

## 2017–2020 REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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# SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

## OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS REGIONAL FRATERNITY

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Peace and all good to you and to your fraternities!

Our Regional Executive Council met via video conference call this past Saturday.

Much of our discussion centered on our local fraternities and your well-being during this difficult time.

We are people of fraternity, but we are also people of penance. We understand, as St. Francis did, that we are pilgrims and strangers in this world. We have had to give up many things lately, but these things are nothing compared to what God has given us and what Jesus gave up for us.

Here is some news and a few suggestions:

### 1- The Council has voted to cancel this year's Convivenza.

We prefer to be cautious about planning a large gathering, even though it is still over a month away. I can't picture any Franciscan maintaining a distance of 6 feet from another Franciscan!

The topic was to be *Catholic Social Teaching*. At some point in the near future, we will be sending you a **link to a YouTube video** of the presentation Chris Leone had planned for our day.

2- Retreat: **We will make a decision as the time gets closer.** The registration form will be available on our website and in E-vents shortly. **We encourage you to register** and send in your payment which will be completely refundable in case we need to cancel.

3- We are aware that many fraternities have cancelled or will cancel their March and possibly April gatherings.

Here are some **suggestions from our Council and from some local fraternities.**

+**Keep in touch** with members during this hiatus.

- **Phone calls** are the most personal and much appreciated, especially when the member does not have email.
- **Contact homebound** members to see if they are in need of assistance with food shopping.
- In fraternities where everyone has email, **start an email chain.** (Please reserve this for personal chatting about well-being, not for forwarding "cures" or theories about the virus.)

+If you have people in **initial formation**, please ask your formation team to try to continue their sessions by **phone, conference call or video chat.**

+**Outreach to the wider community**...The Regional Executive Council has donated to Catholic Charities in NJ and to the Breadline in NYC. My local fraternity has donated to the Center for Food Action in Bergen County.

+Maintain our **Franciscan vocation** for the entire fraternity. Here are some ideas with links to materials:

--**The Franciscan Intellectual Tradition** (Perhaps have members read the Admonitions, Francis's letters and writings, Clare's letters to St. Agnes of Prague)--Some might be interested in keeping a journal about their thoughts while reading these items. Ideas can be shared later. <https://franciscantradition.org/>

--Explore the national website, especially <https://secularfranciscansusa.org/formation-spirituality/>

--Visit our region's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/OurLadyoftheAngelsRegion>  
[Even if you are not a member of FB, you can view public posts] We post a special prayer and picture each day.

--Visit our National FB page. <https://www.facebook.com/SecFranUSA> We post something every day with a special formation piece on Fridays.

If you wish to let us know about how you are reaching out to your members and to the larger community, email us your suggestions. You might inspire someone!

Please remember to pray for one another and for all those affected by the Corona virus. We should also set aside time to pray the Liturgy of the Hours. When we pray the Office, we are praying in fraternity with one another and with the whole world.

My prayer for all of you is that we will stay safe until we see each other again. May God hold you and all members in the palm of His hand.

Many blessings,  
Diane

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