



Reflections on 'The Greater Things'

November 2018
Volume XXXII Issue No. 11

"Amen, Amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater things than these, because I am going to the Father." (John 14:12)

GNOCCHI & OIL By Jaci Phillips-Sabol, PhD, Finance Director, WOL CCRC

There is nothing we ever sow into the Kingdom that God does not receive and multiply, regardless of whether it is time, prayer, talent, or money. Not only does God not waste a drop of it, He blesses the giver.

Some time later the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land. Then the word of the LORD came to him: "Go at once to Zarephath in the region of Sidon and stay there. I have directed a widow there to supply you with food." So he went to Zarephath. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, "Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?" As she was going to get it, he called, "And bring me, please, a piece of bread."

"As surely as the LORD your God lives," she replied, "I don't have any bread—only a handful of flour in a jar and a little olive oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it—and die."

Elijah said to her, "Don't be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small loaf of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD sends rain on the land.'"

She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the LORD spoken by Elijah. 1Kings 17:7-16 NIV

I recall my own miracle of multiplication that occurred several years ago. I invited Father Larry Richards over for homemade gnocchi's and sauce. Anyone who has ever made these little buggers by hand knows the labor involved. But they are DELICIOUS! I thought that I had made enough, but I became concerned that there would not be enough. I said nothing, but silently just prayed. As people talked and enjoyed the meal I kept my eye on that bowl of food. Each time someone took a big serving spoon full, the gnocchi's seemed to not lessen. I kept watching. At the end of the meal that bowl of gnocchi's was as full as when we started! Jesus took my love offering and multiplied it. Do not be deceived into thinking that these miracles are not for today. THEY ARE!

Word of Life CCRC has been sowing seeds of faith in Jesus and of the power of the Holy Spirit throughout the diocese and God has been multiplying our little gnocchi's. We have been blessed with so many requests to do things that it has been difficult, but joyful at the same time, to respond to the requests for the Center to go to where we are called. We increased our intercession for the diocese; asking for revival of the Holy Spirit. Eighteen months ago we received the word that "God was going to raise back to life the dry bones of this diocese" (EZ 37). He started by sending more Fire upon us, as we prayed, in order to allow us to carry that fire to others. Since then, we have walked through every open door He has opened. It is the most amazing thing to see people come to life in their faith!

Little did we know the crises that the diocese would be walking through as we continued to minister. But here we are. And here for a reason. There are many waves around us. But we don't look at the

waves. We don't hear the wind. We don't feel the rain. Because Jesus has called us OUT of the boat and we have our eyes fixed on Him. We are ever more keenly aware that God is moving in this diocese and that the only answer to purifying and reviving every church, not only the Catholic Church, is that a "new Pentecost" (P. Saint John XXXIII) sweep this diocese and planet. It's coming. Can you feel it? Because we can feel it in the depths of our bones! So we are working as hard as we can for the Kingdom.

Word of Life has been involved in much ministry—so involved that we have not had time for a fund drive to keep us going for two years. WOL CCRC held 'Life in The Spirit' seminars in Erie, Sheffield, Lucinda, and Oil City, in addition to the Albion and Cambridge Springs Prisons. We assisted a 'Life in The Spirit' seminar in Pittsburgh. We have sponsored 'Greater Things' Prayer Lunches and the annual Diocesan-wide Charismatic Renewal 'Greater Things' Conferences, in addition to incredible Adoration Worship concerts (God was palpably with us on September 7). We held a 'Fan Into the Flame' workshop where we helped people develop their Gifts of the Spirit and we witnessed miracles! We have a deliverance ministry. We put out the Reflections on 'The Greater Things' Newsletter monthly and our circulation has increased by over 100% in less than one year because the newsletter is not about what we are doing; it is about what God is doing. It's about teaching and miracles and faith. We also all individually lead one to three prayer groups per week.

We also came into the 21st century and completely overhauled our website, made a new logo, and added three new ways to donate through online giving from the website, 'text to give' (which is the

THE MEASURE OF A MAN By Kathryn Wilcox

We understand that we should not judge others. That is the God's job. Yet on a daily basis, we must make decisions about others. Who do we trust to marry? Be friends with? Who should we hire? Who should we vote for? We make these decisions every day and we must live with the consequences of our decisions. Some decisions are easier than others. For example, we can check a contractor's work based on references or a friend's recommendation. Other decisions are more difficult. People can fool us. Especially when they are attractive, well-spoken and well-dressed. We are easily drawn to them and yet *sometimes* these people are not what they seem; their character does not match the outside package. So what do we do?

It may be wise to check out how Jesus measured men. Let's look at two of the men whom Jesus chose to be part of His inner circle, two of the original 12 apostles. Peter and Judas Iscariot. While we know the end of the story, it is enlightening to look closely at these two men.

Peter was a fisherman, and from what research tells me, they were considered lower class in the time of Christ. It was a difficult, smelly, and dirty job. Peter was a typical fisherman—muscular, gruff, unkempt and shabbily dressed. Peter was also known to speak inappropriately and act impulsively at times. Upon meeting Jesus, Peter was humbled and aware of his own inadequacy and sinfulness. His conversion was immediate—he impulsively left his boat and his fishing business and followed Jesus.

Judas was the exact opposite of Peter. In researching Judas, he was educated and came from the upper class. His parents were Sadducees; among the social elite in political and religious circles. He was an only child and his parents reportedly spoiled him. He was well-dressed, well-spoken, and physically attractive. He was interested in the teaching of John the Baptist and was intellectually drawn to Jesus and His teachings.

So what happened? Jesus welcomed both of these men into his inner circle. One became the first Pope and the other handed Jesus over to be murdered. Did Jesus make a mistake? Jesus never

makes mistakes. He is God and God sees the heart. In 1 Samuel 16:7 (NABRE), when God sent Samuel to choose a new leader to replace the tragic backslidden King Saul, Samuel went to each of the sons of Jesse and God kept saying 'No. This is not the one.' *"Do not judge from his appearance or from his lofty stature, because I have rejected him. God does not see as a mortal, who sees the appearance. The Lord looks into the heart."* It was in frustration that Samuel asked Jesse if these were all of his sons, and finally, Jesse called for David to be brought in from the fields. David seemed the least qualified, yet he was God's choice. Why? Because David had given his heart to God.

Jesus knew the heart of both Peter and Judas. Peter converted when he met Jesus, and his heart was given to Jesus. Judas was attracted to the teaching of Jesus, but was never converted. This should be a warning to all of us that we need to know Jesus in our heart, not just in our minds. Even the devil knows Jesus *intellectually* better than we ever could. Judas, like the devil, was consumed with the sin of pride, he was sure he was the most qualified to be the leader of the group. The other apostles gave him control of the funds and never challenged him. Jesus knew Judas' weaknesses and still loved him and prayed for his conversion. Judas did not betray Jesus only for the money. He succumbed to his own sin nature. His Sadducee friends were ridiculing him for hanging around with lower class people and Judas was jealous of Jesus, who was the leader, the position Judas thought should be his.

When we have to make decisions about people, we need to be careful to look beyond how a person looks, dresses, and what they say. The Apostle Nathaniel, in whom Jesus "found no guile" was reportedly of royal descent. Luke was a physician. Paul was an intellectual among intellectuals. He was a Jewish scholar! The difference is that, just like Peter; Nathaniel, Luke, and Paul were converted, not only in mind, but in the heart as well. They were sold out for Jesus. John (yes John) was known to have an explosive temper and an intolerant heart. He also came from a well to do family. It must have appeared

to the others as "What in the world was Jesus thinking when He chose THIS one? His temper and rigidity are no blessing to any of us!" But Jesus does not make mistakes and John belonged to Jesus 100 percent. He was "the disciple whom Jesus loved" (as he called himself, KNOWING that despite his faults, Jesus loved Him *completely*). The Holy Spirit mellowed John over time and he no longer recalled his former ambition or temper, but only recalled Jesus' command to love.

So we see that both good and corrupt people come in all packages. Both rich and poor can be good. Both educated and more simple, well-spoken or fumbling can have good or foul hearts; dressed up or dressed down, and also male or female. We simply cannot depend on the outer wrapping to discern someone's character. We need the *Gift of the Holy Spirit* called *Discernment*. It's a gift. So let us ask for it. It is perhaps the most necessary and protective Gift for the times that we live in, when it seems very difficult to know who we can trust, and even the people closest to us may betray us. We need to pray for God to show us a person's heart beyond how they appear or what they say. We need to get into the habit of asking God to impress upon us His discernment and will in the decisions we make; all the way from who we let close to us to who to marry or who to vote for. God has a plan, even if it sometimes seems as if He is not paying attention. When a person has given their heart to Jesus, they strive to love God above all else and to love others as themselves. Contrary to popular cultural belief, that doesn't mean that we turn a blind eye to sin. Because sometimes the most merciful thing love does is to, in love, point out a dangerous sin so that a person can repent and change it. But we will save that for another time.

Look for this:

"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment".

Matthew 22: 37-38 NABRE

GNOCCHI & OIL - CONTINUED

By Jaci Phillips-Sabol, PhD, WOL CCRC

easiest) via tithe.ly or using the tithe.ly App, which is also very easy (see fund drive page for details). We added the ability for online registration for events so that people don't have to send in registrations. Finally, we have made beautiful Word of Life shirts as an ongoing fund raiser. We are doing our best to keep up with every request. God is blessing it.

So, like Paul, we continue to go where God calls us to go. But like Paul, we need the financial support of the faithful in order to continue. WOL keeps our expenses at a minimum; however, we have an office and we have people who we employ. These people are wonderful. They do skilled work for us for a fraction of what they would receive elsewhere. We are so blessed! The newsletter is a significant expense, but GOD HAS BLESSED IT and we will never charge for it. All of our events are put on for as low a cost as we can reasonably offer and we always offer sponsorships for anyone who cannot afford the registration.

Financially, even though we spend as little as is possible, we are paying out more than we are bringing in. Over the past year we have spent about \$4,000 more than we have received in pledges and donations. So this pledge/fund drive is of the utmost importance to us. We won't spend our time in concern

regarding finances. We trust God and we remain focused on HIS work. So we depend on your ministry of giving.

Our oil is decreasing, but we TRUST GOD!

A certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets cried out to Elisha, saying, "Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that your servant feared the LORD. And the creditor is coming to take my two sons to be his slaves."

So Elisha said to her, "What shall I do for you? Tell me, what do you have in the house?" And she said, "Your maidservant has nothing in the house but a jar of oil."

Then he said, "Go, borrow vessels from everywhere, from all your neighbors—empty vessels; do not gather just a few. And when you have come in, you shall shut the door behind you and your sons; then pour it into all those vessels, and set aside the full ones."

So she went from him and shut the door behind her and her sons, who brought the vessels to her; and she poured it out. Now it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said to her son, "Bring me another vessel."

And he said to her, "There is not another vessel." So the oil ceased. Then she came

and told the man of God. And he said, "Go, sell the oil and pay your debt; and you and your sons live on the rest. 2Kings 4:1-7 (NKJ)

You are part of us. We are dependent upon you giving a piece of bread, a fish, oil, or a gnocchi :) that the Lord will multiply. In doing this, you are sowing into the ministry that transitions people from faith that exists only in the head, as it was with the Apostles before Pentecost, to a faith that is ALIVE! To 'dry bones' that are breathed to LIFE by the Spirit of the LIVING GOD. A Church that has faith only intellectually will not multiply; a Church that is set on fire as the early Church was, will! Just as Jesus pointed out the small widow's mite as an act of pure love and worship, your giving is an act of worship.

So that's it my friends. We are depending on you to give a monthly pledge to this ministry or a one-time gift. As you sew into this ministry, we know that God will multiply the *gnocchi's* that you give and YOU will be blessed. We pray it and we know that it is done! Amen!



Pictures from the ADORATION WORSHIP CONCERT on September 7. God poured out His Spirit upon all of us as we offered HIM our high praises!



upcoming events

Due to circumstances beyond our control, WOL CCRC had to postpone the 'GREATER THINGS' Annual Diocesan Charismatic Conference.

The tentative reschedule date is

Saturday, March 9, 2019.

See newsletters as we confirm date.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING!

FUNDRAISER NOVEMBER 2018

WOL CCRC will be holding its annual pledge/fund drive in November. We depend completely upon donations in order to be able to spread the power of the Holy Spirit throughout the diocese and to print and distribute the newsletter.

³⁸ Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

Luke 6:38 (NIV)

SILENT DIRECTED RETREAT

Cost: \$100 - McKean, PA

Friday - Sunday November 2-4, 2018

Registrations needed by October 15

For Registrations Call:

T.A. Walkiewicz (814) 833-9717

Email: tawalk0313@gmail.com

the GIFT November 9th & 10th a life in the Spirit course

ST. STEPHEN'S - OIL CITY, PA

Friday, November 9, 2018

6:00 pm—9:00 pm

Saturday, November 10, 2018

8:30 am—3:30 pm

Bring a brown bag lunch

Beverages provided

Contact Denise Varo (814) 744-8199



PRAYER GROUPS

† SUNDAY

Shalom in Jesus Prayer Group

In home, DuBois, PA

6:30 PM

Rick Kenawell

(814) 771-7932

Acts II Community

St. Julia Church, Erie, PA

West Lake Rd. & Powell Ave.

6:30 PM

Jack Heintzel

(814) 838-1325

Holy Crown of Thorns Prayer Group

First Sunday of the Month

749 Bean Farm Rd, Sheffield, PA

1:30 PM

Lil Herbstritt

(814) 968-3208

† MONDAY

Disciples of the Holy Spirit

St. Mary's Church Annex

139 Church St., St. Marys, PA

6:00 PM

Mary Ellen Frank

(814) 781-3904

Promises Of God Prayer Group

St. Mary's Church, Crown PA

Contact Denise Varo for time

(814) 744-8199

River of Life PG

St. Bridget Ch., Rm. 4, Meadville, PA

2nd & 4th Monday evenings

7:00PM

Amy Mosbacher

(814) 724-6104

† TUESDAY

Son of God Prayer Group

Holy Rosary Church

2701 East Ave.

7:00 PM

Pat Montefiori

(814) 823-3968

† FRIDAY

Light of the World Community

In Home Prayer Meeting

Call for location

1:00 PM

T.A. Walkiewicz

(814) 833-9717

† SATURDAY

God's Holy Love

11 Russell St., Warren, PA

10:30 AM

Virginia Baker

(781) 217-1683



Memorials

IN MEMORY OF:

CHRIS BRZOZOWSKI

By: Jaci Phillips-Sabol

IN MEMORY OF:

CAROL MANDO & SHIRLEY IRELAND

By: Jaci Phillips-Sabol



MY INTRO TO THE CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC MOVEMENT

(PART TWO) By Elaine Sinnott

Last month I talked about how the Lord led me back to Catholic Church through the Alpha program. The Alpha program opened an entirely new world to me! A beautiful world full of fellowship, incredible friendships, an amazing church community, a small group for the first time in my life, and an introduction to the Charismatic Movement with the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Little did I know God had already introduced me to the gifts of the Holy Spirit early in my childhood! Here is Part II of my testimony from last month.

Receiving the Baptism of the Holy Spirit

I was extremely nervous when I had heard all about everyone's experiences with the Alpha weekend – some dramatic and some not. I wanted the baptism, but I was very afraid of what would happen because of such a difference in responses to it. The loss of control and handing that completely over to God was terrifying to me!

When my group host, Jaci, asked me if I wanted to receive the baptism in the Spirit, I smiled and said yes. Then she laid her hands on me along with everyone else in my group and they began praying in tongues! The same thing our family friend had done to me 18 years prior! Tongues – *THAT's* what it was!

As they were praying, I began crying. It was so joyful! I felt intense heat all over my body with my group laying hands on me and praying for me. Tears was the very first reaction I had!

At the end of the praying, one of the ladies who was there, who had instantly received the gift of tongues at her baptism in the Spirit, said she saw a vision of me chasing my children around a house and that

there was SO much laughter and joy! It was pure joy!

Well..., that made me lose it. Because I feel like the biggest failure as a mother. Every day. I beat myself up because I struggle with so many aspects of motherhood and I worry that I will never be able to raise them the way God wants me to. I worry that they won't become the adults God created them to be because of me. And that I won't raise happy children.

That vision my friend had confirmed this baptism for me. It was real, and *God literally touched me.* That vision was a gift and I will never forget it. God gave me what I desperately needed in that moment. He knows me better than any other living being, He is THE Living Being, and He knows me so intricately and knew exactly what my heart needed.

My Healing

The following week in Alpha, we were doing prayers of healing whether emotional, physical, etc. The first lady who asked for healing asked that she stay away from alcohol, that she's struggling with it and needs help. This request brought instant tears to my eyes as I laid my hands on her with everyone else in our group and I begged God to remove those chains from her. I was so amazed at her humility and I prayed and prayed that God would honor that humble request!

Next, they laid their hands on me and I asked for healing in any place I may need it even if I'm not aware of it. Instantly, when Jaci laid her hands on me, she said, "God wants you to know: He's a good, good Father." I started sobbing. Uncontrollable. Jaci went on:

"He wants you to know you are His little girl, to just imagine yourself

playing at His feet and then He will sweep you up off your feet and twirl you around and hold you."

Growing up, I didn't have an earthly father who did this. He was held down by the chains of alcohol just like the lady who asked to be prayed for before me – which is why her request to God to help her was so beautiful and made me begin crying. She knew she needed Him. And God knew I desperately needed healing from the lack of fatherly direction in my life. Those words from Him were an answer to prayers I had said to God in the car by myself not even a week before, crying about not having a dad who loves God and about how I missed out on the overwhelming love a father should have for his daughter. I experienced love when my dad had good days, but I never had a godly father. There was a missing connection I never had growing up. I had a true emotional healing that day. I know I am loved beyond anything I can imagine and that I DO have a Father! And I am *His little girl*.

God knows you deeper than
you can ever imagine.

And when you open
yourself up to Him,
He does WONDERFUL things!

These things that happen with the baptism of the Holy Spirit – they're what God intended from the very beginning of the Church at Pentecost! They're gifts He has given us to let us know He is alive and He LOVES us! More than we will ever know!

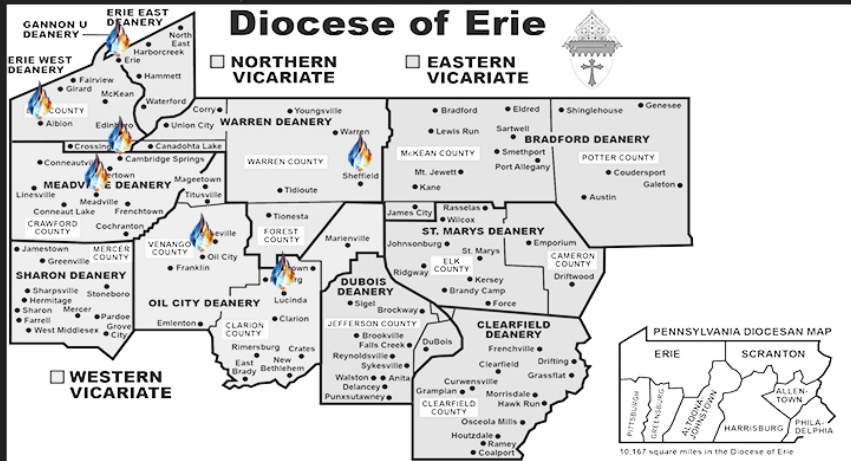


Word of Life Annual Pledge/Fund Drive

Recent LIS Seminars

WOL Events 2017-2018

- 'The Gift' Life in the Spirit Seminars
- 'Greater Things' Breakfasts with speakers
- Annual Charismatic Conference
- 'Fan Into Flame' Seminar
- Adoration Worship Concerts
- Healing Mass (assistance)



Word of Life Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center is so appreciative of the support that we receive from you! We could not survive without your donations. We are an evangelistic outreach and attempt to offer our events free at minimal fees, with scholarships available to anyone who cannot afford the fee, and we publish and distribute the monthly **Reflections On The 'Greater Things'** newsletter, free of charge.

Our purpose is for the Catholic Church to be SET ON FIRE for the LORD and for each person to walk in the knowledge and power of the Holy Spirit. We desire for each person to not only believe in Jesus, but to **know** the realness of the **LIVING GOD**, who reaches out to have a personal relationship with each individual.

"TEXT TO GIVE" Just text "GIVE" to (570) 536-9187

Or easily give via <https://www.eriercd.org/wordoflife/donate.html>



Pledge Card (For Mail-In Pledges and Donations)

I would like to make a Monthly pledge of _____ to WOL OR One-time donation to the WOL in the amount of _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City/State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____ I made an electronic donation/pledge _____

Please make checks payable to **Word of Life Center** and mail this pledge card to:

Word of Life Charismatic Renewal Center

St. Mark Catholic Center

429 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie, Pa. 16514



1. Text to give! (Most convenient)

To begin using text giving, just text the word "give" to our dedicated giving number, (570) 536-9187. We recommend that you save this number in your contacts under Word of Life Giving. You will receive a link to provide information and then you are set to use text to give.

After this you can use text to give by texting any of the below options to our dedicated giving number (570) 536-9187 under whatever name you choose to save it in your contacts.

You can just text and amount at any time, Eg: "100" (without the quotes) and it will come to WOL:

Other Text to Give options include:

- A number and fund to designate your gift. Eg: "100 Pledge".
- A number and schedule for automated giving. Eg: "25 Monthly", "50 Donation Bimonthly", "10 Pledge Weekly", or "5 Newsletter Monthly".
- "Options" to see the initial list of options again.
- "Cancel Auto" to cancel automated giving.
- "Card" to add a new payment method.
- "Refund" to refund your last transaction.
- Add "cover" to cover minimal 2.9% fees of text to give transaction. Ex: "100 Donation cover"
- Add "Cover fees on" to cover fees on ALL future text gifts..
- "Cover fees off" to turn off cover fees on all text gifts.

2. On your phone (Easy)

Apps for Tithe.ly are available on both the App Store for iPhone and the Google Play Store for Android. In the store, search for "tithe.ly." Choose the app with the **GREEN** colored logo and install it. Open the app and select "create account" and fill in all required fields.

In "find a church" search for "Word of Life Catholic" and select Word of Life Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center.

3. On our website,

<https://www.eriercd.org/wordoflife/donate.html> Then click on the green "Give" button.

FOR ASSISTANCE WITH USING ANY METHOD, PLEASE CONTACT JOAN at 814-616-5735

Word Of Life

Catholic Charismatic
Renewal Center

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Reflections

on 'The Greater Things'

November 2018

Word of Life Annual Pledge/Fund Drive

The Word of Life Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center hosted MANY events in 2017 and in 2018 and we have **YOU** to thank for it! We are so thankful for your donations to support us spreading the fire of the **Living God** in the Catholic Church and setting hearts on fire for our Lord. *We could not survive without your donations.*



You are a gift to us!
Thank you!

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The office is generally open limited hours.
Please call before coming.

The purpose of this newsletter is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to provide teaching, news and calendar of events, which help to foster Catholic Charismatic Renewal throughout the Diocese of Erie.

This newsletter may be copied to put in churches or shared with others.

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Jacqueline Phillips-Sabol, PhD

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Volume XXXII

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