

Our Lady of the Angels Regional Fraternity Executive Council Meeting Minutes

February 16, 2013
St. Francis of Assisi Church
Hackensack, NJ

Present: Ron Pihokker, Julia McCants, Jean Haddad, Mary Frances Reavey, Kate Asselin, Diane Menditto, Richard Spana, Sheila Tuohy, Bro. Doug

Excused: Andy Klutkowski, Nancy Conroy

- **Prayer:** Ron led morning prayer from the Ritual and Franciscan Praise books.
- **Communication of Life:** Bro. Doug shared that his province is getting four new, young, energetic priests from India, which is a great blessing. This means that the Capuchins will not have to abandon any more ministries due to a shortage of priests.
- **Approval of Minutes:** Rick made a motion, Julia seconded it and the minutes of December 15, 2012 were approved with no changes.
- **Spiritual Assistant's Remarks:** Bro. Doug spoke about his work in the Development office, where his main job is praying with people. He has been working extra hours due to the recent death of office manager Beatrice Rea. They are searching for a replacement office manager. Provincial meeting to discuss financial condition in the near future.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Rick stated that the numbers of members are trending down. The funds held in reserve to pay NAFRA have been released. Ron received a letter from Larry Meyers with a check for \$595.19 to hold for La Verna fraternity. With only 1 or 2 professed members, the future of this fraternity is in question.
- **Formation Director's Report** In Nancy Conroy's absence, Ron read her report. She asked the Council to consider a contribution to Catholics Confront Climate Change.

There was a discussion of the structure for this year's retreat program. In the past we have had two tracks—one for professed members and one for those in formation. The feeling of the Council this year is that it would be better to have one retreat program for everyone, with special breakout sessions for those in formation led by Formation directors, Spiritual Assistants, or others.

- **JPIC Coordinator's Report**
Jean received an email from Catholic Alliance for Common Good regarding Catholic Coalition for Climate Change. She raised the possibility of showing the film "Sun Come Up" at the upcoming Convivenza. The Council proceeded to consider a number of possible topics in

addition to climate change, including trafficking, exploitation, the Year of Faith, and Franciscan spirituality.

There was general agreement to continue the focus on trafficking/human exploitation for the **Convivenza** program (acknowledging that this is not unrelated to exploitation of resources and the earth, climate change, etc.) In focusing on trafficking, we join other religious organizations including Franciscans International (FI) and the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) in the effort to step up education and organize in advance of the 2014 Super Bowl which will be held in NYC. Coordinating with FOCUS, youth groups and Holy Name Province were also mentioned

The Council asks the Cluster Councilors to recruit one JPIC coordinator from each Cluster to support this effort.

Ron will contact the Dir. Human Concerns for the Newark and New York Archdioceses and find out what they have planned. Ron will also pursue speaker possibilities.

- **Cluster Councilors' Reports**

- Central Jersey: Mary Frances updated the Council on efforts to contact St. Stephen's fraternity in Perth Amboy; she has new contact that she is pursuing. The Council believes that the fraternity is no longer meeting, but has not been officially deactivated.
- Westchester: Sheila expressed her support for the idea of a JPIC representative for each Cluster, and thinks the trafficking/ super bowl project might attract young people from the parishes
- Manhattan: Julia informed the Council about a problem with Immaculata Concepcion fraternity. There seems to be a misunderstanding about paying the per capita and the concept of fraternity responsibility. The Spiritual Assistant is Fr. Mike Tyson. This fraternity meets on the 2nd and 4th Saturday mornings of the month. Schedule a visit and an election for 3-23-13.

- **Correspondence**

Request from CIOFS (see website) regarding the dire situation of the Church in Syria. *Text of letter appears at end of minutes.* Bro. Doug says he knows of two Cap. priests hiding in the mountains with other Christians; but there is no communication. Ron will send the letter to Anna for the circular and ask people to pray. Mention was also made of a talk that the Pope gave in old age home, which is on the Holy Angels website.

OLD ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION		
<i>Submitted By:</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Follow-up Action</i>
Ron & Diane	Visitation & Election Schedule	March 9 Porziuncula fraternity in East Hanover, election. Ron & Bro. Doug 10am April 12, Assumption frat Woodridge, Election Diane, Bro. Doug. 7:30pm March 6 or April 3? Mother of God election /May 1 or 5? visitation 11am time for visit; Julia will finalize dates

		<p>May 5 Korean Martyrs has requested visitation – Ron has conflict; Diane will email Veronica to choose alternate day</p> <p>May 5 or June 2? Immaculate Heart of Mary visitation Ron & Bro Doug 10am</p> <p>June 9 St. Anthony of Padua in Scotch Plains election Mary Frances will do this w/ the frat SA. 2pm (Diane will contact SA)</p> <p>Little Portion -- Rick Spana will get back to us with date</p> <p>Immaculata Concepcion March 23 visit& election. Julia will speak to Fr. Mike SA. (96th St. Holy Name Church 10am.)</p>
Ron & Diane	Evaluation of Chapter of Ministers	<p>Program was well-received; unfortunately no formal evaluation form. Expense (\$1,200) of this venue is a problem. Next time we may return to 96th St. (but parking there is a problem.)</p> <p>Budget approved with no issues.</p> <p>Questions about per capita in terms of who needs to be paid for. Fraternities need to notify Anna when people go on or off roster. Apostolic part still not in place.</p> <p>Remind Anna to put power points in newsletter to share with frats. (Also see website)</p>
Ron & Diane	Fraternities with issues	<p>St. Anthony, NYC Anna G. has reported that they have only 3 members and no longer meet. Ron will ask Anna & her husband to come to Council meet & we will discuss. The remaining member has been told that he can join another local fraternity</p> <p>St. Mary of the Assumption, Pompton Lakes. (Marcia’s fraternity). Confusing reports; need to make a visit.</p> <p>LaVerna, NYC The fraternity is “on hold”; Nancy is working with them to do formation.</p> <p>St. Francis, Hoboken & St. Francis, Jersey City. Schedule a time when they could come to Council meeting. Jersey City has no SA; but is a large frat.; Hoboken is very small. Bro. Doug reported that they are willing to merge. Other issue is bonding to OFM Conventual.</p> <p>St. John Vianney/St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Paterson. Conflicts with leadership styles, personalities, transportation? Need visitation. Identify the Spiritual Assistant.</p>
Ron & Diane	Training for Councils	<p>May 18 Workshop <u>Location:</u> Holy Angels, Little Falls, NJ St. Francis Hall, Chapel and 2 rooms in Rectory available. Note: Video set up is problematic.</p> <p><u>Topic</u> will cover collegial nature of councils; positions; leadership and visioning; communication among council members and between council and fraternity; stressing idea of consensus; servant leadership theme. Exposition on Constitutions; functions; collegiality.</p> <p><u>Agenda</u> (tentative) AM 10am opening prayer Presentation: Visioning, Constitutions, Video? PM Breakouts by function meet with REC members or panel? Time for sharing Large Group reconvene</p>

		<p><u>For discussion:</u> Models of authority Holy Name frat example Everyone has a voice, being peacemakers Conflict management, skills You are either part of the solution or part of the problem. Problems develop when Council becomes isolated from fraternity Inviting people to participate</p> <p><u>Council Functioning:</u> Ron has observed that some Councils do not put in the time that is needed; need separate Council meetings; retreats, planning meetings; time to do the visioning. Tendency to confuse leadership with management; the big picture is lost when there is too much “too do.” First imperative: invest in fraternity life; days of reflection are a good idea for all.</p> <p><u>Spiritual Assistant’s Role:</u> it is a spirituality of <i>accompaniment</i>; not spiritual director or advisor; not the ‘chaplain’ model. SAs are members of the Council.</p> <p>Bro. Doug described his role as “to hear, listen, mediate and encourage. ‘Job 1’ is spirituality. Every problem goes back to spirituality. When spirituality dries up, the pettiness grows. Bro.Doug would like to share this at the Council workshop.</p>
Ron & Diane	Emerging frat.at Felician College, Lodi	They have meetings scheduled thru June; the professed member who will handle formation is Dean of College of Education. Diane’s fraternity will sponsor and Diane will continue to attend meetings. Fr. Damien is SA.

NEW ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

<i>Submitted By:</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Discussion Information</i>
Ron & Diane	Formation/JPIC wksp	Review of March 2nd workshop planning; order of presentations.
Ron & Diane	Convivenza	April 27 at St. Francis in Hackensack Ron will call potential speaker
Ron & Diane	Nomination of OFM Friar as Regional spiritual assistant to work with Bro. Doug	<p>The Council agreed on the top two choices, which Ron will pursue: Fr. Michael Tyson—(96th St., NYC) SA to frat. long hist. w/OFS Fr. Julian Jagudilla—(Wood-Ridge) SA to Fairlawn Frat.?</p> <p><u>Other Suggested SAs:</u> Fr. Hugh McSherry—(Camden) Fr. Stephen DeWitt—(Paterson) Fr. Larry Anderson—(Pompton Lakes) Fr. Robert Gavin—(31st St., NYC) SA to Nancy’s frat. .</p>
Ron	NAFRA Youth/JPIC event	Ron will contact Dawn Rosinko (in Alex Kicek’s fraternity) and Celia(last name? in Dolores Jules fraternity) who have been nominated to serve as the Region’s Youth reps and attend this event.

- **Next Meeting** March 16 in Newark. (Note: No meeting in April)
- **Adjournment** The Council adjourned at 2:45 pm.

*Faithfully Submitted,
Kate Asselin, OFS 3-8-13*

CIOFS Letter RE: Syrian Humanitarian Relief

Rome, January 29, 2013

Dear brothers and sisters,

You are all aware of the terrible humanitarian situation that the Syrian population is experiencing in these months. Among them there are brothers and sisters of the Secular Franciscan Order particularly dear to us. The news coming from that area inform us of thousands of deaths, displaced people, refugees and exiles.

It is difficult to express a judgment in favor of one or the other party but it is certain that we firmly condemn the use of weapons to resolve any issue. On the contrary we support any initiative that might facilitate the dialogue among the parties, a dialogue that Syrians of good will, both religious of all faiths and lay, have suggested by appealing to Musalaha (reconciliation).

While waiting for this process to take place and for the weapons to be silenced, the humanitarian emergency for those populations continues. We need to urge you to be close to them both with prayer and with concrete help.

In order to facilitate this second aspect, we invite you to activate a fundraising campaign in the fraternities of your country, choosing two possible destinations. The first is to send your donations to the collection center of the International Red Cross, through the Italian Red Cross, which will send the donation to the Red Crescent Moon, its subsidiary operating in the Syrian territory. Please give notice of your donation to the CIOFS Secretariat.

Red Cross accounts details:

HOW TO DONATE:

-Donations by transfer to bank account:

IBAN: IT19 P010 0503 3820 0000 0200 208

Account name : "Croce Rossa Italiana, Via Toscana 12 - 00187 Roma"

Bank name: Banca Nazionale del Lavoro – Branch: Roma Bissolati

Treasury: Via San Nicola da Tolentino 67 – Roma

Indicate the reason: "Emergency Syrian population"

(For donations from abroad BIC / SWIFT: BNL I I TRR)
-Donations by postal account no. 300004
Account name : "Croce Rossa Italiana, Via Toscana 12-00187 Roma"
Indicate the reason: "Emergency Syrian population"
On-line donations:
Website : www.cri.it
Section: DONA on-line
Indicate the reason: "Emergency Syrian population"

As second destination, we propose to send donations to the Custody of the Holy Land to the Order of Friars Minor in Lebanon. They are hosting in their houses in Syria hundreds of refugees and / or displaced people, most of them Catholics, providing them with food, accommodation and financial support. These brothers in fact had to escape in great haste from the war zone, leaving everything behind, house, clothes, work, thus finding themselves in need of everything.

In this case the reference for the donation is:

Account name: CUSTODIE DE TERRE SAINTE

Adress: El-Mina-Tripoli-Mountazah Street.

Account number: 4 6 5 4 5 5 9 4 2 8 0 0 1

Currency: USD

Bank name: Byblos Bank S.A.L.

Swift Code: BYBALBBX

IBAN : LB72003900000004654559428001

*Correspondent bank: BANK OF NEW YORK - NY
LEBANON*

*When adding the reason for donations, we suggest to specify that it is an aid for the displaced people of Syria, indicating the name of Fr. Halim Noujaim as coordinator / receiver.
Please give notice of the donation to the CIOFS Secretariat .*

*Peace and all good, Attilio Galimberti
Coordinator Commission Presence in the
World
On behalf of all Commission members*

hta/3-8-13