

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As I write this we are quickly approaching the New Year. Your Regional Executive Council is filled with hope for our Order and for Our Lady of the Angels Region.

At the Chapter of Ministers in November, I reported to your Ministers on the state of our Region, and I would like to share with you some interesting facts and many of your wonderful accomplishments.



- **Our Lady of the Angels Region—Did You Know?**

- **We have 30 fraternities** in our Region.
 - One fraternity and one Emerging Group have voted to deactivate.
 - However, other fraternities are growing and getting stronger with **many new candidates!**
- **Our Region measures 3,398** square miles in area; There are about **201** Secular Franciscans per 1, 000 square miles
- We have **762 Active/Excused** professed members—only TAU Cross Region to our north and east is smaller and denser than we are.
- **In 2016 we had 39 Candidates; 28 in Orientation and 11 Inquirers.** (Thanks to new vocations, these numbers have already grown going into 2017.)
- **72%** of our members speak **English; 22% Korean; 2% Spanish; 3%Polish; Other 1%**
- We have **28 Spiritual Assistants** (4 fraternities have no Spiritual Assistant. Please let us know if we can help!)
- **Every fraternity paid its Fair Share in 2016—thank you!**
- **Your Regional Minister and Council members** carried out **11 Visitations in 2016.**
- We will have **presided at 20 local elections** by the beginning of 2017.
- We heard that some fraternities would like to **“see even more of us.” Invite us** to attend Professions, celebrations, special talks, or a regular meeting. If we are available, we will be happy to attend.
- **Our Regional newsletter, The Troubadour,** comes out four times a year (two are mailed).
- We also have an excellent publication called **E-Vents** which comes out via email at the beginning of each month. Please send **Anna Geraci** your events to be listed.
- Our website has had **23,196 visits since its inception.**
- **Our Facebook** page has more than **6,300 subscribers.**
- Thank you to **local fraternity newsletter editors** who have been sending us copies!
- **We had an excellent Servant Leadership Workshop this year.**
- We also had a **North Jersey Cluster Formation** class and plan to do this more often. (Both in NJ and in Manhattan)
- **Convivenza**—The theme this year was the Year of Mercy with a pilgrimage to the Holy Doors in East Rutherford. The day was extremely well attended--175. We are hoping that this year’s Convivenza will be just as special, so stay tuned.
- 15 members of our region attended the **Quinquennial** held in St. Louis in July.
- We now have **Regional Spiritual Assistants** from **Holy Name Province, Fr. Frank McHugh,** and **Stigmata Province** with **Bro. Doug Soik** continuing his service to our Region
- We have met with the **Provincial of Stigmata Province, Fr. Nick Mormondo, OFM Cap.** We are hoping to organize some visits to retired friars in both Stigmata and Holy Name Provinces.
- **Our Yearly Retreat** was well attended—suggestions from last year’s group added a beautiful spirit to our weekend.

- **All of our fraternities were very generous this year.** We were able to contribute \$4,850 to the Louisiana flood relief appeal. We also had wonderful collections of items to be donated to Birthright, Several Sources, Blessed Bloomers and the Bergen County Human Services Shelter.
- **Our Future Goals**
 - **Vocations outreach:** *Who is the most enthusiastic person in your fraternity? This person should be your vocations director! Give this some serious thought.*
- **Finding a JPIC chair**
 - *We are still looking, but we think we are getting close.*
- **Identify possible candidates for 2017 elections**
 - *Please begin thinking and praying about whether you might be able to serve our Region. We heard that some folks at Chapter indicated to the Visitor their willingness to serve. We found one of you. Who are the other four??*
- **Personal contact with formation directors**
 - *Our Regional Formation Director will be in touch soon, but don't wait! Call or email us. We would love to help with your Formation Program.*
- **Visibility to the community**
 - *Communication with the public (vocations outreach)*
 - *Communication with our members*
- **Continued outreach to our friars**
 - *We are planning an outreach to the retired friars—would you like to participate?*
- **Regional Handbook**
 - *We hope to develop a Regional Handbook to go along with our Regional Guidelines update.*

As we welcome 2017, I want you to know that I am grateful to you for your support and love. Each one of you is special in God's eyes, and you are very special to me too!

Please continue to pray for your Regional Executive Council. We are praying for you.

Many Blessings,

Drine

January, 2017

