



OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS REGIONAL FRATERNITY SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

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March 25, 2007

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As I write this, we are hopefully leaving winter behind and about to see some real spring weather arrive. What a blessing to see the robins and other birds arrive and start singing, to see the spring flowers start to show their leaves through the ground, and what a beautiful way to greet Easter! I hope that the blessings of this coming Easter will shower down upon you, your family and friends, and your fraternities.

I am writing to inform you of several important items for your calendars and to share with your fraternities.

Our Region, Our Lady of the Angels, together with all the other regions in the U.S., is uniting this year to pray for Darfur.

Our region is assigned the first week in April and the first week in October 2007. You will find instructions and the prayer we are to say as an attachment to this letter. Please let your fraternity members know about it as soon as possible so we may all pray together.

On Saturday, April 28, we will be celebrating our Convivenza at St. Bonaventure's Church, 174 Ramsey Street, Paterson, NJ.

We will have registration, coffee and refreshments from 9:00 – 9:30AM, and morning prayer at 9:30.

At 9:45, we hope to have Fr. Francis Sariago, OFM Cap, our newest regional spiritual assistant from Delaware, with us and have him meet everyone and say a few words to us.

At 10:00, Fr. Daniel Grigassy, OFM, pastor at St. Bonaventure's will address us for the morning. Fr. Dan is a well-known speaker and we look forward to his talk.

We will break for noon Mass and lunch.

At about 1:30, we will have a short address from our regional councilor, Maddie Romaine, SFO, about Catholic Relief Services.

They will be helping us with the sale of Fair Trade items from poor areas around the world to support individual artisans. So, bring your money to aid the commissions of peace and justice, as well as family and work for those much less fortunate than we.

We will end with prayer at 3:00PM.

OVER...

As you know, the Quinquennial (held every five years for all SFO's in the U.S.) will be held this summer in Pittsburgh, PA from Tuesday, July 3 through Sunday, July 8. I encourage everyone to attend as this is a wonderful experience, with the opportunity to meet Franciscans, seculars, priests, and sisters, from all over the country and other parts of the world. There will be marvelous speakers and workshops to attend, even one given by our very own regional formation director, Ron Pihokker, SFO!

You will find the registration form as well as the schedule of events in this packet of information. Please be aware that the price of the hotel room is \$74 and can be shared by up to four people staying in one room. Information on the cost of registration is also included in the packet. If you are interested in going and might want to share a chartered bus with your sister and brothers, please let me know ASAP. If there are sufficient numbers and the price is right, we will hire a bus to pick up New Yorkers and New Jerseyans and take us to Pittsburgh. Also, if there is someone who really wants to go but might be able to afford it, you might think of helping that person out with a stipend from your treasury.

Also in July, we will have our Regional Picnic at Mt. St. Francis in Ringwood, NJ. It will again be held from 11:00 – 5:00 on Saturday, July 28. Please put it on your calendars now and encourage others to attend. We always have a wonderful time.

The annual Regional Retreat will again be held at St. Mary's Villa in Sloatsburg, NY, just a very short distance beyond Mt. St. Francis where we have our picnic. The dates are October 19 – 21.

The Chapter of Ministers will again be held in NY on Saturday, November 10. This year, we will have a national visitation. Our visitors will be Patrick Mendes, SFO, our new National Minister, and Fr. Kevin Queally, TOR, one of our national spiritual assistants. Every fraternity must be represented. This is not a request. This is mandatory. If for some reason you, as minister, cannot attend, then you must choose someone else from your fraternity to take your place and give them a letter denoting that he/she is your delegate. Someone from the regional council will be calling you to make sure that your fraternity is represented and will take the name if it is a delegate.

Please be sure to review the documents that are attached. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Your sister in Christ, Francis and Clare,

Marcia

Marcia A. Stamboulion, SFO
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