, and pleading for every fraternity to be represented at important gatherings that are the duties of the ministers to attend. Now, action will be taken.

6. You will find two (2) sheets of paper enclosed with this letter. I delayed sending it out while waiting for the renewal to arrive in the mail. As you can see, these are the original and this year's renewal of an insurance policy taken out by the National Fraternity that covers every regional and local fraternity, and every Secular Franciscan in the US. These are for any events that require insurance. You can also give them to your parishes to indicate that we are all covered by our own insurance. It is extremely important that you give the original and the renewal to whatever organization will require it. Once you have done that, you only need to supply them with the annual renewal when it comes. If you go to a new place or vendor, you must give them the original with the current renewal form. If you must make a claim on this policy, you must contact your Regional Minister immediately, who will then in turn contact the National Minister, who is the agent for our policy. Please keep copies of these in your records and recopy them as needed. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

7. I would like to introduce you to a new program for Secular Franciscans. It is called FLIC, Franciscans Living In Community. Some of you may remember SELF that was originally operating under the auspices of the Capuchin Friars of Stigmata Province since the 1960's, and was a weeklong time of discussion, sharing, prayer and community for Secular Franciscans. It was quiet for a few years and has come back as FLIC. It is being sponsored by Tau Cross Region, Father Solanus Casey Region, and our Region, Our Lady of the Angels. It will be held from **August 11 – 15, 2008**, at St. Alphonsus Retreat Center, Esopus, NY. It is an invitation to review your call, refresh your spirit, and renew your community spirit. The theme is the call and the community. The cost is \$300.00 and the rooms are either single or double with shared baths. Dietary needs can be accommodated.

It includes daily Mass, morning and evening prayers, special times with Our Lord, conferences, meal times, rest times, quiet times, and get-togethers that promise to be lots of fun. They would like to know if you are married or single (male or female) for accommodations. In addition, if you would prefer a private, semi-private or handicapped equipped room. The full address/info for the retreat center is: Mount St. Alphonsus Redemptorist Retreat Center, 1001 Broadway/PO Box 219, Esopus, NY 12429. Phone: 1-845-384-8000, Website: [www.msaretreathouse.org](http://www.msaretreathouse.org). It is located on Route 9W, 10 miles N. of Poughkeepsie, 15 miles NE of New Paltz, and 8 miles S of Kingston, NY. You can get there by Metro North train to Poughkeepsie or Adirondack Trailways bus to New Paltz if you do not drive. For more information, please contact Bob Campbell, SFO, 135 Centre Avenue, East Rockaway, NY 11518-1010, Phone: 1-516-599-4256, or E-mail: [ArcyC@aol.com](mailto:ArcyC@aol.com).

So, brothers and sisters, you can see that there are many opportunities to learn, share, pray, and act that are open to you. I hope you are able to benefit from some of them.

I hope to see you at the picnic, the regional retreat, and, of course, the Chapter of Ministers.

May God bless each one of you, your families and fraternities.

I remain your sister in peace and love,

*Marcia*

Marcia A. Stamboulion, SFO  
Regional Minister  
Our Lady of the Angels Regional Fraternity  
Secular Franciscan Order