

Dear Sisters and Brothers in St. Francis,

The Christmas decorations are put away and we are well into living (or forgetting about) what we have resolved to do in the New Year. My fervent hope is that whatever we have resolved to improve upon in our Franciscan lives will never be forgotten or put aside.

I wanted to touch base with all of you about a few things that will be coming up.

Your ministers have just received a request from the Region Council for three items:

1. Statistics report with roster corrections and Fair Share contribution  
*Please help your Minister comply with this request by providing your correct contact information, especially if you have had a change of address or phone number.*
2. Minister's report telling us about your fraternity's activities and formation
3. The Demographic Survey required by the International Fraternity  
*Your ministers will be asking you to fill out this survey. Please do so. The surveys are to be submitted anonymously. The National Fraternity requires us to do this survey because the International Fraternity requests it. If there is a question you would prefer not to answer, leave it blank, but please turn in the survey!*

Here are some dates to mark on your calendars:

January 24th: North Jersey Cluster meeting from 10 AM to 1 PM to be held at St. Bonaventure Church in Paterson, NJ. Please let your minister know if you will be attending so that he/she can give a number to Ron Pihokker for the count.

July 31-August 2: Region Retreat at Mt. Alvernia in Wappingers Falls, NY. Our speaker for the weekend will be Fr. Tom Hartle, OFM. Your ministers have a flyer with some details. Ask to see it!

The Manhattan Cluster had its quarterly meeting this past Saturday. From what I was told, it was a success. We are hoping that all the Clusters will be getting together this year to make some plans for the future. When a Cluster meeting is announced, please make an effort to attend and participate.

The Troubadour: If you would like to contribute an article to the Troubadour (our region newsletter), the deadline is the 15th of the month prior to publication for the monthly e-Troubadour. There will also be two print editions this year. Please send articles to our editor, Anna Geraci ([ACPG@aol.com](mailto:ACPG@aol.com)).

Don't forget our region website: <http://ourladyoftheangelsregion.org/>  
and our region Facebook page (as of this evening we have 1,999 LIKES for our page!):  
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Our-Lady-of-the-Angels-Region-Secular-Franciscan-Order/257320867672618>

In our lives as Franciscans, community is the centerpiece. Part of that community life is communication. I will be communicating with your ministers and with you often. Please be generous and share this email and any other material you receive via email with your fraternity members who don't have access to a computer.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you as I travel around the region. In the meantime, please feel free to contact me or any council member with your questions or concerns. We are here to serve you.

Many blessings to you!

Diane

*Diane F. Menditto, OFS  
Minister, Our Lady of the Angels Region*

January 18, 2015