

"I shall reflect on myself and ask: 'What have I done for Christ? What am I doing for Christ? What ought I do for Christ?'" ~St. Stanislaus Kostka



New Stan

The Newsletter of St. Stanislaus Parish
El Boletín de la Parroquia de San Estanislao

Spring / Primavera 2014

Standing Up the Real Stanislaus

by Marianne Thomas

On October 12, 1964, what was believed to be the statue of our patron saint, St. Stanislaus Kostka, sailed from Italy on the *S.S. Giannin Fassio*. The six foot high marble statue was a work from the studio of Angelo Lualdi and Son in Florence, Italy, and was acquired for our church through the architectural firm Dagit Associates in Philadelphia. The original invoice found in our archives shows the cost of the statue was \$1000 and that the funds were donated by Dr. & Mrs. C. Fred Goeringer. A 3' x 4' mosaic mural constructed by the same studio also arrived with the statue. Upon arrival, the statue was erected on the lawn at the corner of Lansdale Avenue and Main Street and then pastor, Fr. Paul J. Cahill, held a dedication ceremony on December 5, 1964.

It is not known why at that time that this particular statue was thought to be the likeness of St. Stanislaus, but



St. Thomas Aquinas, not St. Stanislaus

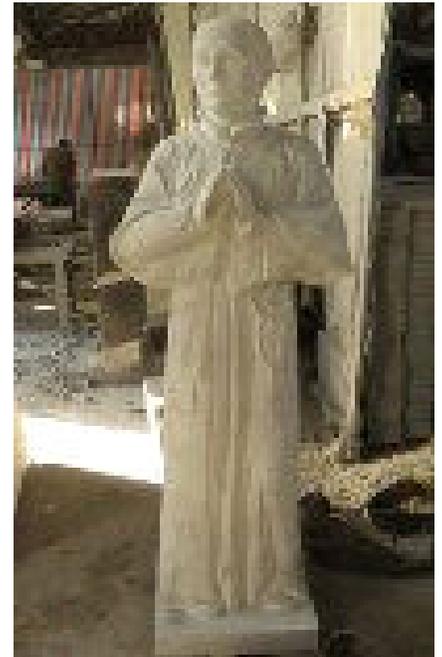
Monsignor Tracy now believes the statue to be that of St. Thomas Aquinas, "the Angelic Doctor." His reasons are due to the fact that the statue, unnamed anywhere on its facade, is holding a book with angels adorning it. Significantly, the figure is clothed in a *Dominican* habit, as Aquinas would have worn as a member of the Order

of Preachers. St. Stanislaus Kostka, however, was a *Jesuit*, and not a Dominican. Also, St. Stanislaus died when he was quite young, and the man portrayed in the statue would have to appear much younger if it was depicting St. Stanislaus.

Therefore, a pastoral decision was made that the Parish would purchase a new statue depicting the *true* likeness of our patron saint. Several donors are helping to fund the purchase of the statue and there are also some HERITAGE OF FAITH-VISION OF HOPE funds set aside for some of this purchase (as well as for the purchase of a new sign that will be installed).

As of this writing, the new statue of St. Stanislaus Kostka has not arrived. It was purchased from an art studio in Italy, and is being sculpted from an existing mold. It will stand five foot tall and will be made of approximately 1,600 lbs of white-grey granite. The statue will depict St. Stanislaus standing with his hands folded in prayer, with a slight turn of his head, and wearing a Jesuit cassock. If all goes well, it should arrive this spring.

Monsignor Tracy notes, "It will be great to have a new



The REAL St. Stanislaus Kostka

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Teenagers! What Can You Do with Them?

by Anne K. Kaler

[Conversations overheard recently from a group of parents]

“Teenagers! What can you do with them?”

“Take that little Martin girl – Therese, the youngest girl. I know that her mother died when she was only four years old and her older sisters brought her up very piously, as if she were already a nun. Her family always treated her like she was a delicate little flower.

“Rumor has it that she can be as tough as nails when she wants to be. Imagine her trying to enter a cloistered order like the Carmelites, when she was not even sixteen years old yet! Her father even took her to Rome to see the Pope and she spoke out to him to ask his permission to enter Carmel. The nerve of the child, speaking out to the Pope when she was told not to say anything!

“Or take that Polish kid, Stan Kostka. He came from a noble and rich family, but he didn’t show it, walking around praying all the time. They say he was so deep in prayer that he fainted in Mass. More likely he was not eating enough and got dizzy. If I were his parent, I’d put a stop to it pretty soon. No child of mine gets to mope around, pretending to be better than the rest of us. I’d get him into sports to teach him how to act like a real man.”

“He was so annoying that even his older brother Paul beat him up when Stan wouldn’t join the party. Of course, that Paul Kostka was no great shakes, what with all that wild life he led at college. I can’t condone bullying but I can see why Paul did it. They say Stan stood up to his brother one day and Paul was so mad he just swore like a sailor.”

“I heard that the boy then went and joined the Congregation of St. Barbara at the Jesuit school. Then, he got so ill that he thought that he was dying, and he claimed that St. Barbara and two angels brought him communion because apparently the landlord wouldn’t permit a priest to come into the house to give him communion. Imagine asking a saint to bring him communion!

“Well, I heard that the boy Stan left the Jesuit school in Vienna where his father had sent the two boys for an education. Word is that he discarded his fine clothes and manners to wear the outfit of a mendicant beggar. Then he tried to walk the 450 miles to Augsburg, Germany, — and put a pebble in his shoe as a penance — in order to join the Jesuits. He was so run down it was no wonder he had to stop at a Jesuit house where Peter Canisius gave him



St. Stanislaw Kostka on his death bed” by Pierre Legros the Younger

www.wikipeedia.org

menial chores to do to test his vocation. It must have worked because he ended up in Rome with the Jesuits under Francis Borgia who quickly made him a seminarian. After that, Stan had a vision of Our Lady with the Child Jesus and he died on the Feast of the Assumption...and he was just 18 years old!

“A fine pair those two are. Don’t worry. They won’t amount to anything. No one will ever hear of them again.”

[Conversations overheard recently soon after]

“What is that you say? That Martin girl became a saint, a model for teenagers who seek God in the small things, in the little way of small sacrifices that Therese followed? Those people in Lansdale named a high school after that Martin girl Therese and called it Little Flower High School? And even when the name changed to Lansdale Catholic High School, they took the original statue of the Little Flower and kept it in the new school down the block. A teenage saint for teenagers? Impossible!”

“And you’ll never believe this! Even before that, the people of Lansdale chose that teenager Stanislaus Kostka as the patron saint of their new church? Just because Sister Stanislaus, a young nun at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, mentioned it to the pastor at the time and he liked the idea. What was the matter with the first name of the property bought for the church—Marienfeld—Mary’s Field? Surely Our Lady would be pleased with another church in her name. Or maybe she loves teenagers because she raised One herself. Oh, yeah, that’s right. The grade school is now Mater Dei Catholic School, so I guess Our Lady did get her name honored in the end anyway.

“Maybe the people of Lansdale are onto something using teenage saints for teenagers? We’ll see!”✘

Parishioner Spotlight

Stan Skrzat

by **Norman Berger**

As I made my way through the Skilled Nursing area of Elm Terrace Gardens, I wondered how I'd find Stan Skrzat. I and my fellow Legionaries (members of the Legion of Mary) had previously known Stan and his wife Maggie, often helping wheel Maggie to the monthly Mass at Elm Terrace with Stan keeping a watchful eye from his self-propelled electric wheelchair. It had always been a pleasure for all of us when entering their shared room in Skilled Nursing to observe Stan keeping an ever-watchful eye on his beloved Maggie as she was slowly slipping into dementia. Last year, however, Maggie passed away, which was very hard for Stan, and he was transferred to a room of his own in the independent living area.

On this day, I was told he had been transferred to the hospital some time ago and had been very ill for a while. But now he had gotten over his condition and was back in the room that, until April of last year, he had shared with Maggie. Together, we went to the activity room on his floor and the curtain on his life was slowly raised...

Stan, the youngest of four boys, was born "Stanislaus" to Polish-born parents who lived at the time in Perkasio. When Stan was two, the family moved to Lansdale where he grew up attending the then-named Little Flower School. Stan recalled how he was picked to be an angel in 1st and 2nd grade and then "graduated" to altar boy. After graduation, he attended Lansdale High. Mass at St. Stanislaus Church was important to his Polish parents and Stan learned some words of Polish from his adoring mother.

As graduation neared in 1944, Stan's older brothers had already been "called to the colors." So Stan, wanting to be a hero, applied to the Marines. When asked to "sign here," Stan hesitated. He asked if he could wait until his graduation from high school. No, he was told, they couldn't wait for his graduation to have him ship out, so he turned around, walked out, and went over to the Navy Recruiting Office. When he was asked there to "sign here,"



Stan asked, as before, "When?" The Navy said he could sign up right then, and they'd assign him to his first duty station at 709 W. Fourth St. (his home!) until graduation. So, it was that Stan graduated on a Thursday, and left home the next day for the Navy. He became a crewman on PGM (Patrol Gunboat, Motor)-22 for the duration of the war, participating in nine battle actions in the Pacific and then in the Battle of Okinawa. His gunboat wound up in Kyushu Bay, Japan, working along minesweepers that would find and cut loose underwater mines. His boat would then blow up the surfaced mines.

After the war, he qualified for Aviation Cadet training and joyfully got to go home early, hitch-hiking across the Pacific on various military flights to Pearl Harbor until obtaining a "ride" on a destroyer the last leg of the way to San Diego. From there, Stan hitchhiked home to Philadelphia. He joined the cadet program at Bucknell University, but had to quit when he couldn't maintain a record in the top ten percent of the class. He was transferred to the Philadelphia Naval Yard for his remaining time in the Navy, serving two and a half years in total.

While home on leave at one point, he was driving around Lansdale in his uniform and spied a parked Model A Ford convertible "packed with girls." He pulled over and got out of his own car to look appreciatively at the Model A, the same model he dreamed of some day owning himself. One of the girls looked him over as well appreciating the way he looked in his uniform. Another girl arranged a double date with her Army boyfriend and that is how Stan met the girl with whom he would share his life, a pretty lass whose parents were native-born Scots. As Stan relays, they were inseparable even when going shopping.

Two boys, Brad and Rick, came along in good time. After living with Maggie's parents while they saved money, they were finally able to purchase their first home and then the in-laws also "jumped ship" and moved across the street from the couple. Good thing that they all got along well!

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Our Pastor's Pen

Dear friends / Mis amigos queridos,

“What’s in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet.” The importance of a name was expressed in that way by the bard William Shakespeare in *Romeo and Juliet*, one of Shakespeare’s most popular plays. It is undeniable that names are powerful. They are as significant to their owners because they identify us to others. A person’s name is the greatest connection to his or her identity and individuality.

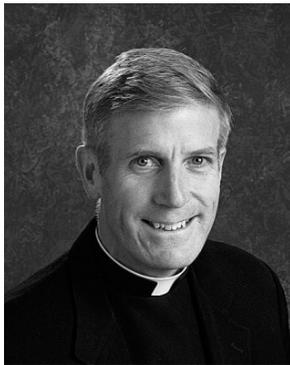
Perhaps that is one of the reasons it is customary for Catholics to adopt a saint’s name for people and for churches. It gives an assembly an identity, but also something equally important: a special heavenly patron. Our patron saint helps develop our understanding of – and reliance on – the communion of saints, who intercede to God for us, taking our special needs and prayers to God with us.

St. Stanislaus Kostka was taken as the patron of Lansdale’s first Catholic Church. We owe our namesake principally due to an OSF sister/church organist and a founding pastor who liked the name. Since arriving here, I have found some confusion about which Stanislaus we are talking about when referring to the parish. There are two rather famous St. Stanislaus in the canon of saints. The first lived way back around the turn of the first millennium and attained the ripe age of 49 until his demise in 1030 AD. That Stanislaus is the Patron Saint of the nation of Poland and is not the St. Stanislaus the Church in whose honor our Church is named.

Our St. Stanislaus Kostka was likely named after him. Stanislaus Kostka was the very first Jesuit ever canonized by the Church, even though he was a scholastic at the time of his death and not yet perpetually professed. He loved Jesus, loved the Church, and made the Eucharist the center of his spiritual journey. Remarkable for his faith, his ability to forgive and to serve others, he surrendered his life into God’s hands in the year 1568 at just 18 years of age! He was officially named a saint of the Church in 1620.

Enjoy this issue dedicated to the Stanislaus significant to our Lansdale community. Even though not officially a Polish church (as many of my family members thought when first I came here), the Pole who wanted to be a Jesuit in the footsteps of Ignatius has had a profound influence on all who belong to this faith community we call St. Stanislaus Church.

St. Stanislaus, pray for us!✠



Msgr. Joseph Tracy

Surfing Around?

How do the other Stans live? Check out the websites of some other ‘St. Stanislaus parishes, like in Pleasantville, New York, www.saintstanislaus.net or in St. Louis, Missouri: www.saintstan.org.

NEWSTAN

MISSION STATEMENT

In response to the St. John Paul II’s call to evangelization, St. Stanislaus Parish started publishing *NewStan* to serve members of the parish community and the community at large, to inform parishioners and members of the North Penn region about new developments in the parish, and to serve as a channel for communications among St. Stanislaus parishioners and benefactors.



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Those who wish to contribute items for publication should forward them to the *NewStan* mailbox in the St. Stanislaus Parish Center. The inclusion of submitted material is subject to the judgment of the editors in consultation with Monsignor Tracy and the St. Stanislaus Communications Director. The editors reserve the right to edit all submitted material for length and content.

Visit St. Stanislaus Parish on the web at

www.ststanislaus.com

Follow us on Facebook: St. Stanislaus Lansdale



Do you have a question about St. Stanislaus Parish, or about the Catholic faith in general? Forward your questions to the *NewStan* mailbox in the Parish Center, anonymously if desired. We will direct the questions to the right person and publish the answers in a future issue.

NewStan Focus Group

MATER DEI CATHOLIC SCHOOL Advisory Board

On February 25, at the MATER DEI Home & School general meeting, attendees witnessed the induction of the first MATER DEI CATHOLIC SCHOOL Advisory Board.

The creation of an Advisory Board for the school was a recommendation of the Archdiocesan Blue Ribbon Committee on Education back in 2012 when MATER DEI was formed as a Regional Catholic School. What is an Advisory Board? According to the board's operating principles, "The purpose of the Advisory Board is to promote and advance the mission of MATER DEI CATHOLIC SCHOOL for the education and instruction of students in assisting them to 'reach the fullness of the Christian life.'" The board will work in collaboration with the pastors of the three parishes which feed MATER DEI and Principal Diane McCaughan to help the school fulfill its mission of forming students who are "responsible Catholic citizens" as well as to ensure that the finances of the school are in good order and that the school adheres to the academic principles set forth by the Archdiocese and the state of Pennsylvania.

What can and can't the board do? The board is an *advisory* committee and as such advises on matters including enrollment, tuition, curriculum, budget and facilities. They provide a forum for addressing concerns of all MATER DEI CATHOLIC SCHOOL stakeholders, act as liaisons with external institutions, approve the school budget, and help organize parents and parishioners to aid the school. The board does NOT review administrative decisions, set school curriculum or become involved in personnel issues for students or faculty. They are not involved in any hiring or firing decisions.

The board is to be made up of between 16 and 22 'voting' members, of which no more than one-quarter should be current parents. The principal and school business manager, Mrs. Suzanne Verzilli, are *ex-officio* non-voting members, while the Pastors (Msgr. Joseph Tracy, Fr. Andrew Brownholtz, and Fr. Kevin Kelly) are *ex-officio* voting members. The other members, who participated in a special Advisory Orientation last November, were selected by the pastors and principal based on nominations from the MATER DEI CATHOLIC SCHOOL Implementation Committee which had previously played a significant role in MATER DEI CATHOLIC SCHOOL governance.

The Members are organized into a series of committees including the Executive, Facilities, Finance, Academic/Education, Board Membership, and Advancement Committees, (the last one itself consisting of sub-committees on Mission/Vision, Enrollment Management, and Development). The whole Board meets four times a year, with individual committees and subcommittees meeting more frequently as necessary to forward their mission.

The following are the members of the current Advisory Board as presented by Principal Diane McCaughan and inducted on February 25th. As a member-parish of MATER DEI CATHOLIC SCHOOL, we thank them for taking on this honor and for their time and dedication. You can read more details about the members on the school's website at www.materdeicatholic.com/advisory-board.

- ❖ **JERRY FREE** – Advisory Board Chair, Executive Committee and Finance Committee
- ❖ **SISTER WILLIAM ADELE METCALFE SSJ** – Advisory Board Vice-Chair, Board Membership Committee Chair
- ❖ **JUDITH KRAFT** – Advisory Board Secretary, Executive Committee and Facilities Committee
- ❖ **JOSEPH CUOZZO** – Advancement Committee
- ❖ **PAUL CUTAJAR** – Advancement Committee Chair
- ❖ **DEBORAH EBLE** – Academics/Education Committee
- ❖ **PATRICK GILLEN** – Facilities Committee
- ❖ **GREGG J. GOLA** – Finance Committee Chair
- ❖ **DR. KELLY LANDMAN** – Advancement Committee
- ❖ **THOMAS McNAMARA** – Advancement Committee
- ❖ **GEORGE MICK** – Finance Committee
- ❖ **JULES QUINONES** – Advancement Committee
- ❖ **MARIA RICHARDSON** – Academic / Education Committee
- ❖ **PAULA SCOTT** – Academic/Education Committee
- ❖ **MARY SOLECKI** – Academic/Education Committee Chair ❖

New St. Stanislaus Statue

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statue of St. Stanislaus in his youth, along with a new sign, to identify us at the busy intersection of Lansdale and Main Streets. People passing will hopefully make a connection between the saint depicted in his youth and their own lives, realizing you don't have to be old to be a person of sanctity. St. Stanislaus was an outstanding example of that. An ordinary young person and Jesuit scholastic, he was renowned for his personal sanctity. The saints teach us that if they can do it, we can too!

According to Msgr. Tracy, the original statue will probably be moved to another location on the property, "*perhaps* over to the school since Thomas Aquinas is the patron of Catholic learning. It will definitely remain on the property as it is part of the parish's heritage!"

Monsignor also indicated that the new sign going up in front of the church will serve multiple purposes: to inform the public of upcoming events; to give quotes from the greats of the Church for people to ponder; and to offer encouragement to participate at daily and Sunday Mass. He plans to keep it current and change it often.

Be sure to watch the parish bulletin for news and information on a dedication ceremony that will likely be held following the complete installation of both statue and sign. Msgr. Tracy hopes to ask a bishop to attend and to bless the statue along with the new front and side doors.✠

Stan Skrzat

continued from page 3

Life was good for Stan and Maggie as they moved on from being parents to grandparents and then great-grandparents and into Elm Terrace together, until ultimately separated by Maggie's passing on April 6, 2013.

Sto lat, Stanislaus!✠

SAVE THE DATE

The annual MATER DEI CATHOLIC SCHOOL
May Procession and Crowning of Mary will take
place on Thursday, May 15th at 2:00PM.

Watch the Parish Bulletin for details!

GIFT News Updates

GIFT (Growing In Faith Together) has covered a diverse spectrum of topics this past season: from a talk about St. Therese of the Child Jesus to an evening with our own parishioners sharing their faith stories.

We've tackled subjects that impact our people: homosexual Catholics, Catholic approaches to addiction, and Autism Awareness.

An evening dedicated to Graceful Aging had to be cancelled because of the weather. At session of the season dealt with End Of Life issue and the last program before the summer focused on Demetrius Gillitzin, the Apostle of the Alleghenies, a prince and a priest who is on the path toward sainthood.

Watch the Sunday bulletin for the dates and times for the coming season.

If you have ideas about potential topics (or speakers), share them with the GIFT committee by marking your correspondence: "GIFT" - and bring them or email them to the parish center.

Thank you to all who came out for our meetings - and see you in September!✠



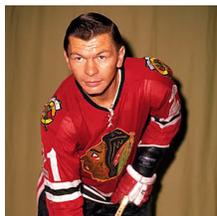
Can You STAN-d It?

A NewStan Contest

by Anita Cugini

Stanislav or **Stanislaus** (Latinized form) is a very old given name of Slavic origin denoting someone who achieves glory or fame. The English name “Stanley” is often thought to be the Anglicized form, but this is historically and linguistically inaccurate: the two names have entirely different origins and meanings.

It’s been a while since we have had a contest in *NewStan*. Since we have dedicated this issue to our Parish’s namesake, we decided perhaps we would dedicate a contest to some other of Stan’s namesakes. It’s easy to play: In the first column below are 20 famous Stans’ last names. In the second column are a list of descriptions. Just match the right Stan, Stanley, or Stanislaus with the right description. We’ve included a few pictures to help you out as well!



1. MIKITA
2. FORTUNA
3. PILECKI
4. COLLYMORE
5. FREBERG
6. LAUREL
7. MUSIAL
8. MOORE
9. HEATH
10. TRACEY
11. ROPER
12. LEE
13. KOWALSKI
14. MARSH
15. HUDSON
16. GETZ
17. WINSTON
18. IPKISS
19. PAPCZYNSKI
20. KUBRICK

- _____ Rugby Player
- _____ Jazz Pianist
- _____ Baseball Player
- _____ Hockey Player
- _____ Blessed, Founder of the MIC
- _____ Basketball Coach
- _____ Saxophonist
- _____ *The Mask*
- _____ Marvel comics
- _____ English Soccer Player
- _____ “Three’s Company”
- _____ Radio Voice Actor/Comedian
- _____ “South Park”
- _____ “The Office”
- _____ *A Streetcar Named Desire*
- _____ Emmy-winning Screenwriter
- _____ Director
- _____ Make Up Artist
- _____ Jazz-playing rapper priest
- _____ Comic Actor



Place your completed entry in the *NewStan* mailbox in the Parish Center by July 26th – St. Stanislaus Kostka’s birthday – along with your name, phone, and address. We will pick the winner at random from all correct entries – or the entry with the most correct answers right! The winner will receive a gift card to a local Lansdale business!

NewStan

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Parish Census Data for January 2014 – March 2014

 <p>James "Malcolm" Campbell Mason Alexander Dancer Charlotte Amelia Kearney Alice Mae Kelly Colton Joshua Lowery Brennah Shea Maginn Giovani Gael Perez Montano Lilia Marie Niederstrasser Jerome Francis Petr Amanda Perez Sanabria Lyla Grace Slade Ray Daniel Williamson Natalie Isabel Witman</p>	 <p>Jamie Bolton Tyrone & Adrienne Branch Wayne Fritzingler & Kristen Burkhart Dan & Danielle Burns Iain & Katie Campbell Ceil Chant Nick Coyne Greg Czysz Marvin & Baudilia De Jesus Ellen Galeone Paul & Sue Garvin</p>	<p>Jim & Laura Gillespie Tina Jackson Morgan Karpac Daniel & Caitlin Kennally Adam Meyer & Teresa Kong Tracy Le Brett & Celeste Linskey Jairo Lopez Julio Lopez Luzmarina Lopez Don Martell Sarath & Valanci Palani</p>	<p>Joe & Jenn Pentasuglio Rose Pieretti Matt Pilquist Len Raffeo Mary Rossi Dan & Amanda Saitta Joe & Jenna Sobocinski Matt Spiegle Brian Martell & Monica Storm Herb & Sally Tiedeken Bob & Carol Witt</p>
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 <p>Matthew Bellace and Coleen S. Croes Marco Antonio Varela Lopez and Elvira Columna Piña Brian Richard Pitcavage and Holly Nicole Bergin Kevin Patrick Swantek and Marissa Louise Johnson</p>	 <p>Catherine Buffett Charles Class Robert L. Conroy Dorothy Crenny James Daneker Louis DePaul William J. Gallagher Margaret Hangey Maria Iacobelli Olga Koss Anthony Leo Kathryn Mariano</p>	<p>Paul William Moretski John Muller Sandra A. Pepka Frances Riccardo Maria Rossi Sophie Ruduski Joseph A. Ruffo, Jr. Ronald Saylor Elizabeth T. Sheeder</p>	<p>Marilyn A. Smith Edward G. Stromberg Julia Vass Josephine V. Vellutello Eileen R. Wilcox</p>
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