



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

March 25, 2009

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 **2009 *Convivenza*** of Our Lady of the Angels Regional Fraternity on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at St. Bonaventure Church, 174 Ramsey Street, Paterson, NJ. *Convivenza* is an Italian word which means literally, “a living together” and this is an opportunity to do just that—to come together in fraternal life for a day of sharing, community and formation—our “chapter of mats”—a gathering of everyone as Francis did in gathering all the Friars together to share their experiences and ministries. Remember that you are not only members of your own local fraternity, 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.

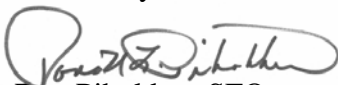
This is a very special year in the life of the Franciscan family. We commemorate this year the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of the Franciscan charism with Pope Innocent III’s approval of Francis of Assisi’s proposal in 1209 to live a Gospel way of life. Our speaker will be Fr. Damien Colicchio, Director of Campus Ministry of Felician College, who will present two talks on the early Rule of the Friars and on the application of the charism of Francis in our lives. We will have an opportunity for sharing and for prayer together with Mass at midday. Please bring a lunch. I look forward to seeing everyone at St. Bon’s on April 25<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9:30AM with coffee and Morning Prayer at 10:00AM. Please plan to attend and encourage all of your fraternity members to attend as well. Driving directions are on the reverse side of this letter.

I would also like to take this opportunity to tell you about a planned workshop for Formation Directors to be held at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 135 West 31<sup>st</sup> St. in New York on May 30<sup>th</sup>. Please reserve this date on your calendar and inform your formation director. You will be receiving more information shortly on the plans for this day from Virginia Chin, SFO, Regional Director of Formation.

Finally, if you haven’t already done so, please be sure to complete the annual fraternity report form and formation survey form and return it to Richard Spana, SFO our Regional Treasurer along with your fraternity’s annual per capita payment. Thank you for your attention to these important matters, and thank you to those who have already completed these forms and returned them.

I look forward to seeing everyone on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at St. Bonaventure’s in Paterson. Until then may you have a blessed Holy Week and an Easter filled with the joy of the Risen Lord.

Fraternally,

  
Ron Pihokker, SFO  
Regional Minister