



**OUR LADY
OF THE
ANGELS
REGIONAL
FRATERNITY**

**2006-2008
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OFM Cap.

Fr. Richard Trezza, OFM

**OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS REGIONAL FRATERNITY
SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER**

April 16, 2008

Our Lady of the Angels Fraternity Ministers

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I wish you joy and happiness in this season of new awakenings following the Resurrection of our Blessed Lord on Easter Sunday. We are blessed with wonderful weather and the beauty of new life as spring really takes hold.

I have several things to tell you concerning our Region's calendar for this year.

- Our Convivenza is on the 26th of April at St. Bonaventure Church, Paterson, NJ. Please check the calendar on our website for directions. It will be held from 9:30am until about 2:30pm in the hall under the church. This will be our Region's celebration of the 800th anniversary of St. Elizabeth of Hungary, the patroness of our Order.

We are honored to have Dr. Lori Pieper as our guest speaker. Dr. Pieper is a linguist and talented translator, particularly of Latin and Greek. She is an expert on St. Elizabeth, has written a book about her life, and is in the process of producing a film about her. Dr. Pieper will be speaking to us in the morning, and showing us clips from the film in the afternoon. She will also be bringing her book with her for our purchase or order.

I will also be putting out order forms for the new *History of the SFO in the US, Part I*, written and compiled by our National Historian, William Wicks, SFO.

- The annual Regional Picnic will be held on the property of the Sisters of St. Francis, Ringwood, NJ, on Saturday, July 26, from 11:00am until 5:00pm. Please mark your calendars, I will send more information, as we get closer. (It is also Fr. Richard Trezza's birthday!)
- The annual Regional retreat is at St. Mary's Villa, Sloatsburg, NY, from Friday through Sunday, October 24 – 26. Our retreat master will be Fr. Kevin Cronin, OFM, from the Franciscan Friars Ministry of the Word. We would like to see as many people as possible at the retreat, so please make an effort to attend.
- Our annual Chapter of Ministers will be held at Holy Name of Jesus Church, 96th St., NYC, in St. Mary's Chapel under the church, on Saturday, November 1st. We will begin at 9:15am with registration, start at 10:00am, and finish by 3:00pm.

This is an extremely important meeting as it will be our Regional Elections.

The minister or his/her delegate MUST attend.

There will be no excuse accepted for any fraternity's absence.

You will be receiving information from the nominating committee in June. Please pray for inspiration as to who our leaders for the next 3 years should be. The regional counselors, who represent our 4 clusters (Northern NJ, Central NJ, Manhattan, Westchester), must be chosen from members of those clusters.

Again, please begin discussions with your fraternities concerning who might be good candidates for the offices and be prepared to nominate them when you receive the forms in June. Every fraternity member is invited to attend.

OVER...

- Our visitation went very well at the last chapter of ministers and we received very favorable comments from both our pastoral and fraternal national visitors.

The only exception was the absence of representatives of 10 of our fraternities!
That is almost 25%!

This was a terrible embarrassment for your regional council members. Our visitors, one of whom was Patrick Mendes, SFO, our National Minister, remarked that they had never experienced such poor attendance of fraternity ministers anywhere else in the nation. This situation is being addressed with each individual fraternity who failed to be present. I expect and pray that this will NEVER occur again in our region.

- I have received a certificate of insurance taken out by the National Fraternity, which covers every regional fraternity and every local fraternity. I will have a supply of these at the Convivenza to give out and also your regional counselors will bring them to the cluster meetings. These can be used whenever you have an activity that requires insurance coverage.

I hope all is well with all of you, your fraternities and all your families. I look forward to seeing you at the Convivenza and our celebration of St. Elizabeth of Hungary, our patroness.

May God be with you all and give you all good things.

Peace and love, your sister,

Marcia

Marcia A. Stamboulian, SFO
Regional Minister
Our Lady of the Angels Region, Secular Franciscan Order