St. Catherine of Siena Parish follows Jesus by welcoming all, sharing our gifts, & giving glory to God.
EARLY DEADLINES: Closely watch early deadlines imposed by the publisher and plan ahead accordingly. Deadline for Apr 29 has passed. The next deadline for submissions for the weekend May 6 all items must be submitted by Fri APR 27 by noon.

Please direct your inquiries to the email above. Thank you.

PARISH & SCHOOL STAFF

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Sylvia Lloren
Secretary

PARISH OFFICE LOCATION: 606 Mellus Street, Martinez, CA
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TELEPHONE / FAX: 925-229-2255 / 925-229-2247

SAFE ENVIRONMENT: www.virtusonline.org

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

CONTRIBUTIONS

Weekdays

Sunday Collection $5,438.00
Bingo $893.00
CRS Rice Bowls $1,234.50
Easter $280.00
Good Friday/Holy Land $10.00
Holy Thursday $10.00
Maintenance $1,134.00
SCS Education Fund $60.00

for Diocesan, Parish, School, and group announcements.

Please mark your calendars.

PARISH & SCHOOL STAFF

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SAFE ENVIRONMENT: www.virtusonline.org

INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

SAT 4/21 4:30 Int. Italian Catholic Federation

SUN 4/22 7:00 Pauline Pongrace †
8:30 McLoughlin & Curtyn Families †
10:30 Joe Gomes †
12:30 Int.St.Catherine of Siena Parish & School

MON 4/23 7:30 Luige Della Maggiora †

TUE 4/24 7:30 Rodolfo & Crispina Salgado †

WED 4/25 8:00 Irv Palmer †

FRI 4/27 7:00 Cindy Jordan †
4:30 Florence Huettl †

SAT 4/28 7:00 Bob McNamara †
8:30 Mitch & Ann Costanza †
10:30 Reynaldo Lejano †
12:30 Julian Silva †

For intentions call the Parish Office

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

April 15, 2018

CONTRIBUTIONS

Sunday Collection $5,438.00
Bingo $893.00
CRS Rice Bowls $1,234.50
Easter $280.00
Good Friday/Holy Land $10.00
Holy Thursday $10.00
Maintenance $1,134.00
SCS Education Fund $60.00

Thank you for your continued generosity!

Remember St. Catherine Parish in your Will & Living Trust
Contributions to Fulfilling the Promise are welcomed

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IS GOD CALLING YOU?
WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
FOR VOCATIONS
APRIL 22, 2018

Diocese of Oakland
For more information:

2018 Bishop’s Appeal
SCS Goal Summary:
Parish Goal: $23,000.00
Funds Raised: $30,205.00
Remaining: $0.00
% of Goal Raised: 131.33%

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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Hope! This term seemed almost taboo for many Vietnamese people when the faithful were brutally harassed and threatened, in many instances, killed for many centuries. Hope, for many Vietnamese Catholics, was an act of defiance against the accusers amidst the destruction of churches, imprisonment of religious men and women, and death of hundreds of thousands of Catholics. It is not an exaggeration to say, “The history of the Vietnamese Catholic is written in blood.” Cardinal Xavier Nguyên Văn Thuận was one of those “rebels” who dared to hope despite its high cost. His hope was not an idea, but the person of Jesus Christ, whose saving power has conquered the horrors of sin and death.

On the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, August 15, 1975, coadjutor Archbishop of archdiocese of Saigon, Francis Xavier Nguyên Văn Thuận began his testimony of hope. At 1:00 P.M., a group of secret police came to the seminary where bishop Thuận was taught with an invitation to the Independent Palace, Saigon (now called Ho Chi Minh City). Their Thuận was threatened by Communist officials. They said he would never assume his Episcopal responsibilities. They were convinced that Thuận was a strong Catholic leader, “a fomentor of troubles” or “a lackey for the imperialists.” They were forcing him to admit to falsified accusations, but Thuận firmly responded, “I will not admit anything of the kind because it is not true.” They arrested him and later transferred him to an unknown place. The only thing he remembered at that moment was not fear, but rather a contemplative thought:

“I have been arrested on the Feast of the Assumption, on the day the Church celebrates the glorious asent of the Blessed Virgin Mary to heaven. She, who shows me the way to eternal life, will tell me what to do with my remaining days on earth.” However, being forced to abandon his flock, the coadjutor Archbishop could not help but feel the terrifying hopelessness regarding the darkness of his fate and the unknown future of his flock. As he remembered this dark situation later, he confessed that it had successfully weakened his hope for a short time.

He was tortured psychologically and physically. Time and again he was trapped in a room with all the lights on for ten days. Other times, he was left with total darkness for a ten-day period. If that was not enough, they would put him into a room with little air so that he would slowly die. All the physical tortures successfully weakened his spirit as he recalled:

“In solitary confinement, living in a cell without light, sound, or any sound of human presence, I was unable to remember so much as a Hail Mary...I was really afraid.”

He named his experience “a kind of revolt” in his whole being, partly due to the fear of death, and partly due to the anxiety of losing everything his pastoral plans and then scattered flock. However, this revolt never absolutely overpowered the inner light dwelling deep within him. This inner light is nothing else but Christ, Himself. The cardinal came to believe that hope must be proven by many little small actions of hope, especially in moments like this.

Solitary confinement became then a beginning of a new way to holiness via hope. At any given moment, solitary confinement proposed two definitive choices to the prisoner: one is to live in despair; the other is to trust and hope in God by realizing that the life of a disciple is made up of “a series of choices between God and the works of God,” which are not God. The Cardinal chose the latter and thereby faced it with a spirit of acceptance and surrender into the hands of God.

The Cardinal had shown that the spirit of Christian hope and faith was a thousand times stronger than the power of any political forces with its oppression and death. He was that strong only because Hope itself dwelt within. He once gave an account of his hope: “I never ceased loving everyone, I never shut anyone out of my heart.”

Hope for him, therefore, must be seen and lived out in the context of love. The one who hopes much is one who loves much. The dynamism of hope grounded in love allows one to be a witness of hope in everything that one does. One who hopes does not keep hope for oneself. The Cardinal hastly shared the Word of hope with other prisoners:

“It was an impressive and moving experience to hear the Word of God proclaimed in the silence and darkness of the prison.”

Perhaps this Word of hope generated the inner light within each prisoner in the darkness of the night as they encountered the Cardinal. One could say that this newly discovered inner light allowed them to hope and to love the very condition of imprisonment.

As a witness of hope, one must not remain in isolation, for he or she is called to a greater community of humanity. For Vietnamese Catholics, was an act of defiance against the political forces with its oppression and death. He was that strong only because Hope itself dwelt within. He once gave an account of his hope: “I never ceased loving everyone, I never shut anyone out of my heart.”

As a witness of hope, one must not remain in isolation, for he or she is called to a greater community of humanity. After nine years in solitary confinement, his accusers decided to transport him to Haiphong by putting him into a big boat to this city in North Vietnam, the heart of the Communist government. In that boat were a few hundred prisoners, a perfect community in which Christian hope found its ground. Miraculously with the cardinal’s presence, the prison which was originally designed to kill man and his spirit, became a place of fellowship and of adoration. There, he continued to offer Mass in secret. With Christ in the Eucharist, he transformed the prison into a “tabernacle” and a “church” where Jesus allowed Himself to be “placed in the little sacks and at night the prisoners would take turn for adorations.”

Dear friends, somewhere in the world, the presence of evil still dominates. Its presence and programs intentionally force mankind to the verge of death. In the midst of all this, we dare to hope, like the cardinal hoped, for a better future for humanity because the Risen Christ is our Hope.

For the universal Church, the Cardinal is “a man of hope” as Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI calls him. For Vietnamese Catholics all over the world, he is a hero and a martyr. If hope allows him to say “do not be afraid, let us go in the name of the Lord” because the Spirit of God guides us, then he remains a hope for the Vietnamese Catholic Church. Thank God he did not die at the hands of his accusers; however, he faithfully and courageously spent his life to prove that Christian hope can conquer the tyranny of evil.

May we dare to hope in Him now and forever.—Fr Anthony Le
Respect Life Ministry Motherhood Shower
Sunday, April 22 in the Parish Hall
Please join us for hospitality & share in this outreach for very courageous women.

We are collecting maternity clothes & any appropriate mother-to-be needs. Clothes can be new or gently used, all sizes. Your contribution will be greatly appreciated by the volunteers at Birthright of Concord Pregnancy Center & the women they serve. Items are given throughout the pregnancy; and, one month prior to due date mothers are given a full layette of baby needs.

Every pregnant woman has the right to give birth; and, every child has the right to be born.
Be the answer to someone’s prayer just in time for mother’s day!
Any questions, call Linda Easterday @ 925-371-3845

Silence is a gift of God, to let us speak more intimately with God. —St. Vincent Pallotti

Remaining Hospitality Dates 2018

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St. Catherine School Presents
LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS
Fri & Sat. Apr 27 & 28 @ 6 PM
Martinez Jr High School Stage
Get your Tickets at the School Office or Call 925-228-4140
$10 = Adults . S7 = Students & Seniors

Sources: From the Desk of the Parochial Administrator
Andre Chau, Nguyen Van, The Miracle of Hope.
Address of his holiness Benedict XVI to the members of the pontifical council for justice and peace on the fifth anniversary of the death of cardinal François-Xavier Nguyên Van Thuân at Castel Gandolfo Monday, 17 September 2007.
Testimony of Hope, 177.

Crossword Puzzle Answers:

ACROSS
2. Pillar of the Catholic Church (unwritten)
4. Pillar of the Catholic Church (teaching)
6. Pillar of the Catholic Church (written)
7. The Church in Purgatory
12. The Church in Heaven
13. Pillar of the Catholic Faith (ten)
14. Pillar of the Catholic Faith (taught by Christ)

DOWN
1. Sacraments
2. Apostles Creed
3. Catholicity
4. Unity
5. Church Militant
6. Apostolicity
7. Holiness

ACROSS
1. Second Tradition
2. Magisterium
3. Sacred Tradition
4. Apostles Creed
5. Catholicity
6. Unity
7. Church Militant
8. Apostolicity
9. Holiness
10. Church Triumphant
11. Decalogue
12. Lords Prayer

See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. —1 John 3:1

St. Catherine of Siena School’s
Spring Jubilee & RUMMAGE SALE
Eat, Drink & Shop!
Sat, May 12 @ 5:30 to 9:00 PM
In school yard. Free to attend.
Food & Beverage Tickets for Purchase.
Kid’s Games & Prizes
Questions on how to donate your sellable items, contact the school office @ 228-4140

CROSSWORD—CHURCH FACTS

http://www.mycatholicsource.com
Easter Sunday has passed and our students continue to celebrate Jesus’ resurrection both in school and on the play yard. Students in grades K thru third enjoyed an Easter egg hunt in the upper yard. Everyone had a great time and enjoyed a handful of treats. Back at school, fifth grade students assisted their first grade buddies in writing. What a great way for our kids to support and show leadership for each other!

—Diana Corsetti

Mother’s Day Mass & Brunch
Sun. May 13 @ 10 AM
San Damiano Retreat Center
710 Highland Dr. Danville
$40 adults, $15 child under 13
Call: 925-837-9141 x315

HOW TO SUBMIT AN ENTRY FOR SAINTS AMONG US:
Did you catch someone or group doing something good? Helping our neighbors in need? Acts of faith in and around our parish and school? Please let us know about it by emailing bulletinsubmissions@gmail.com and insert “Saints Among Us” in the subject line.

HOW TO SUBMIT A QUESTION: Whether young or younger, do you have a question about the mechanics of the Mass, the traditions, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, or its teachings? Submit your questions to bulletinsubmissions@gmail.com and insert “Q&A” in the subject line. Questions will be answered by members of the clergy and/or those with knowledge of the subject inquiry.

HOW TO SUBMIT AN ARTICLE FOR FAITH SHARING: Consider sharing with us your faith journey, your walk with Our Lord. How has He worked in you for the good of others? Articles should be between 300-500 words, your own testimonial to your Catholic faith, and submitted with a portrait to FaithSharingSCS@gmail.com. By making a personal submission to the bulletin, you agree to having your words edited, printed, and shared by the Parish and Communications Committee and agree to a photo release of your image. Consider this, please.

St. Catherine Parish offers deepest sympathy and prayers for the families; and, the repose of the soul of

Asilee E. Telfer

St. Catherine School News

One knits and one crochets. Everyday. These sisters—regulars in the front pew at the Saturday 4:30 PM Mass—Paula Ventimiglia and Emilie Morris, create beautiful works of art in the shape of blankets of many colors. They have a mission. When they accumulate a supply too much to store, they gather them and donate these warm wraps to the County Hospital’s maternity ward so each newborn baby and mother are discharged with some homemade comfort. God bless you both!
**LITURGY SCHEDULE**

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<tr>
<th>SATURDAY:</th>
<th>7:30 AM and 4:30 PM</th>
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<td>SUNDAY:</td>
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<td>8:30 AM Children’s Liturgy of the Word</td>
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<td>12:30 PM Spanish</td>
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**WEEKENDS:**

**SATURDAY:**
- 7:00 AM Church  
- 8:30 AM Parish Hall 
- 10:30 AM Parish Center
- 12:30 PM Parish Center Library

**SUNDAY:**
- 7:30 AM and 4:30 PM
- 8:30 AM Parish Hall
- 10:30 AM Parish Hall
- 12:30 PM Parish Center
- 1:30 PM Parish Center Library

**WEEKDAYS:**

- 7:30 AM Except Wednesday
- 8:00 AM Holy Days

**HOLY DAYS:**
- 7:00 AM Holy Day Mass
- 8:30 AM Holy Day Mass
- 12:30 PM Holy Day Mass
- 7:00 PM Holy Day Mass

**ADORATION:**
- Fridays from 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM

**RECONCILIATION:**
- Saturdays from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM

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**MINISTRIES/ORGANIZATIONS CONTACTS**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Ministry</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
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<td>Altar Servers</td>
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<td>Art and Environment</td>
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<td>Italian Catholic Federation - ICF</td>
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<td>La Comunidad Latina</td>
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<td>Mary Help of Christians - MHC</td>
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<td>Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults - RCIA</td>
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<td>Safe Environment for Children Project - SECP</td>
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<td>Social Awareness</td>
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<td>Spark (young adult group ages 18 years to 35 years)</td>
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**WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE**

**Sunday, 4/22 Fourth Sunday of Easter**
- 8:00 AM PH Hospitality—Respect Life Committee
- 12:00 PM CH Adoration
- 6:00 PM PC Communications Committee Meeting

**Monday, 4/23 St. George, pray for us.**
- 6:00 PM PH SCS State-of-the-School Meeting
- 6:45 PM PCL San Lorenzo Ruiz Meeting

**Tuesday, 4/24 St. Fidelis, pray for us.**
- 6:00 PM CH Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00 PM PCL Stewardship Committee Meeting

**Wednesday, 4/25 St. Mark, Evangelist, pray for us.**
- 2:30 PM CH School Choir Rehearsal
- 6:00 PM CH/SC/PH Religious Ed-PreK to 8th Grade
- 7:30 PM CH Choir Rehearsal
- 8:00 PM CH First Communion Rehearsal

**Thursday, 4/26 St. Cletus, pray for us.**
- 5:00 PM CH First Communion Rehearsal
- 7:00 PM CH Lectors Meeting

**Friday, 4/27 St. Theodore, pray for us.**
- 9:00 AM CH SCS School Prayer Service
- 12:00 PM CH Adoration
- 5:00 PM CH Benediction
- 6:00 PM off site SCS School Theater Production

**Saturday, 4/28 St. Peter Chanel, pray for us.**
- 9:30 AM PCL SVdP Food Distribution
- 10:00 AM off site Feast Day Procession in Martinez
- 11:00 AM CH Feast Day Mass
- 12:30 AM YD Feast Day Luncheon Reception
- 3:00 PM CH Reconciliation
- 6:00 PM off site SCS School Theater Production

**Sunday, 4/29 Fifth Sunday of Easter**
- 8:00 AM PH NO Hospitality
- 8:30 AM CH First Communions
- 10:30 AM CH First Communions

**Week-at-a-glance dates, times, & locations are taken from the web site calendar: http://parish.stcatherinemartinez.com/parish-calendar**
Journey For Home
by Deanna Light & Paul Tate
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Perceptive Reflections on God’s Beauty
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Martinez, CA 94553
Lic. #802333
Phone (925) 228-5242
**READINGS & REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 22, 2018**  
**GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY**  
**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
Your turn to serve

Wise. Brave. Humble. Seekers of the common good above personal ambition. The world can’t get enough good leaders, and the best way to acquire the leaders we need in every aspect of modern life is for all of us to strive to be leaders right where we are. On this 55th World Day of Prayer for Vocations, the Church particularly seeks leaders in ordained ministry, religious life, societies of apostolic life, secular institutes of service, and for the missions. Take a chance. Ask the question. How can you best put your gifts at the disposal of God’s purposes?  
**Today’s readings:** Acts 4:8-12; 1 John 3:1-2; John 10:11-18 (50).  
“A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”

**MON, APRIL 23, 2018**  
**MEMORIAL OF GEORGE, MARTYR**  
Ready to don your armor?

Old maps would indicate the end of the known world with the phrase, “There be dragons here.” It was a way of saying, “It’s probably not a good idea to go there.” In a legend of Saint George, he did not shy away from doing battle with a dragon. In the only story of a canonized saint fighting such a creature, he not only killed this menacing animal that an army could not slay but also saved a princess, preached to the grateful people, distributed his reward money to the poor, and went on his way. Not a bad day’s work. What dragons of the unknown—of ignorance and the fear that accompanies it—can you slay? What good word or gift can you pass along as you go your way?  
**Today’s readings:** Acts 11:1-18; John 10:1-10 (279).  
“Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.”

**TUE, APRIL 24, 2018**  
**MEMORIAL OF FIDELIS OF SIGMARINGEN, PRIEST, MARTYR**  
Born again to the same job

Lawyers are traditionally the butt of jokes for their ability to take any side of an argument. But many put their skills to use in the cause of justice. Saint Fidelis (d. 1622), nicknamed the Poor Man’s Lawyer, decided to speak out only for the sake of the gospel. He joined the Capuchins and persuaded many through his preaching, his kindness as a confessor, and his devotion to the sick. Consider how your words and actions today have the power to testify for or against the gospel you believe.  
**Today’s readings:** Acts 11:19-26; John 10:22-30 (280).  
“My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me.”

**WED, APRIL 25, 2018**  
**FEAST OF MARK, EVANGELIST**  
Worth another read

Written about 40 years after Christ’s Resurrection, the Gospel of Mark is our closest and freshest gospel on the events of Jesus’ life. Like any great reporter, the evangelist does not insinuate himself into the story, which leaves us uncertain as to who he was. He could be the John Mark who was a cousin of Barnabas and associate of Paul, the Mark who is a later assistant to Peter, or both. One thing we do know is that he headed Jesus’ commission to proclaim the Good News to all the world. Generations of believers have heard or read Mark’s story. Even if you’ve read it a hundred times, Mark’s Gospel is worth another read.  
**Today’s readings:** 1 Peter 5:5b-14; Mark 16:15-20 (555).  
“Go into all the world and proclaim the Good News!”

**THU, APRIL 26, 2018**  
Wash up for supper

In the ancient world, when sandals were common footwear, foot-washing was an act of hospitality offered by a host when guests arrived at a house. Typically guests washed their own feet or a servant washed them, but a host wishing to show great respect for guests might do the washing him- or herself. Jesus sends us a clear signal by washing His disciples’ feet at the Last Supper. If we are willing to serve others with the same spirit of humility and hospitality, there will be a place at the eternal banquet for us as well.  
“When Jesus had washed the disciples’ feet, He said to them: ‘Amen, amen, I say to you, no slave is greater than his master.’ ”

**FRI, APRIL 27, 2018**  
Find your own path

Modern gurus abound on talk shows and blogs, full of advice about how you should live your life. Some of their suggestions may be helpful; the best ones are borrowed from folk wisdom, good psychology, or even scripture, once or twice removed. Jesus has already issued the invitation to illuminate your path by following his way. Saint Anthony Claret (1807-70) underscored this invitation with a telling directive: “Choose now what you would wish to have chosen at life’s end.” At every fork in the road, keep this suggestion in mind.  
**Today’s readings:** Acts 13:26-33; John 14:1-6 (283).  
“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life.’ ”

**SAT, APRIL 28, 2018**  
**MEMORIAL OF PETER CHANEL, PRIEST, MARTYR**  
Let God work in God’s ways

Saint Peter Chanel was martyred in 1841 at the age of 38 on the island of Futuna in Oceania. He anticipated such an end to his life, hoping that it would bring about the conversion of the island’s inhabitants to Christianity. It did. And while some may have initially converted due to fear of reprisal by the French for killing their missionary, this also shows how God works in mysterious ways, ways most of us cannot expect. Peter expected God to work his wonders. How often do you let go and let God take control? Indulge in some great expectations today.  
**Today’s readings:** Acts 13:44-52; John 14:7-14 (284).  
“Whatsoever you ask in my name, I will do.”

**SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 2018**  
**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
People Change

Once England was our enemy. Ditto for France, Spain, Mexico, Germany, Japan, Italy, China, Korea, Cuba, and most of the Middle East. Our country has been in conflict with island nations and African peoples. We’ve fought up and down Central America, not to mention our own Native Americans. Southern states were pitted against the North. It takes our hearts time to catch up with a new reality. Paul, the Christian killer, became a signature disciple of Jesus. How long before we’re prepared to call an enemy a friend?  
“But they were all afraid of [Paul], not believing that he was a disciple.”

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