



## Secular Franciscan Order Our Lady of the Angels Regional Fraternity

March 29, 2011

Dear Fraternity Minister,

May the Lord give you Peace!

It is my pleasure to invite you and all the members of your fraternity to participate in the **2011 *Convivenza*** of Our Lady of the Angels Regional Fraternity to be held on **Saturday, April 30, at Sacred Heart High School, 34 Convent Avenue, Yonkers, NY**. You should already have received a “save the date” invitation card earlier announcing some of the details of this day.

***Convivenza*** is an Italian word which means literally, “a living together” and this is an opportunity for all of the members of Our Lady of the Angels Regional Fraternity to come together in fraternal life for a day of sharing, community and formation—this is our “chapter of mats”—a gathering of all of our sisters and brothers as St. Francis did when he gathered the Friars together to share their experiences and ministries. It is very important to realize that we belong to a world-wide Order. We are not only members of our own local fraternities, but are also members of Our Lady of the Angels Regional Fraternity, and so your presence and support of the Regional Fraternity’s activities and especially of this once a year “family reunion” is of vital importance. We will begin with **coffee and registration at 9:00 AM**. Please enter by the parking lot doors. Plan on bringing a **brown bag lunch**. The day will include **Mass at mid-day** and will **conclude by 3:00 PM**.

This year, we are celebrating the **15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of our Regional Fraternity of Our Lady of the Holy Angels**. As a special guest presenter, we are pleased to have with us all the way from Minnesota, **Mr. Richard Morton, SFO**, former National Minister and the “architect” of the Regionalization process in the United States. Fifteen years have passed since the establishment of our Region along with many others in the U.S. How have we fared? Have we lived up to the hopes and expectations which Regionalization hoped to achieve? What remains to be done? What can be the future of the SFO in the United States? These are some of the things which Richard will address with us in dialogue about where we have come thus far and where we are going as an expression of Franciscanism in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Additional speakers and the special celebration of our anniversary should prove to make this a joyful and historic moment for us. Make every effort to be with us and be sure to encourage all the sisters and brothers of your fraternity to take part in this special day.

You will shortly receive a “save the date” flyer concerning our **Regional Retreat** which this year will be held on the weekend of **July 29-31, 2011** at the beautiful **Mt. Alvernia Retreat Center in Wappingers Falls, NY**. We are pleased to announce that **Fr. Andre Cirino, OFM**, noted author and speaker will be our retreat master. It should be an outstanding experience and something not to be missed. A flyer will be available on our website under announcements with further details. Please see <http://www.ourladyoftheangelsregion.org/announcements.html> This year, as was done last year, we will combine the general retreat for professed members alongside a special track retreat for candidates in the initial formation process with a separate speaker and agenda. This way we can all be present and

support our candidates in prayer and share together at meal and recreation times while each group will have its own special topical track for input sessions. It should be great and I hope you encourage your fraternity members and candidates to participate.

I look forward to seeing everyone on Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at Sacred Heart High School in Yonkers. Until then may you have a prayer-filled and blessed Lent and an Easter filled with the experience of the Risen Lord.

Fraternally,



Ron Pihokker, SFO  
Regional Minister

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## **DIRECTIONS**

### **Sacred Heart High School**

34 Convent Ave.  
Yonkers, NY

#### **From New Jersey**

##### GW Bridge

Take exit for Henry Hudson Parkway North. The Henry Hudson becomes the Saw Mill River Parkway in Westchester (Yonkers). Keep on the Saw Mill to Exit 9—Executive Blvd., Yonkers.

Follow Executive Blvd. to the end—North Broadway. Turn left on North Broadway.

At the 5<sup>th</sup> light—Shonnard Place—turn left. Follow Shonnard Place to Convent Ave. (4<sup>th</sup> right). Turn right. Sacred Heart Church is on your left. Entrance to parking lot is just beyond the church on your left. Go down the hill in the parking lot to the round building where Convivenza will be held.

(Alternate entrance to the parking lot—go past the church on Shonnard to the next right—Voss Ave. Parking lot is your first right off Voss.

##### Tapan Zee Bridge

Follow signs to Saw Mill Parkway South. Get off at exit 9—Executive Blvd. Follow directions above.

#### **From NYC**

Take West Side Highway North—becomes Henry Hudson Parkway. Follow GW Bridge directions above.

##### Public Transportation

Take 242<sup>nd</sup> Street (VanCourtlandt Park) subway (end of line). Get off at 242<sup>nd</sup> Street. Take #2 Bee Line Bus (Executive Blvd.). Get off bus at Shonnard Place. Sacred Heart Church is two blocks to your right (corner of Convent Ave and Shonnard Place.) Turn right on Convent and follow car directions.

##### Metro North Hudson River Line

Get off at Yonkers RR Station. There are taxis at the station.