



OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS REGIONAL FRATERNITY SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

Dear Fraternity Minister,

With this letter I am convoking the annual Regional Chapter of Ministers meeting to be held on November 14th, 2009. It is the serious responsibility of every fraternity minister to be present or to send a delegate to the Chapter meeting in his or her place. The Chapter of Ministers is the meeting of the full Regional Council of our Regional Fraternity—the highest governmental body of our Regional Fraternity.

Article 63 of the General Constitutions of the SFO defines the Regional Chapter in the following way. *“The regional chapter is the representative organ of all the fraternities existing within the confines of a regional fraternity, with elective and deliberative power.”* This is the Regional Council which is constituted by all of the local fraternity ministers within our Regional Fraternity together with the members of the Regional Executive Council.

As the elected local minister of your fraternity, one of your most serious responsibilities to the Order is to represent your local fraternity at this annual meeting and in this way participate in the governance of the Regional Fraternity.

This year, we are planning something very different for our meeting. Instead of meeting in the facilities of a parish church in New York City as has been done in the past, the Executive Council has decided to host our meeting at the **St. Lawrence Retreat Center in Beacon, New York**. This is the same facility that was used recently for our Formation Candidates' Retreat Weekend. We found the facilities excellent and conducive to a working meeting of the Regional Ministers and it is easily reached by car or by mass transit (Metro North). The building is fully handicap accessible. There will be no cost to the ministers or delegates attending and lunch will be included at no cost to you. The local fraternity should reimburse the local minister or delegate for any expense involved for transportation to and from this meeting.

Last November, the General Chapter of our Order was held in Dobogókő, Hungary. The outcomes of that Chapter are meant to set the tone and direction of the Order world-wide for the next six years. Our agenda at our Region meeting will review the themes and priorities which came out of the General Chapter and seek to determine their application to our Regional Fraternity. This is very exciting! In order to assist us in this task, Fr. Richard Trezza, OFM, our Regional Spiritual Assistant, will give a presentation of the General Chapter themes of “Belonging to the SFO” and the “Meaning of Profession.” There will be time for dialogue with your fellow fraternity ministers and Regional leadership, setting the future direction of our Region, and of course, we will also engage in the important business items before the Chapter including the Regional Budget.

In order to prepare yourself for the discussion, I ask that you please review the enclosed documents :

- the “Conclusions of the XII General Chapter of the SFO” which articulate the priorities of the SFO for the next six years.
- the proposed agenda/schedule of the day.
- Also included are directions to reach the St. Lawrence Retreat Center by car and by train.

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If you have any items which you would like to propose for the agenda, please send them to me to be in my hands no later than November 1st. My e-mail address is pihokkro@rcan.org or you can send any items you may have by regular postal service to:

Ronald L. Pihokker, SFO
Regional Minister
377 Rutherford Blvd.
Clifton, NJ 07014-1220

Please be sure to complete the enclosed form indicating either your attendance or naming a delegate to represent your fraternity. A delegate should be a member of your local fraternity council, but if this is not possible, then they must, at least, be a permanently professed member.

Every fraternity must be represented at this important meeting.

Any member of the SFO is welcome to attend this meeting as an observer. You must indicate the name of any observer who plans to attend on the form and include \$30.00 per person for any observer to cover the cost of their attendance. Again, there is no cost to you as the minister or your delegate as the Region will cover this expense for one person from each fraternity. It is necessary to have the names of all persons attending so we will have a proper count for lunch and refreshments for the Retreat House.

I look forward to seeing you on November 14th at St. Lawrence Retreat Center in Beacon, NY. Please pray for the success of our Chapter.

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald L. Pihokker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "P".

Ronald L. Pihokker, SFO
Regional Minister