

THIS LETTER WILL BE MAILED TO ALL MINISTERS – RSVP BY APRIL 15TH

March 8, 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Greetings of peace to you and to your fraternity!

As Secular Franciscans, we live out a very special vocation, and part of that vocation is the call to life in fraternity at the local, regional, national and international levels.

“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.” Article 53.1 General Constitutions

We meet regularly with our local fraternities, in our Clusters and on Retreat. The Regional Fraternity (local Ministers) meets once a year in Chapter. However, there is one, true opportunity for **all** of us to gather as a **Regional Family**. This special time each year is **CONVIVENZA**, our **Chapter of Mats**. At Convivenza **everyone in the Region** can come together to **pray, learn, share and socialize**. It should be the highlight of our year as members of Our Lady of the Angels Region.

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!) Please share this information with **everyone** in your fraternity. It is important that each member be made aware so that **everyone is offered the opportunity to attend Convivenza**.

Our gathering will be held on **Saturday, April 22, 2017, at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 135 West 31st Street, Manhattan, NYC (San Damiano Hall)**. We will begin with **coffee and registration at 9:00 AM**. As always, we ask that you bring along a **“brown bag” lunch**. Please see below for the day’s schedule and directions to St. Francis Church. We thank **St. Benedict the Moor Fraternity** and members of the **Manhattan Cluster** for hosting the day.

As we have done in the past, we are asking for a special donation to a cause suggested by the host fraternity. This year we are asking for items to be donated to **The Dwelling Place** (a transitional residence for homeless women in Manhattan). **Needed items:**

- Personal hygiene bags: comb, toothbrush, toothpaste, hand-sanitizer, lip balm, travel size hand lotion, travel size Kleenex, etc.
- Food Gift cards - the women must leave the house during the day, so a gift card to Dunkin Donuts or Starbucks could be a special treat.
- Other Gift cards: TJ Max, Kmart, CVS, Duane Reade
- Metro Cards - \$10 cards for easier distribution
- Can of regular coffee; roll of paper towels; toilet paper; laundry pods

Out of **courtesy to our host fraternity**, please let us know **how many will be attending** from your fraternity **by April 15th**. You may e-mail or call me using the information at the left-hand side of this letter.

Thank you for your service to the Order. I look forward to seeing you on April 22nd.
Blessings,



Diane
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 our Guest Speaker, Sr. Joann Sams, CSA
10 AM-11:30 Presentation and discussion
11:30 Break
11:45 - Mass
12:30 to 1:15 - Lunch (Brown Bag)
1:15-2:15 Group sharing
(Please note that times may need to be adjusted as the day progresses.)

Directions

St. Francis of Assisi Church
135 West 31st Street
San Damiano Hall
New York, NY
(212) 736-8500

From NJ:
George Washington Bridge (Lower Level is better) to Henry Hudson Parkway South
DOWNTOWN; Exit at W. 30th Street. Follow West 30th to Sixth Avenue. Turn left, then
make the next left onto W. 31st Street. (There are a number of parking garages in the
area)

Mass Transit in NYC—see the St. Francis Church website:
<http://www.stfrancisnyc.org/directions/>