

Communio

That All May Be One

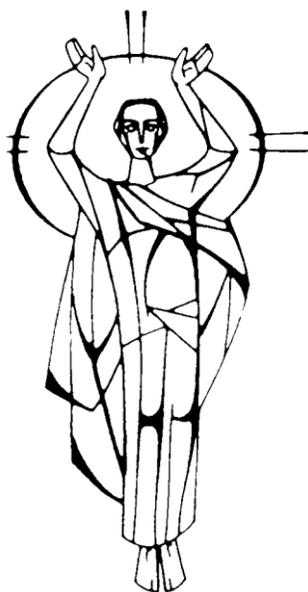
Newsletter of the
Brothers and Sister of St. Francis Region
Secular Franciscan Order
Spring 2005

Minister's message

By Judy Haupt, SFO
BSSF Region minister

Rejoice and be glad for he is risen!!!

It is hard to believe that six months have passed since our Annual Regional Gathering in Charlotte. My



special thanks to our dear sister, Audrey Binet, our preceding minister. She has helped make the transition so much easier.

This is an update on the many things that have been happening.

I attended the National Gathering of

NAFRA (National Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order) for five days in Michigan in October. It was a wonderful experience spending time with so many friendly Franciscans in this country.

This year we had the pastoral and fraternal visitation. Encarnación del Pozo, SFO, our minister general, was our fraternal

visitor; and Fr. Michael Higgins, TOR, the international general spiritual assistant and vicar general in his order, was the pastoral visitor. I wish all of you could have been there. Encarnación is the perfect example of a Secular. She is warm, compassionate, witty, and pragmatic when called for. Her ability to lead our order was obvious to all. Fr. Michael was impressive.

Skyler Harvey, our secretary, and I worked with the Wyndham to set up our next ARG. It will be held Aug. 19–21 (no dates available in September). **Please mark the date.** The Wyndham has not increased the price in the past three years but unfortunately must charge more starting in 2005. Details will follow.

Fran Trecartin, our regional treasurer, and I visited Crucified Christ Fraternity in North Charleston, S.C., to preside at its election. Our thanks to Mike Coleman for his service for the past six years as minister. Please welcome Diane Curran, newly elected minister, and the new council members.

Our first Executive Council-Commissions Gathering (EC-CG) was held Jan. 21–22 in Charlotte, N.C. Next EC-CG is scheduled for April 22–23, then June 17–18.

The request for the Annual Report, sent late in January with response requested by March 30, included the request for fair

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share donation of \$35 per professed member.

Audrey presided at the first election at the newly established Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Fraternity in Hilton Head, S.C. We welcome DorothyAnn Rowland, who was elected minister, and the new council. Special thanks to Kay Sutcliffe, who has led that fraternity in its journey for the past seven years.

Glenn Berns, Area One councilor, presided at the election at Channel of Peace Fraternity in Chattanooga, Tenn. Faye Martin was re-elected to her second term as minister. Thanks to Faye and the members of the council, who are willing to serve.

The new roster was released in February. Hope everyone has a copy.

Check out the BSSF Web site developed by Betti Longinotti, our multitalented Youth/Young Adult Commissioner:
http://community-2.webtv.net/BSSF_SFO/BrothersandSisters/

Father Linus De Santis, our regional spiritual assistant, and I visited St. Stanislaus Fraternity in Wilmington, N.C., for a pastoral and fraternal visitation. We were warmly greeted and well fed by the gracious and generous members of the fraternity family. Thanks for your Franciscan hospitality.

We are currently working on the annual report due to NAFRA (National Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order). They increased their fair-share request from \$7 to \$10 per professed member this year.

Please let me know what your needs are and share your ideas.

I look forward with great joy as we help each other grow in our Franciscan journey.

Pax et bonum!

Judy

Bambi Girouard, SFO, St. Clare of Assisi Newly Forming Group, Aiken, S.C., made her perpetual profession March 5, this NFG's first profession.



Retreat center opens

By Judy Haupt, SFO
 BSSF Region minister

Fr. Louis Canino's dream of has become a reality: St. Francis Springs Prayer Center is open.

A nonprofit, interfaith retreat center that all denominations are welcome to use for spiritual formation, the center is located at 477 Grogan Road, Stoneville, N.C., north of Greensboro.

Fr. Louis, OFM; Fr. John Frambes, OFM; and Ann Bauer, staff the center.

"The mission of St. Francis Springs Prayer Center, a community inspired by the peace witness of St. Francis and St. Clare, is to promote spirituality through contemplative prayer and action," the mission statement explains. "We seek to offer a comfortable, peaceful environment where one can experience the beauty of nature, the sanctity of silence, and the joy of Franciscan hospitality. Daily morning and evening prayer and celebration of the Eucharist are available to enhance your spiritual formation."

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Secular Franciscan fraternities have already used the center for retreats: Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, Hilton Head Island, S.C.; and Padre Pio, Raleigh, N.C., March 4–6, and Franciscan Family of Greensboro the following weekend.

Contact the center by e-mail at fransprings@aol.com or by phone at 336-573-3751. ☀

Work Commission chair sought

By Jennye Taylor Johnson, SFO
BSSF Region commissions coordinator

You could be the next Regional Work Commission (RWC) chair of the Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region. We're looking for a volunteer.

Our BSSF Regional Guidelines state: "The Regional Work Commission has for its purpose to spread the gospel and witness to Jesus Christ through concrete evangelical actions regarding attitudes toward work. Human labor is a blessing both received and bestowed. By working, a person shares in the creative power of the Father, renews the face of the earth along with the Son and brings the love of the Holy Spirit to the human community."

The RWC chair's responsibilities include:

- a. promoting the apostolic expression of work in accordance with the Rule, Chapter #2:16;
- b. developing and promoting a coordinated vision and guidelines for work issues;
- c. coordinating RWC activities;
- d. reporting the commission's activities to the commissions coordinator periodically;
- e. calling forth the passion of the local commission members so that they can develop, embrace and enhance the spirituality of their commissions;
- f. giving encouragement, guidance, and information to the local fraternities

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and groups to enhance the life and spirit of the RWC;

- g. promoting work programs in local fraternities and groups.

To help the RWC chair, there is a work commission manual, plus assistance from the National Work Commission and the regional commissions coordinator.

If you feel called to serve the region as its work commission chair, please contact Judy Haupt (843-689-9045 or jahaupt@yahoo.com), regional minister; or, Jennye Taylor Johnson (704-319-5343 or JennyeSFO@msn.com), regional commissions coordinator. ☀

Prayer requests

A suggestion has been made that Communio include prayer requests.

It's one thing, though, to send an e-mail or call on the phone, but seeing their concerns published, even in a newsletter, can be daunting for some.

Starting with the summer issue, Communio will include prayer requests submitted by the actual individuals concerned, to ensure that they are willing to have their requests published. Also, to ensure that they are not out of date by the time they're published, requests should be submitted June 17–June 24 for the summer issue, which will be published June 30.

Prayer requests can be submitted to me by e-mail at jnell@dnet.net; postal mail to 124 Pleasant Hill Road, Clyde, N.C. 28721-9699; or by phone at 828-627-9209. If submitting by postal mail, please include a phone number where I can reach you if I need clarification on anything submitted.

Joanita M. Nellenbach, SFO
Editor



Priest/doctor serves tsunami, quake victims

In the wake of the Dec. 26, 2004, tsunami that devastated Banda Aceh, Indonesia, the Camillian Task Force (CTF) under the leadership of Fr. Scott Francis Binet has been serving victims' pastoral and medical needs.

Fr. Scott, son of Audrey Binet, Area Three councilor, arrived in the disaster area in January and immediately started to integrate into the ongoing relief efforts of the Archdiocese of Medan. Fr. Scott was a family physician for 10 years before being ordained last November in the Order of St. Camillus, which focuses on healthcare.

Since early February, he has been the director of a newly formed medical clinic located at the only Catholic Church in Banda Aceh. The clinic now serves an average of 200 patients per day and is the base for humanitarian and medical relief teams that serve displaced persons living in camps.

Nature has been pounding the area again; this time it's an earthquake. Audrey says she's "much relieved" by a message from her son: "Peace. I am OK. The

earthquake was quite big, but we suffered no significant damages or casualties where I am in Banda Aceh."

Go www.CTFmercy.org for more CTF info. ☼

Fraternity gathers for Passover Christian Seder

By Jennye Taylor Johnson, SFO, minister
St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity

The brothers and sisters of the St. Maximilian Kolbe (SMK) Fraternity, in Charlotte, N.C., celebrated Passover with a Christian Seder on March 12.

The "Catholic Update" states that, "Passover is the Jewish roots of our Christian Eucharist. The Passover Seder and the Christian Eucharist touch at four points: both celebrate an exodus, both are ritual meals, both are memorial celebrations, and both signify hope and the strengthening of the community."

Each of the 24 SFOs and guests used a Haggadah, a book containing the Exodus story and the Seder ritual.

Melody Land, friend of the SMK Fraternity, narrated, announcing and explaining the Seder's various segments. She chanted some of the responses in Hebrew, following our English responses, and she led us in the lively "Dyanu," a song meaning "that would have been enough," referring to the plagues.

Fr. Jude Duffy, OFM Cap., fraternity spiritual assistant, took the role of the father; Janice Rucker, SFO, was the mother.

Typically, the youngest child present asks the four questions during the Seder. For our Seder, candidates Kathleen Zuckerman and Marie Cordero asked the questions: (1) On all other nights we eat either leavened or unleavened bread. Why on this night only matzo? (2) On all other nights we eat herbs of any kind. Why on this night only bitter herbs? (3) Why do we dip the herbs twice tonight? (4) Why do we recline at the table?

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Following the Seder ritual, everyone shared a Passover meal of lamb, couscous, tabooli, olives, salad, olive bread, and cake.

As we finished the fourth ceremonial glass of wine, the Seder concluded as each of us lighted a taper from the menorah while Fr. Jude read John 12:27-35, where Jesus speaks of his death.

For the final blessing, he recited words by Rabbi Joseph Tov Elem of the 11th century: "The rites of the seder are now concluded in accordance with ancient precept and custom. With the same zeal that we have prepared for this day, may we plan and live our daily lives."

Everyone left quietly with reverence, lighted candles in their hands and the light of Christ in their hearts. ☼

Fraternity spiritual assistant gets new assignment

By Paula Zanker, SFO

Fr. Terence Pescatore, OFM Conv., spiritual assistant to Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Fraternity, Burlington, N.C., has relocated to New Jersey.

Fr. Terry's recent health concerns made the prospect of moving closer to home and family a bit more attractive to him so, right after Easter, he moved to Our Lady of Perpetual Help parish in Seaside Heights, N.J., which is very close to many, many nieces and nephews and his two sisters, both of whom are in their 90s.

Fr. Terry's "career" as spiritual assistant goes back many years. His service has encompassed not only local fraternities throughout Immaculate Conception Province but also a stint as provincial spiritual assistant as well as international conventual spiritual assistant to the SFO in Rome.

Our fraternity in Burlington has been truly blessed to have had Fr. Terry's

guidance these past nine years. We will dearly miss him, but seeing the joy on his face as he went about preparing to leave made it obvious that this was the right thing for him to do.

In honor of Fr. Terry's years of dedication to the local, regional, and international Secular Franciscan Order, a scholarship fund has been set up for anyone in our region who might be interested in pursuing the coursework to become a local spiritual assistant. Through May 31, anyone wishing to contribute to the "Friar Terence Pescatore, OFM Conv., Life-Giving Union Scholarship" can send donations to our regional minister, Judy Haupt, SFO, 12 Angler's Pond Court, Hilton Head Island, S.C., 29926. Starting June 1, send contributions to our regional treasurer, Fran Trecartin, SFO, 8 Hickory Knoll, Hilton Head, S.C. 29926.

Fr. Terry's new address is Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 100 Grant Ave., Seaside Heights, N.J. 08751. ☼



Fraternity highlights

Father Solanus Casey Fraternity, Morehead City, N.C., held a chili and bread supper following a Lenten service. Some 80–85 people attended the supper.

St. Clare of Assisi Newly Forming Group, Aiken, S.C., attended the March for Life and Rally in Columbia, S.C., in January. In February, the NFG attended a one-day retreat in Anderson, S.C., along with church groups from Anderson and Greenville. Fr. Joseph Norris, SFO, spoke on the seven sorrows of Mary and how they relate to people in their own lives.

As part of its ongoing formation during the Year of the Eucharist, **St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity, Hendersonville, N.C.**, is learning more about Eucharist through *Eucharist: Jesus With Us*, a 12-month series written by Fr. Thomas Richstatter, OFM, which it has ordered from St. Anthony Messenger Press. Issues are distributed to members at fraternity meetings each month through February 2006. Topics: “Toward the Mystery,” “The First and Greatest Sacrament,” “The Community Gathers,” “Do This in Memory of Me,” “The Lord’s Supper,” “Our Greatest and Best Prayer,” “Communion With the Lord and the Church,” “Source and Summit of Catholic Life,” “The Sacrifice of Good Friday,” “Presence of the Risen Lord,” “A Short History,” and “Beyond the Mass.”

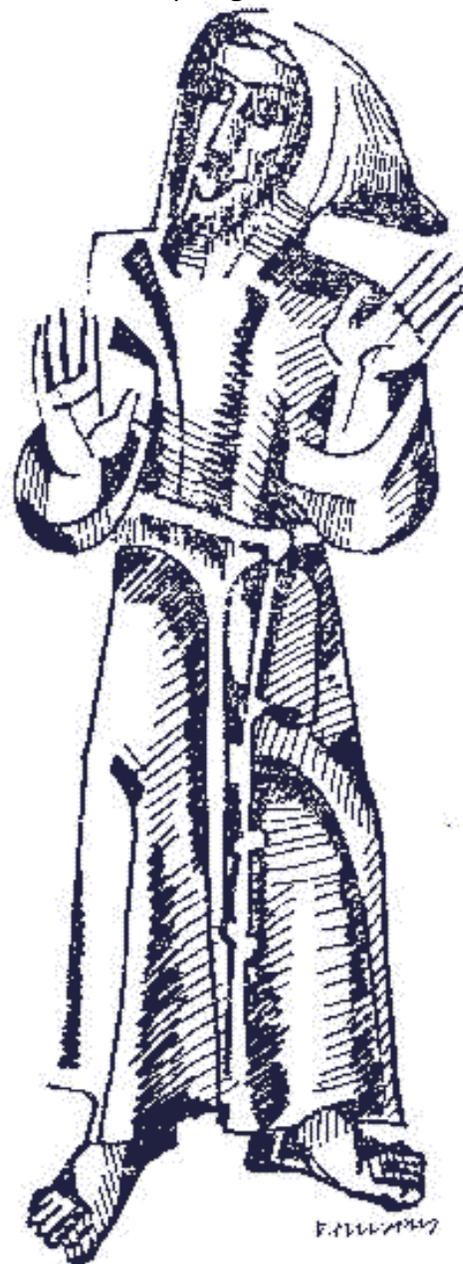
Prayer

God, take from me everything that hinders me from reaching you.

God, give me everything that supports me in reaching you.

God, strip me of myself and hand me over completely to you.

Nicholas of Flue (1417-1487)
Swiss hermit and peacemaker



Topics and news briefs

By Judy Haupt, SFO

Regional minister

Franciscan spirituality

As devout Catholics, we pray in many ways and practice many devotions. What sets us apart (but not necessarily better) is our Franciscan spirituality.

But what is Franciscan spirituality? How is it defined?

As Secular Franciscans we are focusing

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on four pillars of our Franciscan way of life: spirituality, formation, fraternity, and apostolate.

At our last annual gathering, Father Linus instructed and inspired us with words on Franciscan spirituality. CD's were prepared for us to keep that memory alive.

When you gather as a fraternity family, be sure to study, discuss, and discover ways to live your Franciscan spirituality.

The Spirituality of St. Francis of Assisi

During his lifetime, thousands of men and women, cleric and lay, chose to follow the way of St. Francis. The influence of St. Francis on the people of his own day and on the people of every century since is immeasurable. What is it about St. Francis that millions have found so inviting, so inspiring? What are the elements of Francis' spirituality?

By coming to understand the spirituality of St. Francis, we make available to ourselves a rich source of spiritual guidance and nourishment. The following are 12 elements of Franciscan spirituality:

1. **Incarnation** — Can people tell by my words and actions that I am a follower of Christ? Name some concrete ways that I can imitate Christ in my daily life.
2. **Love of the Eucharist** — In what ways has the Eucharist transformed my life?
3. **Love of Scripture** — When was the last time I was challenged by words of scripture? Describe that experience.
4. **Reliance upon the Holy Spirit** — In what ways has the Holy Spirit guided me in the past? Describe the situation.
5. **Devotion To The Mother Of God** — How does she serve as a model for my own pilgrimage of faith?
6. **Dedication To Prayer** — In what ways does your personal prayer life impact the community?
7. **The communal life** — What

attitude(s) or disposition(s) could I embrace to improve the quality of life in my community?

8. **Poverty and simplicity** — What can I do to simplify my life?
9. **Humility** — Name some concrete ways that I can practice the virtue of humility in my daily life.
10. **A Joyful Spirit** — How do I communicate the joy of God to my community?
11. **Peacemaking** — In what ways do I practice peacemaking?
12. **Solidarity With All Creation** — In what ways do I practice conservation of the earth's resources?

News from NAFRA

Fraternal and pastoral visit
National Fraternity of the Secular
Franciscan Order in the United
States—Oct. 19–24, 2004

Excerpts from opening comments by Fr. Michael Higgins, TOR:

At the beginning of this fraternal and pastoral visit to the National Fraternity Council of the United States, I would like to focus on two main areas. First, it is important that we review the relevant sections of the *General Constitutions of the Secular Franciscan Order* that deal with visitations. Second, I would like to share some of my own observations about the state of the Secular Franciscan Order with you.

I. The General Constitutions of the Secular Franciscan Order

Before we read the *Constitutions* — which, I am sure that you all know by heart — I want to encourage you all to read the text frequently, become familiar with it, and learn to love it. As you will see as we read through the articles dealing with fraternal and pastoral visits, the articles in the *Constitutions* are quite beautiful and spiritual in nature. The document is not a dry list of dos and don'ts; it contains thoughtful and deep reflection on your life

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as secular Franciscans. With this in mind, let us turn to what the text tells us about visitations.

Articles 92 through 95 in the *Constitutions* present a wonderful overview of what we are trying to accomplish this week. As we read these articles I invite you to pay attention to the spirit of the text; pay attention to the verbs, the actions that we are being challenged to embrace as brothers and sisters....

II. Some Personal Observations

I have had the pleasure of working with the Secular Franciscan Order on the international level for the past three years. During this time there are three areas that I have come to see as being very important for the life of the Secular Franciscan Order.

- a. Autonomy of the Secular Franciscan Order — The Rule of 1978, often referred to as the *new* rule or the Pauline Rule, and the resulting constitutions and statutes, all testify to the reality that the Secular Franciscan Order is an order in its own right. The Rule is very clear on this
- b. Increased focus and reliance on collaborative ministry between the friar obediences...
- c. We have only just begun — The Secular Franciscan Order is an old order and a new order. It is ancient in its connection with the penitential movements that were present in the early 13th century and by its tie to St. Francis and the Franciscan movement. It is new in that its identity is being shaped and concretized in new ways since the time of the Rule of 1978. As a matter of fact, you have the third minister general of the order here — what a wonderful sign of the maturity and strength of the order.

But, it is only beginning. It is in your hands and in the hands of Secular Franciscans throughout the world to

cultivate it, shape it, and love it into an instrument of God’s love and presence in the world.

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Change to statutes to allow member to serve at both local and regional level

Re: Amendments to National Statutes of SFO — USA

With reference to your proposed changes to Article 11.4, Article 13.3 and Article 28 of your National Statutes, we would like to inform you that the CIOFS (International Council of the Secular Franciscan Order) presidency has approved the amendments to the National Statutes of the United States, which read as follows:

- **Article 11.4** — leave as is with a reference to Article 28: “(See **Article 28**)”;
- **Article 13.3** — leave as is with a reference to Article 28: “(See **Article 28**)”;
- **Article 28 — Applicability of these statutes to all levels of fraternity.**

The various provisions set forth in these National Statutes for NAFRA administration shall be used as a model for elections, conduct of business, structures for control of property, composition and duties of the Fraternity Minister and of the Fraternity Council, replacement of officers who are unable to continue in office, and similar business of the fraternity at any level.

However, Articles 11.4 and 13.3 do not apply to regional and local fraternities. A member of a regional council may also be a member of a local fraternity council.

Fraternal regards,
Encarnación del Pozo
General minister,
Secular Franciscan Order



Communio

Communio is published four times a year. Upcoming publication dates and deadlines for copy submission for 2005:

Summer deadline, June 24
Publication date, June 30

Fall deadline, Sept. 23
Publication date, Sept. 30

Winter deadline, Dec. 23
Publication date, Dec. 30

To contact me or submit copy:
E-mail at jnell@dnet.net
Postal mail to 124 Pleasant Hill Road,
Clyde, N.C. 28721-9699
Phone at 828-627-9209.

Joanita M. Nellenbach, SFO
Editor

Prayer

Heavenly Father, help me.
For you know others see only the temple
courts
While you see the walls inside.
Instead of a place of beauty and worship,
You see darkness and destruction;
Like a sand-blown ruin standing in the
desert,
You see a house not fit for habitation.
Yet, this is where I have asked you to dwell.

Heavenly Father, help me.
Grant me grace and sweet release from the
fallen rafters,
Supports broken by sin and guilt and pain.
When I struggle, let me recall your loving
sacrifice.
With your help, let me now restore
The timbers of my long-neglected frame,
Father, let faith be the new foundation
For these temple floors so badly worn away

Heavenly Father, help me.
Let your Spirit, the breath of God,
Blow out the sands of selfishness and pride.
Help me set upright the golden candlestick
of prayer
That all may see you as the light of my
world.
May godly sorrow bring tears of repentance
That I may cleanse the stained-glass
windows of my soul.

Heavenly Father, help me.
Grant me joy as I swing wide the doors
Of the temple you have given me.
Help me to accept it as your unique creation
And praise you for constructing it so.
Let my work-in-progress bring you glory
and honor
And may it please you to take your rightful
place —
The first place in my heart.

Amen.

Sara Beth Quinn, orientee
St. Michael the Archangel Fraternity

BSSF Region Income/Expense
1/1/2004 through 12/31/2004

Category Description	1/1/2004– 6/30/2004	7/1/2004– 12/31/2004	OVERALL TOTAL
INCOME			
Annual Regional Gathering (Meals)	0.00	7,063.45	7,063.45
Ed Campbell Fund (Cash Donation)	100.00	360.00	460.00
Ed Campbell Fund (Expense Donation)	0.00	220.00	220.00
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Fraternity Fair Share Contributions	11,110.00	1,565.00	12,675.00
General Fund (Cash Donation)	0.00	50.00	50.00
General Fund (Expense Donation)	0.00	246.82	246.82
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Other Inc (T-shirts, meals, etc.)	1,135.00	686.25	1,821.25
Room Reimbursements	0.00	37.00	37.00
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TOTAL INCOME	12,345.00	10,228.52	22,573.52
EXPENSES			
Uncategorized	0.00	0.00	0.00
Annual Regional Gathering	0.00	11,770.81	11,770.81
Charity	0.00	350.00	350.00
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Exec. Council Meetings	804.72	1,774.62	2,579.34
International Frat. Donations (CIOFS)	0.00	164.00	164.00
Misc.	15.00	0.00	15.00
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National Fraternity Fair Share	0.00	2,296.00	2,296.00
Office	367.31	1,150.96	1,518.27
Postage	111.29	112.23	223.52
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T-shirts	2,028.00	0.00	2,028.00
Travel	1,012.90	1,684.61	2,697.51
Utilities	57.23	48.10	105.33
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TOTAL EXPENSES	4,396.45	19,351.33	23,747.78
OVERALL TOTAL	7,948.55	-9,122.81	-1,174.26