



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

February 3, 2009

Dear Sisters and Brothers in St. Francis,

May the Lord Give you His Peace!

I greet you in the name of your Regional Executive Council and extend to you our best wishes in this quickly fleeting New Year—January has come and gone and the chill of winter snows are upon us. We hope that the warmth of Franciscan fellowship will serve to warm your hearts.

Enclosed with this mailing you will find several forms that require your attention as leaders in your fraternity. Your assistance in quickly completing and returning these forms will help us with carrying out our responsibility in your name both in reporting our number of members accurately and in paying our Regional portion of our per capita responsibility to the support of the National and International fraternities and also in updating our records and our database. As suggested by our Regional Chapter of Ministers, we are looking into utilizing e-mail as a means of delivering our regional newsletter, *The Troubadour*, to our members who have e-mail accounts. This will reduce our printing and postage costs significantly.

Each year, the annual per capita or “fair share” assessment of each fraternity to the Regional fraternity is due on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Some fraternities have already sent in their annual payment. If you have, we are most grateful for your support and cooperation. If you have not yet sent in your per capita for 2009, please enclose a check for **\$30.00 per professed member** from your fraternity along with the completed forms. This amount was approved by vote taken at our Regional Chapter of Ministers and is based upon the budget of the Regional fraternity which was also approved at that meeting. You are reminded that the responsibility for the support of the higher fraternities is a requirement of our Rule:

25.Regarding expenses necessary for the life of the fraternity and the needs of worship, of the apostolate, and of charity, all the brothers and sisters should offer a contribution according to their means. Local fraternities should contribute toward the expenses of the higher fraternity councils.

Please note that the responsibility falls upon the fraternity as a whole—we do not have “membership dues” and no specific “tax” or required payment may be levied against individual members. The Rule says clearly that members “offer a contribution according to their means,” that is, a free will offering according to one’s conscience and ability is made to the fraternity’s common fund. We are all called to contribute to the needs of the fraternity in a spirit of generosity as we are able. Those who are able give more in order to assist those who can give less. However, the per capita contribution to the Regional fraternity, although calculated based upon the number of individual members, is the communal responsibility of the entire fraternity as a whole and is paid from the common fund of the

fraternity. Please follow the directions for returning the completed forms and check as indicated in the enclosed letter from our Regional Treasurer, Richard Spana, SFO.

Also enclosed is a short survey concerning the practice of formation in your fraternity requested by our new Regional Formation Director, Virginia Chin, SFO. Please ask your fraternity formation director to complete it and enclose it with the other completed forms. This information will be very helpful to Virginia as she tries to assess our Regional fraternity's formation needs and makes plans for the future in addressing them.

I would also take this opportunity to inform you of the annual "Convivenza"—our Regional Chapter of Mats, which this year will take place on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at St. Bonaventure Church in Paterson, New Jersey. Every Secular Franciscan of Our Lady of the Angels Regional Fraternity is cordially invited to participate and is urged to attend. Come and meet your sisters and brothers at this annual Franciscan "family reunion." More details will follow but please reserve this date on your calendars and plan now to participate.

Thank you once again, for your fraternal cooperation and for your fidelity in striving to live the Gospel in the manner of our Holy Father, St. Francis.

Please pray for your Regional Executive Council and please be assured of our prayers and our fraternal affection for you.

Fraternally and gratefully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ronald L. Pihokker".

Ronald L. Pihokker, SFO  
Regional Minister