



Secular Franciscan Order Our Lady of the Angels Regional Fraternity

November 30, 2011

Dear Fraternity Minister and Formation Director,

I am writing to invite you to participate in a very special weekend experience. On January 20 –22, 2012, the Our Lady of the Angels Regional Fraternity will sponsor a workshop for all fraternity formation directors, formation teams, and fraternity ministers and council members to introduce the new, **“For Until Now” Initial Formation Manual** of the Secular Franciscan Order. For the first time and in direct response to the International Fraternity’s lead, the National Fraternity in the United States has published a formation manual for initial formation which contains the basic curriculum for initial formation which is to be implemented in initial formation programs throughout the United States. Because of the importance of the information which will be shared at this workshop, **the Regional Executive Council is requiring that every local fraternity in our Regional Fraternity must be represented by at least one person. Ordinarily, this should be the fraternity formation director.** However, you may send as many people as you wish from your fraternity formation teams and leadership up to the capacity of the Retreat Center.

The workshop will be held at the beautiful Mt. Alvernia Retreat Center in Wappingers Falls, NY, the site of our previous Regional Retreats. If you have attended our retreats, you know the wonderful accommodations and meals provided by the center. The program will begin on Friday evening, January 20th at 7pm and will conclude on Sunday afternoon at 3 pm. Dinner will not be provided on Friday evening, so please have dinner before you arrive at the retreat center. The cost of attendance at this workshop should be covered by the fraternity. The cost of \$ 160.00 per person includes room and board and a copy of the FUN manual as well as the accompanying CD-Rom for each participant. The program will be led by Bob Fitzsimmons, SFO, the Chair of the National Formation Commission, and will include Father Richard Trezza, OFM, Regional Spiritual Assistant and member of the National Formation Commission as well as a contributing author to the manual, and Ron Pihokker, SFO, Regional Minister and contributing author to the FUN Manual as well as other members of our Regional leadership team.

Please complete a copy of the enclosed registration form for each person who wishes to attend and mail with your registration fee to Richard Spana, SFO, Regional Treasurer. Enclosed also is a copy of directions to the Retreat Center for your convenience. I look forward to seeing you at Mt. Alvernia in January.

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ronald L. Pihokker". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Ronald L. Pihokker, SFO
Regional Minister

Mount Alvernia Retreat Center

158 Delavergne Avenue,
Wappingers Falls, N. Y. 12590-0858
(845) 297-5706

Directions by car: Mount Alvernia Retreat Center is located in the village of Wappinger Falls, off of Route 9D. It is approximately 60 miles north of New York City and approximately 10 miles south of Poughkeepsie, N.Y. Major highways nearby include: Interstate 84, the New York Thruway, Route 9, and the Taconic Parkway.
For exact directions, call the Mount Alvernia Office.

Directions by train:

From Grand Central Station, on the Metro-North Hudson Line, the nearest train station is the New Hamburg Station. Call the Metro-North Railroad or check their web site, www.mta.nyc.ny.us/mnr for schedule, fare, and station information.

From Albany, New York, on Amtrak, the nearest train station is the Poughkeepsie Station. From Poughkeepsie, take a taxi cab. Call Amtrak or check their web site, www.amtrak.com for schedule, fare, and station information.