

October 7, 2015

Dear \_\_\_\_\_ (Minister's name)

We have just experienced the joy of Pope Francis's visit and the Feast of our Seraphic Father St. Francis. Now we rejoice because soon the Regional Fraternity will gather at our annual Chapter of Ministers.

Our National Statutes in Article 22.1 describe the Regional Fraternity Council as follows: *"[THE COUNCIL] IS COMPOSED OF THE MINISTERS OF THE LOCAL FRATERNITIES THAT TOGETHER FORM THE REGIONAL FRATERNITY, THE REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, AND THE REGIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT OR THE CONFERENCE OF REGIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSISTANTS, EACH OF WHOM MAY VOTE."*

So, then, my brothers and sisters, with this letter, **I convoke our Annual Chapter and invite every minister to attend.** We will gather on **Saturday, November 7, 2015, at St. Francis Church Hall, 50 Lodi Street, Hackensack, NJ** (enter on Holt Street-directions are attached.) **Registration and coffee will be at 9 AM, with proposed adjournment at 3 PM.** We ask that you **bring a brown bag lunch.** As always, coffee, beverages and snacks will be provided.

**Since important regional business will be carried out, each fraternity must be represented at the Chapter.** If you are unable to attend, you may send the vice minister in your place. If this is not possible, a professed member of your fraternity should attend and bring a letter delegating him/her to represent the fraternity and vote on your behalf. Observers from your fraternity are also welcome but do not have the right to vote. Please extend our invitation to your fraternity Spiritual Assistant as well.

This year we have an excellent program planned for you. Our ongoing formation will help us to become more familiar with **Laudato Si**, Pope Francis's beautiful encyclical on the environment and the interdependence of all Creation. We will pray together at Mass; discuss important business affecting our Region; and take time to share your comments and concerns. (*Please see the attached agenda.*)

Please plan to participate in the **"Winter Apostolate for the Homeless"** sponsored each year by our host fraternity, St. Francis, by bringing **hats, gloves, scarves, white socks and/or small toiletries** for distribution at the shelter in Hackensack. (**Note: The shelter requires that these items be new.**)

At this gathering, I will also report to you on the state of our Region. We have had the opportunity to visit many fraternities in our first year of service. In addition, each minister has submitted a comprehensive report which has allowed us to get to know your fraternity better. There are many reasons to rejoice, and your Regional Executive Council and I look forward to greeting you personally and sharing what has been accomplished over the past year and what our plans are for the future.

I have a special favor to ask. If your fraternity is in possession of your **Document of Establishment**, please **bring an extra copy with you.** Or, if your document is missing, please bring a letter which states that fact and provides the date of the first professions in your Register, the friar who witnessed those professions, the province to which your fraternity is bonded, and the location of your fraternity at that time. With that information we hope to be able to recreate a Document of Establishment for you.

Please remember that the annual Chapter is one of the most important events in the life of the Regional Fraternity. It is your duty to attend, but we sincerely hope that it is an occasion which you look forward to. We certainly look forward to being with YOU!

Please know that you are always in my prayers; please keep us in yours.

Many blessings to you and your fraternity,

Diane F. Menditto, OFS

Minister

Our Lady of the Angels Regional Fraternity

**RESPONSE FORM: Please return via mail or email by October 30<sup>th</sup>**

Fraternity\_\_\_\_\_

Location\_\_\_\_\_

Minister's name\_\_\_\_\_ (I plan to attend: yes\_\_\_\_ no\_\_\_\_)

**If no**, please indicate the name of the person who will attend in your place.

Vice Minister\_\_\_\_\_ (no letter required)

OR

Other Professed member to serve as delegate\_\_\_\_\_

(Requires a letter from you indicating that he or she is your delegate.)

Observers are welcome but have no vote – list names below

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Please Return to:**

Diane Menditto, OFS  
160 Overlook Avenue 16F  
Hackensack, NJ 07601

Or via email  
[dianefmdfm@aol.com](mailto:dianefmdfm@aol.com)

**PLEASE BRING THIS COPY WITH YOU TO THE MEETING**

**Our Lady of the Angels Regional Fraternity  
Agenda: Chapter of Ministers November 7, 2015  
St. Francis of Assisi Church—50 Lodi Street, Hackensack, NJ 07601**

**9:00 AM: Registration and coffee**

**9:30: Opening Prayer— Bro. Doug Soik, OFM Cap.**

**9:45: Roll Call-Kate Asselin, OFS, Regional Secretary**

**Welcome—Diane Menditto, OFS, Regional Minister**

**10:00: Ongoing Formation—Ed Wojciechowski, OFS, Regional Formation Director**

**Laudato Si'—On Care for Our Common Home**

- Video Clips
- Short talk
- Questions for Discussion and Sharing

**11-11:15: break**

**11:15: Approval of Minutes of Chapter 2014 and**

**Reports**

- State of the Region—Diane Menditto, OFS
- Spiritual Assistant's remarks—Bro. Doug Soik, OFM Cap.
- Formation Director--Ed Wojciechowski, OFS
- Treasurer's Report--Richard Spana, OFS
- NAFRA Host Committee Chair—Ron Pihokker, OFS

**11:45: Break (Prepare for Mass)**

**12:00: Mass—Celebrant and Homilist—Fr. Frank McHugh, OFM**

**12:45-1:30: Lunch**

**1:30: Remaining business including  
2016 Budget Review and Approval**

**2:00-2:45: New Business (if any) and**

**Open Forum--Local Fraternity Needs and challenges**

**Closing Prayer**

**3:00: Adjournment**

## **Directions**

### **St. Francis Hackensack**

50 Lodi Street  
Hackensack, NJ 07601  
Church phone: 201-343-6243  
Diane's cell phone 201-446-0667

#### **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.

**Transit:** Take the NJ Transit **165 bus** toward Westwood, NJ, from Port Authority.

Get off on Hudson Street, Hackensack, at East Broadway stop.

Cross Hudson Street

Walk in one block on Broadway, and you will see the church. Enter the church, and you will see the  
church. Enter the church hall on Holt Street