

# Our Lady of the Angels Regional Fraternity Executive Council Meeting Minutes

July 13, 2013  
St. Francis of Assisi Church  
Hackensack, NJ

**Attending:** Nancy Conroy, Julia McCants, Diane Menditto, Fr. Mike, Ron Pihokker, Richard Spana, Kate Asselin, Andy Klutkowski, Mary Frances Reavey

**Excused:** Sheila Tuohy, Bro. Doug, Jean Haddad

- **Prayer**

Ron and Fr. Mike read from this morning's prayer in the Franciscan Praise book. Prayers were offered for Sheila's health; Tom Brown's continuing recovery; Patty and others who are unemployed or in need of work; for other friends and family in need; and in thanksgiving for the safe delivery of Ron's grandchild, Natalie.

- **Communication of Life**

Ron showed photos of Natalie; Rick mentioned his wife is also recovering from a health issue; Diane's new, fab bathroom is done; Mary Frances also mentioned that her daughter in law's sister is recovering from a health problem; Kate mentioned Morgan Library/Museum Fri. night free live classical music in café and current exhibit on the Eucharist in Medieval Art, through September.

- **Approval of Minutes**

Dawn Rusinko and Celia Laurenco are the new Youth coordinators/representatives for our Region. One of them should be attending REC meetings and we should get a report on the recent "Confab" at our Regional Retreat. Diane made a motion to approve the minutes; Rick seconded. The minutes of June 15, 2013 were approved with no changes.

- **Spiritual Assistant's Remarks** Fr. Mike commented on this morning's reading and the doctrine of salvation and justification. We do good works *because* we are saved; we are motivated to do these works out of thanks giving for God's gifts. Reference the letter of James. <sup>14</sup>What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him?<sup>15</sup>If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, <sup>16</sup>and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? <sup>17</sup>So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

- **Fraternity Update**

- **Korean Martyrs:** Ron, Diane and Fr. Michael visited Korean Martyrs fraternity in Manhattan last Sun. 7-7-13. The fraternity has more than 150 members and they utilize small sub-groups, similar to the small Christian community parish model. They continue to work on translating the FUN manual; the fraternity is very pro-active. John Kim travels to Chicago and Philadelphia to do training; they demonstrate active concern for other Korean fraternities and people in need.

- Immaculada Concepcione: Fr. Mike is the Spiritual Assistant. IC is the only Spanish - speaking fraternity in our Region. There are 10 professed members. The REC has tried unsuccessfully to schedule a Visitation. Fr. Mike is recommending that the fraternity should be suppressed.

There was a discussion of the problems of long-standing. The minister has served for 15 or 20 years. No one seems willing/able to take the minister's place, even if she was willing to step down. Members are scattered all over, and most do not attend meetings. It has not been possible to resolve or correct these problems.

The Council agreed to send letter of warning. Ron will write letter, Diane will translate; the letter will be faxed to Fr. Mike. The letter will announce a forced visitation and election July 27<sup>th</sup> with terms. If the stated terms are not met or if there is no response, the frat will be suppressed. Based on outcome of the July 27<sup>th</sup> visitation, the Council will vote action at its next meeting at the Regional Retreat.

- **Treasurer's Report**

Richard reviewed the current month report as well as the end of year comparison (2011—2012) report. The Region's finances are on solid ground. Mary Frances made a motion to approve the report, Andy seconded it and the Treasurer's report was approved with no changes.

Update on paid per capita from these fraternities: St. John Vianny, St. Conrad in Hoboken and Mother Seton in New York. St. Elizabeth /St. Louis in New York has *not* paid. (This is the Capuchin-sponsored fraternity at St. John's. Louis O'Keefe is the minister). Julia will follow up.

- **Regional Retreat**

There are now 70 people signed up. (Still 20 + seats open.) Fr. Gene will also speak about Muslim-Christian dialog in the context of his larger theme of rebuilding the church. Ron will prepare a retreat schedule for Fr. Gene. Diane will send out and email reminder to the region.

- **Formation Director's Report**

Nancy asked about the planned breakout groups for candidates attending the Retreat. She requested some time to prepare dialog questions, with more information from Fr. Gene on the topic. She reported that the following members of the Region Formation Team are confirmed: Pat Clayton (Manhattan); Paul Delena (Central Jersey); Ed Wojciehowski (Northern NJ) Nancy Boroughs-Evans and Ray O'Connell (NYC). She will get in touch with Tom Shering (Weschester).

- **Correspondence**

Kent Ferris has notified us that this year's national JPIC award went to Dr. Margie Sweeney, Founder of Helping Hands Healing Ministries Inc. (Diane will forward email.) Diane passed on the gratitude from the pastor of St. Francis Hackensack, for the Region's \$250 contribution toward the church renovation. We are grateful that he allows the REC to meet at St. Francis at no cost.

- **JPIC Report**

In Jean's absence, Kate reported on the Amistad Movement USCCB meeting held at St. Mary's Church in Newark 6-22-13 (see website). This was primarily training for peer-to-peer counselors from the trafficked/immigrant communities. Additional information from the USCCB Immigration Commission was promised but not yet delivered.

The New Jersey Coalition Against Human Trafficking (NJCAHT) is coordinating the effort to work with area hotels and the local hospitality industry to combat sex and labor exploitation at the 2014 Super Bowl. (See website).

A coalition of women religious in this area, including the Sisters of Charity, SMICs, and Caldwell Dominicans will provide housing for trafficking victims.

Human trafficking speaker Sr. Katie will present a program at St. Mary's Hall in Mt. Vernon September 7<sup>th</sup>. Diane will advertise this event to the Region. Jean may have additional information on opportunities for us to participate in this movement such as working with the hotels and a prayer event in January.

- **Report from Area Councilors**

- Manhattan Julia reported on the long-standing problem with St. Thomas Moore fraternity. Minister Ray Berger is incapacitated and Vice Minister Jim Bruck resigned due to family and health issues, so the fraternity is in limbo. There is also a problematic couple in the fraternity who act as agitators. There was no resolution, but the suggestion was made that married couples be prohibited from serving on Council. Pros and cons were discussed. We are considering raise at the national visitation in November.
- North Jersey Andy thanked Diane for presiding at his fraternity's election; Ed Wojciehowski is the new Minister. They are losing Fr. Mike Jones and looking for a new Spiritual Assistant, perhaps the new pastor.

<b>OLD ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION</b>		
<i>Submitted By:</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Follow-up Action</i>
Ron & Diane	<b>Schedule of visitations and elections</b>	<p><b>Mother of God Fraternity Visitation 9-4 4pm Ron &amp; Fr. Mike</b> 128 West 37<sup>th</sup> St., Manhattan Holy Innocents Church. SA/Dcn. Robert Campbell will not be there. Fr. Mike will speak to him via phone at later date.</p> <p><b>Little Portion Visitation 11-2 9am Ron and Fr. Mike</b> St. Mary's Church S. High St., Mt. Vernon</p> <p><b>St. Anthony Padua Election 7-14 Mary Frances</b> Scotch Plains</p> <p><b>St. Mary's Ron will contact &amp; Visit</b> Pompton Lakes</p> <p><b>Immaculate Heart of Mary 11-3 Visitation.</b> Diane has not heard from</p>

		<p>Minister. Will follow up.</p> <p>Portziuncula, Council voted to send warning letter. Minister Dorothy Zoppi will be at the Regional Retreat. East Hanover</p>
Ron, Fr. Mike, Diane	Imaculada Concepcion Frat.	See above
Ron	Annual Report to NAFRA	Ron is putting this together.
Ron & Diane	<b>Training for Councils/Leadership Workshop Sep't. 21, 2013</b>	<p>Program: Leadership vision and skills in the am; applied to trafficking issue in pm. If this doesn't work out, then meet with council members and work on "how to" in pm.</p> <p>Need tools to give people, not just talk. Ron will send draft of agenda around to Council to be discussed at retreat meeting.</p>
Ron & Diane	<b>Fraternity updates</b>	<p>St. Anthony, NYC (low numbers)? LaVerna, NYC Nancy &amp; Luke are meeting with candidates, profession planned for Oct. Larry needs to make a decision about commitment. Looking for people to join La Verna (instead of Benedict the Moore fraternity, which is growing too large).</p> <p>St. Francis, Hoboken &amp; St. Francis, Jersey City -- Andy will contact St. Bonaventure Paterson sponsoring Feast of St. Clare program, Sat. Aug. 10th 7pm? Diane is presiding; Ron may be speaking? Or Sr. Janice or? Joe Wilson to speak with the friars and get back to Ron.</p>
Ron & Diane	<b>Retreat</b> Aug 2-4, 2013	<p>See above Fr. Rock will not be there; Rick will get new contact person.</p>
Ron & Diane	emerging frat.at Felician College, Lodi	<p>Diane will stick with it; check in September. Ron's concern is stable meeting date. Diane's concern is Felician is becoming very secularized. Fr. Damian (SA) campus chaplain, may leave. Sisters dismissed, not allowed on campus?</p>

## NEW ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

<i>Submitted By:</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Discussion Information</i>
Ron & Diane	<b>National Visitation Nov. 15 &amp; 16 2013</b>	<p>Fr. Mathias Wesnofske will be the visitor. Diane will find out if the Minister's meeting could be at St. Francis in Hackensack; Kate check Holy Angels for Hall and Church. If this is available, check area hotels for visitors and meeting with Council. (Hampton Inn on 46? Need 2 rooms &amp; meeting room.)</p>

- **Last Round**
  - Nov. 12 is the anniversary of the establishment of Our Lady of the Angels Region
- **Next Meeting** Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Region Retreat
- **Adjournment** The meeting concluded at 2pm.

*Faithfully Submitted,  
Kate Asselin, OFS  
July 18, 2013*