



Secular Franciscan Order Our Lady of the Angels Regional Fraternity

March 23, 2010

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 **2010 *Convivenza*** of Our Lady of the Angels Regional Fraternity to be held on **Saturday April 10th 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”—a gathering of 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 am.** Please enter by the Bingo Hall doors on Holt St. Plan on bringing a **brown bag lunch.** The day will include **Mass at noon** and will **conclude by 3:00pm.**

This year, we are blessed by the presence of our newest Regional Spiritual Assistant, **Father Robert Williams, OFM Cap.,** of the Capuchin Stigmata Province, who will join with Father Richard Trezza, OFM, in serving the needs of our Regional Fraternity. As he takes up his new role among us, Father Robert will be our main presenter at our *Convivenza* 2010 and will address the topic of Muslim-Christian Relations in a talk entitled: “***Francis and the Sultan,***” a topic that is of great interest in the current climate in our culture. We recall the important place that the Muslim culture and religion played in St. Francis’s own life and ministry and it continues to be a special interest to all Franciscans, especially today when understanding, tolerance and peace-making should be the Franciscan answer to hatred, intolerance and violence. We look forward eagerly to Father Robert’s presentation, a topic on which he has devoted special study and research.


I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you about a planned **workshop for Formation Directors** to be held at **Most Sacred Heart of Jesus R.C. Church, 127 Paterson Ave., Wallington, NJ 07057-1298 on May 1st.** Please reserve this date on your calendar and inform your formation director. You should already have received additional information on the agenda for this day from Virginia Chin, SFO, Regional Director of Formation. Please encourage your formation directors and teams along with interested Council members to attend. **Fr. Richard Trezza, OFM** will be the featured speaker at this meeting of formators addressing **the Meaning and Importance of Profession,** developing the topic from our Order’s recent General Chapter. Speaking of formation, I would also remind you that monthly on-going formation materials for use with your fraternity developed by the International Council (CIOFS) is available at our Regional Website at the link: www.ourladyoftheangelsregion.org/formation.html

You also should have received a “save the date” flyer concerning our **Regional Retreat** which this year will be held on the weekend of **August 27-29th, 2010** 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 combine the general retreat for professed members alongside a special track retreat for candidates in the initial formation process with a separate speaker and agenda. This way we can all be present and support our candidates in prayer and share together at meal and recreation times while each group will have its own special topical track for input sessions. It should be great and I hope you encourage your fraternity members and candidates to participate.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to remind you that a nation-wide effort has been undertaken by the National Fraternity in the United States in the praying of a special novena on behalf of the people of Darfur, Orissa, Pakistan and the Philippines. Each week, different Regional fraternities are assigned to pray the novena. Our Region has been assigned the first weeks of April and October this year. The novena prayer along with a fuller explanation is available on our website for download. Please visit our website at: <http://www.ourladyoftheangelsregion.org/announcements.html>

I look forward to seeing everyone on Saturday, April 10th at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Hackensack. Until then may you have a prayer-filled and blessed Holy Week and an Easter filled with the experience of the Risen Lord.

Fraternally,



Ron Pihokker, SFO
Regional Minister

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DIRECTIONS

St. Francis Hackensack

50 Lodi Street
Hackensack, NJ 07601
201-343-6243

From GW Bridge (or exiting the Turnpike onto Route 80 West):

Take I-95 to I-80 west local exit 66 Hudson St., Hackensack.
Get off Route 80 at exit 66 (Hudson Street/Hackensack/Little Ferry),
at the end of the ramp continue to the light and turn left onto Hudson Street.
Proceed to the third light and make a left onto Broadway.
Proceed one block and make a left onto Holt Street. You will see the church.
Park on Holt Street.

From I-80 East:

Take the Hudson Street, Hackensack/Little Ferry exit (66).
From the ramp, make a left onto Vreeland Ave. At the light turn left onto Hudson Street. Go
under I-80 and proceed to the fourth light (the light before going under Route 80 counts as #1)
and make a left onto Broadway. Proceed one block and make a left onto Holt Street. You will
see the church. Park on Holt Street.

From Route 17 South:

Exit onto I-80 East in Hasbrouck Heights/Lodi area. Follow the above directions from I-80
East.

From NJ Turnpike:

Stay on the Turnpike past the final toll booth. Take I-80 West LOCAL and follow the GW
Bridge directions.

From Route 46:

Exit at Teterboro Airport, Huyler Street, South Hackensack. Stay on Huyler Street to the
second light. (Huyler Street becomes State Street.) At the second light, turn right onto Lodi
Street. Proceed four blocks on your left to the second church at the corner of Lodi and Holt
Streets.