

2014–2017 REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS REGIONAL FRATERNITY

March 1, 2016

Greetings to you!

Each time we gather in fraternity, we open our arms to embrace our brothers and sisters. This is our Franciscan way of life as called for in our Rule and Constitutions:

*“The fraternity must offer to its members opportunities for coming together and collaborating through meetings to be held with as great a frequency as allowed by the situation and with the involvement of all its members.”
(Constitutions 53:1)*

Apart from our regular fraternity gatherings or our Retreat, we also need an opportunity for **all** of us to gather as a **Regional Family**. This special time each year is our **Chapter of Mats**, also known as **CONVIVENZA**. At Convivenza everyone in the Region can come together to pray, learn, share and socialize. It should be the highlight of our year as Secular Franciscans in Our Lady of the Angels Region.

This year Convivenza is going to be even more special than usual. Since we are now well into the **Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy**, we wanted to give everyone a chance to receive the **Holy Year Indulgence** together as one family. Therefore, we have designated **Convivenza 2016 as a Day of Pilgrimage**.

On Saturday, April 23, 2016, we will gather at Most Sacred Heart Church, 127 Paterson Avenue, Wallington, NJ, which is a designated pilgrimage site in the Archdiocese of Newark. We will have speakers, prayer, Mass and the chance to pass through the Holy Door together to gain the indulgence.

As always, there will also be time for discussion, sharing and fraternity. Since none of our fraternities has its home at Sacred Heart, we have invited three area fraternities to host the day. We thank Assumption Fraternity, Wood-Ridge; St. Louis Fraternity, Wood-Ridge; and St. Francis Fraternity, Hackensack, for providing hospitality.

For planning, it is VERY IMPORTANT that you let us know HOW MANY will be attending from your fraternity by April 15th at the latest. You may e-mail or call me using the information at the left-hand side of this letter.

You have already received a “save the date” card announcing this year’s gathering. (We thank Dolores Jules, OFS, for always offering her talents to create these invitations for us!) Now we offer you the details. ***A tentative schedule and directions*** to Sacred Heart are included with this letter.

In addition to the spiritual aspects of the day, we will also offer ***two concrete opportunities*** to do ***works of mercy***.

I have described both possibilities in detail below. (All of this information is also available on the Announcements page of our website.) These two opportunities are a **“Baby Shower for Birthright and Several Sources”** and **“Blessed Bloomers,”** a Mychal's Message Project. We ask that you consider participating in one or both of these projects by bringing an item or items listed according to your abilities.

Please ***share*** this information with ***everyone*** in your fraternity. It is important that each member be made aware so that ***all of our brothers and sisters*** are offered the opportunity to attend.

Thank you for your service to the Order. I look forward to seeing you on April 23rd.

Blessings for a fruitful Lent and a joyous Easter,



Diane F. Menditto, OFS
Minister, Our Lady of the Angels Region

SCHEDULE OF THE DAY

9 AM Registration and Coffee

9:30 - Morning Prayer

9:45 - Welcome and introduction of guest speaker

10 AM Morning Talk: Fr. Tom Dente, co-chair of the Archdiocesan committee for the Jubilee of Mercy. *“What is the Jubilee of Mercy? Why Is It Special and How Do We Celebrate It?”*

Break

Sharing

11:30 - Prayer and entrance through the Holy Door

Mass: Main Celebrant and Homilist, Fr. Frank McHugh, OFM, Regional Spiritual Assistant

12:30 to 1:15 - Lunch (Brown Bag)

1:15-2:15 - Afternoon Talk: Ed Wojciechowski, OFS, Regional Formation Director
“Practical Ideas for Celebrating the Year of Mercy in Our Fraternities”

Sharing

2:15-2:30 - Wrap-up

WORKS OF MERCY

Please participate in one or both projects according to your means.

 <p>“Baby Shower” Items for Birthright and Several Sources</p> <p>Choose any number of the following items. <i>(Clothing Items may be new or very gently used.)</i></p> <table><tr><td>“Onesies” undershirts</td><td>Shampoo</td></tr><tr><td>Regular undershirts</td><td>Socks</td></tr><tr><td>Towel sets</td><td>Sweater sets</td></tr><tr><td>Receiving blankets</td><td>Stretch outfits</td></tr><tr><td>Bibs</td><td>Wipes</td></tr><tr><td>Bottle with nipples</td><td>Powder</td></tr><tr><td>Diapers (all sizes)</td><td>A&D ointment</td></tr></table> <p>Outfits for 2 & 3 year old toddlers</p>	“Onesies” undershirts	Shampoo	Regular undershirts	Socks	Towel sets	Sweater sets	Receiving blankets	Stretch outfits	Bibs	Wipes	Bottle with nipples	Powder	Diapers (all sizes)	A&D ointment	<p>“Blessed Bloomers” A Mychal’s Message Project <i>(All items must be <u>NEW</u> and in the package.)</i></p> <p>The items needed are: Men’s briefs, boxers and socks. All sizes. <i>(They say they have plenty of shirts.)</i></p> 
“Onesies” undershirts	Shampoo														
Regular undershirts	Socks														
Towel sets	Sweater sets														
Receiving blankets	Stretch outfits														
Bibs	Wipes														
Bottle with nipples	Powder														
Diapers (all sizes)	A&D ointment														

DIRECTIONS TO CONVIVENZA

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Church
127 Paterson Ave.
Wallington, NJ 07057-1298

From NYC:

Take Lincoln Tunnel Crossing into New Jersey onto NJ- 495 W.
Take NJ 3 W exit towards Secaucus and Clifton
Take the NJ-120 N exit toward E Rutherford
Merge onto NJ-120 N on the left toward County Hwy-503N/ Washington Ave./ MOONACHIE
Turn Right onto Enoch St. / County Hwy 14-A
Turn LEFT onto Hoboken Rd. /County Hwy-14-A
Hoboken Rd. Becomes Paterson Ave. Church is on the RIGHT in about 1mi. -- just past Dankoff Ave.

From Hackensack

Take Route 17 South to Hoboken Rd.
Turn Right onto Hoboken Rd. which becomes Paterson Ave.
Church is on Right about 1 mi-- just past Dankoff Ave.