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Magnificat

A Ministry to Catholic Women

Fall NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 9 ISSUE 24

Greetings!

Since returning from the National Eucharistic Congress (NEC) this past July in Indianapolis, it just keeps resonating with me that we are to be instruments of grace. As Magnificat women, we are to emulate the Blessed Virgin Mary! In a very practical sense, I have been contemplating what does that mean in 2024. I believe we are called to be people of **hope**, not despair, anxiety or discouragement. We promote **unity**, not division or chaos. We bring **joy**, not negativity or a critical spirit. We courageously speak the **truth** in love and not with anger or bitterness.

In order for us to consistently live in this manner, it seems we need to surround ourselves with people, places and things that encourage us to be in the state of grace! Attending Mass, receiving the Eucharist, going to Confession (recommended monthly) and participating in the sacraments is essential in helping us stay on the high road on our journey. We heard numerous times during the NEC that we need to repent, pray and fast. There is no time like the present. Let's make a concerted effort to help one another become saints!

Donna Ross, Coordinator,
Central Service Team (CST)



POPE'S INTENTIONS

OCTOBER

For A Shared Mission

Let us pray that the Church continues to sustain a synodal lifestyle in every way, as a sign of co-responsibility, promoting the participation, communion and mission shared by priests, religious and laity.

NOVEMBER

For Those Who Have Lost A Child

Let us pray that all parents who mourn the loss of a son or daughter find support in their community, and may receive peace of heart from the Spirit of

Consolation.

DECEMBER

For Pilgrims Of Hope

Let us pray that the coming Church Jubilee Year 2025 strengthens us in our faith; helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in the midst of our lives, transforming us into pilgrims of Christian hope.



Liturgy of the Hours

A Book of Prayer and Contemplation

From the first letter of the apostle John
The commandment of faith and love Jn3:18-24

Little children,
let us love in deed and in truth and not merely talk about it. This is our way of knowing we are committed to the truth and are at peace before him no matter what our consciences may charge us with; for God is greater than our hearts and all is known to him.

Beloved,
if our consciences have nothing to charge us with we can be sure that God is with us and that we will receive at his hands whatever we ask. Why? Because we are keeping his commandments and doing what is pleasing in his sight.

His commandment is this: we are to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ. and are to love one another as he commanded us. Those who keep his commandments remain in him and he in them. And this is how we know that he remains in us: from the Spirit that he gave us.

RESPONSORY

1 John 3:24; Sirach 1:9, 10

All who keep God's commandments live in God and God lives in them.

-We know that he dwells in us, by the Spirit he has given us, alleluia.

In his Holy Spirit God created wisdom, which he had poured forth upon all creation and has offered to those who love him.

-We know that he dwells in us, by the Spirit he has given us, alleluia.





OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

October 7th

O Virgin Mary, grant that the recitation of thy Rosary may be for me each day, in the midst of my manifold duties, a bond of unity in my actions, a tribute of filial piety, a sweet refreshment, an encouragement to walk joyfully along the path of duty. Grant, above all, O Virgin Mary, that the study of thy twenty mysteries may form in my soul, little by little, a luminous atmosphere, pure, strengthening, and fragrant, which may penetrate my understanding, my will, my heart, my memory, my imagination, my whole being. So shall I acquire the habit of praying while I work, without the aid of formal prayers, by interior acts of admiration and of supplication, or by aspirations of love. I ask this of thee, O Queen of the holy Rosary, through Saint Dominic, thy son of predilection, the renowned preacher of thy mysteries, and the faithful imitator of thy virtues. Amen.

Magnificat Hour of Prayer



**Join Us on Facebook
Every 1st Wednesday of the Month
7 pm Central - LIVE**

with a variety of reflections offered each month
Patriotic Rosary- October 2nd

Videos are recorded. You can listen anytime
and as often as you want!

Mother of Mercy, Fort Myers Chapter Host 71st Meal

By Janice Neyer, Chapter Secretary

Fort Myers, Mother of Mercy Chapter, hosted its 71st Meal on Saturday, September 14, 2024, at the Crowne Plaza Gulf Coast Town Center. The Meal was attended by 62 women. Our guest speaker was long-time Mother of Mercy Magnificat woman Esperanza Liszewski. Esperanza, a native of Colombia, studied International Law and Diplomacy and, after coming to the US, completed her master's degree in social work from Barry University.

Esperanza's testimony was filled with faith, love, and learning to accept life's crosses, teaching that "without suffering, there is no heaven." Providentially, her testimony came on the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross. Esperanza gave many examples of how lifting high the crosses of her life was made possible only through turning to our Savior, who strengthened her. As Hebrews 2:1 tells us, "Because he (Jesus) himself was tested through what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested."

Esperanza's joy and peace, a direct result of her trust in the Lord, truly radiated over the beautiful women in attendance at our meal. Her life verse, **Isaiah 41:10**, "**Fear not, I am with you. Be not dismayed; I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you and uphold you with My right hand of justice,**" was a beacon of hope for all of us. It reminded us that with faith, we can overcome any challenge and find joy in the journey.



Fr. Hugh McGuigan, spiritual director praying and teaching on Sept 14, 2024 at the Meal.



Center Esperanza Liszewski, guest speaker, being prayed over by left Janice Neyer, Secretary and right, Felice Gerwitz, Coordinator



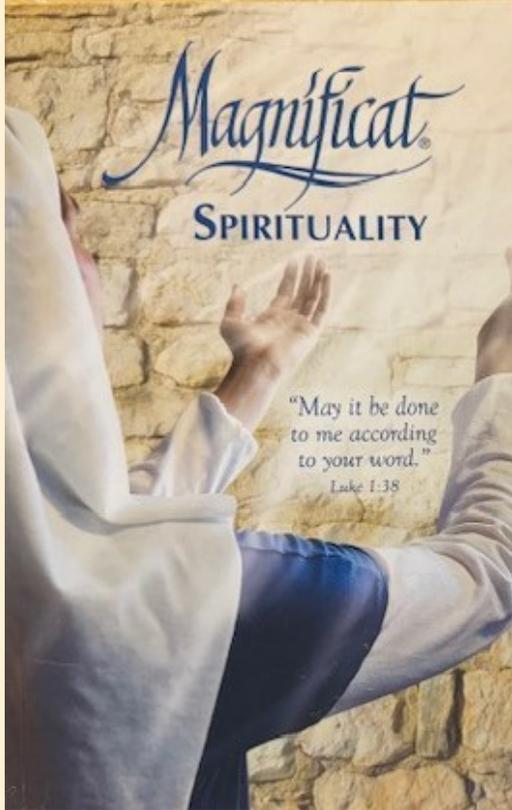
Esperanza Liszewski, Guest Speaker

MAGNIFICAT SPIRITUALITY

The new Magnificat Spirituality book brings the principles of Magnificat into one concise volume. Now, we can be informed and instructed in what it truly means to say "yes" to God like Mary and join her in proclaiming His greatness in word and deed through Magnificat membership.

"But the hour is coming, in fact has come, when the vocation of woman is being achieved in its fullness, the hour in which woman acquires in the world an influence, an effect, and a power never hitherto achieved. That is why, at this moment when the human race is undergoing so deep a transformation, women impregnated with the spirit of the Gospel can do much to aid mankind in not falling ..."

— Second Vatican Council message to women



"Magnificat Spirituality is a response to this proclamation, echoing in our times, calling us back to personal holiness, community, and service in obedience to the Holy Spirit. The world needs a compelling manifestation of God's love and power to heal broken lives and institutions. With Mary, as our model and greatest intercessor, we believe Magnificat, with Chapters worldwide, has been called and equipped "for such a time as this."

– Magnificat Central Service Team

**Order your copy of
Magnificat Spirituality
(English or Spanish) today!**

[Click here](#)

Magnificat Pittsburgh Welcomed Sr. Rita Clare Yoches, T.O.R.

By Janice Lane Palko, Asst. Secretary & Publicity Chairperson

As we head into fall and football season, it was particularly appropriate that Magnificat Pittsburgh, The Visitation Chapter, welcomed Sr. Rita Clare Yoches, T.O.R., who was a fullback for the Detroit Demolition, a women's professional football team, before she entered her religious vocation. In August, more than 150 women gathered at the Hilton Southpointe in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, south of Pittsburgh, to enjoy a delicious breakfast while being moved and entertained by Sister's humorous and touching journey from gifted sports star to Sister.

Fr. Tom Sparacino, the Chapter's Spiritual Advisor, delivered a teaching on hope, stating that "hope is anchored in the grace of God" and that because we have so many material goods, it's sometimes difficult to empty ourselves and receive God's grace. Living Praise Worship Team led the women in songs of praise and worship, and some of the attending Sisters joined in to provide musical accompaniment. Also among the attendees were guests from West Virginia and several Religious Sisters communities.



Sr. Rita Clare Yoches, T.O.R., speaker

Carlos Acutis to be Canonized in October



Carlo Acutis, an Italian teenager, died at the age of 15 due to fulminant leukemia. He was a gamer, computer programmer – he built a site cataloguing Eucharistic miracles - who loved soccer and the Eucharist. He is the patron of youth and computer programmers. Find out more about Carlos [HERE](#).

These unique statues are made in Colombia. Each is individually hand-painted by talented women who are either widows, single mothers, or those who are sole providers for their families. Slight color and design variations may occur. Measures 3" W x 10½" H x 3" D

Find a statue at store.magnificat-ministry.net



Rochester, NY Chapter's April Meal

By Jeanne Walker, Historian

Wow! What a wonderful Meal to start out at our new venue, St. Pius Tenth Parish Center.

Our speaker Lisa Lickona was amazing as she shared her witness and conversion story with Christ. With her extensive theological background, she landed a position as Editor for Saints for the *Magnificat* devotional. She found that saint research was changing her and was a beginning of her on going conversion and falling in love with Jesus and having Him be the center of her life. She also left us some recommendations for us to ponder.

1. Let Him love you
2. Let your heart cry out to God
3. Give yourself all the time you need to change inside and out.

Father Ed Palumbus gave a reflection on the church's 3-year period of the Eucharistic Revival and spoke on the real presence of Christ sharing different ways to experience encounters of the presence of Christ.

1. The assembly of God's people
2. Liturgy of the Word, proclaiming the word of God.
3. Under the form of bread and wine as a gift to nourish and heal us.
4. He is present in the priest that presides at the Mass.

He challenged us to go out and be the Eucharist for others.

Our two sisters in Christ, Kathleen Sullivan and Cathy Glucksman who have started their own ministry doing raffle baskets created another amazing raffle with "He is Risen" as a theme. All proceeds go to our Chapter to help put on this beautiful Meal.

Praise Reports of complete healing were given for both Louise Carson's husband Bob and Cathy Glucksman.

The Knights of Columbus Council #17086 did an amazing job with set up, cooking a delicious meal, serving and clean-up. It was a blessing to see some Knights working while their wives were participating in the breakfast activities.

Our next breakfast will be in September when we celebrate our 25th anniversary year as a Chapter.



Service Team



Attendees



Father Ed's reflection



Raffle winner



Raffle basket winner



Music ministry



Lisa Licona



Praise report - Louise Carson



Rochester, NY's new venue

Welcome to Our New CST Member

Angela Rizzo lives in Rockville Centre, Long Island, New York. She founded the Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapter in her diocese in 1997 and has served as Coordinator many of those years. Angela has also served as the Regional Rep for the Northeast for the past 15 years. She also facilitates women's Bible studies at her parish, and participates in Life In the Spirit Seminars. In her free time she enjoys her five, soon to be six grandchildren.



Angela Rizzo

Congratulations New Region 7 Rep

Louise Carson has said "Yes!" to serving as the new Regional Rep for Region #7, replacing Angela Rizzo who recently joined the Central Service Team (CST).



Louise Carson

Louise has been involved in the Magnificat Ministry on the Rochester, NY Chapter Service Team since 2009. She has been Coordinator for the last ten years and for eight years, also served as Region 7 Finance Representative.

She was in leadership in the Charismatic Renewal, has certification in Pastoral Ministry from the Rochester Diocese and served in parish pastoral ministry for several years.

Louise has offered her witness at many Magnificat Chapters and brings many gifts, talents and experiences to her new role.

Louise is married to Bob and has three children and seven grandchildren.

Welcome to Our New Region 1 Rep

The Ministry welcomes Michelle Harnish as Regional Rep for Region #1.

Michelle's history with the Ministry started when a good friend invited her to a Magnificat Meal and she tells us, "It was lovely. I knew I was in the right place."

Eventually Michelle served as a greeter, and after assisting the Hostess Chair, was asked to take on that position for the Chapter. She continued in that position for about 8 years before being asked to join the Service Team in the position of Treasurer. When asked by the CST to to serve the Ministry as the Regional Rep for Region #1, and after discerning prayer, she said "Yes!." Michelle shared, "I am humbled and grateful for this opportunity to serve Our Lord and His Most Blessed Mother through this beautiful Ministry. Please pray for me that I will fulfill their plan for me."



Michelle Harnish

Thank You for Your Service to the Ministry!

Donna Garlock, a retired CPA, wife, mother, and grandmother, is a member of the Grapevine Magnificat Chapter and joined the Magnificat Ministry Finance Team under Marilyn Heap in 2011. Ultimately, Donna became Assistant Treasurer for the Central Service Team and has been a valued advisor to the Ministry. In Magnificat, Donna tells us she felt the embracing love of the Lord.

Donna will be retiring from her Magnificat Assistant Treasurer position as of January 1, 2025. Her presence will be sorely missed,



but her contribution has become foundational to the Magnificat Finance Ministry.

Donna, you have our eternal gratitude and continued prayers

Donna Garlock

Mary, Queen of Heaven and Earth, Stark County, OH Chapter Service and Advisory Team Family Picnic

By Emily Voegele, Asst. Coordinator

Our Service and Advisory Teams had their second meeting for the year in July. For the past several years we have had our meeting/picnic at the beautiful home of Diane Stropki, our Historian. She has a large yard and a spacious hangar to host our group. We had approximately 25 people in attendance, including spouses.

Our warm, sunny afternoon began with Mass celebrated by Fr. Tom Cebula, our Spiritual Advisor. Fr. Cebula's homily focused on the Mission of Magnificat and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. He said, "St. Paul identifies the Holy Spirit as the down payment of a future glory to come. We cash in on that down payment when we utilize the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, the charismatic gifts, and give evidence of the fruits of the Holy Spirit in our lives." He then illustrated what it means to live and cash in on that down payment. "That's just the down payment! There are even better payments to come that are out of this world!" (our second reading was Ephesians 1:3-14). At the end of Mass, Betty Carty shared a Word (see below).

Emily Voegele, Asst. Coordinator, then thanked the Advisory Team for their dedication to the Ministry and passed out updated job descriptions, and a few items from the Handbook/Constitution: Mission of Magnificat, Objectives, Vatican Council Message to Women, and Historical Intro to Magnificat. Fr. Cebula provided a chart of gifts and fruit of the Holy Spirit.

After the very short meeting, Fr. Cebula said the meal blessing and then we enjoyed a meal catered by a local restaurant with beverages and desserts provided by the Service Team. The evening was pleasurable, and we were able to meet spouses and enjoy fellowship with each other in a relaxed setting.

Word Gift

By Betty Carty, Personal Prayer Ministry Chair

As I sent forth my apostles, I am also sending you forth. Continue to seek me, to ask me for understanding about the path you are to follow.

Some of you have your own goals and expectations, and they are not always aligned with the path that I would show you. I am asking you to walk in faith. I am asking you to walk with me, and with saints and angels, as my kingdom comes to earth. The Holy Spirit is with you, to enlighten your path, to show you the way. Follow the guidance of my Spirit, that you may do your part and fulfill the plans of my Father.

It is important in these times that you come together in unity and in love. I sent my apostles forth two by two. I send you forth in various ways on various ministry teams. Turn your eyes, your ears, and your hearts to me as you go forth. I am with you. I am in your midst. I am the Way. Amen.



Fr. Tom Cebula



Attendees



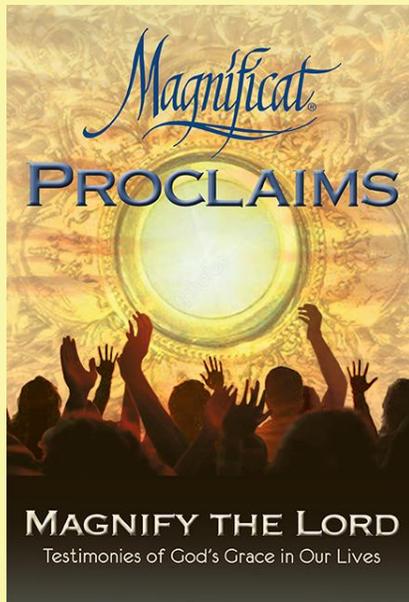
Irene Wood, Intercessory Prayer



Sally Kohring, Reservations Chair



Attendees



Magnify the Lord!

Book three in the Magnificat Proclaims series has another 19 powerful testimonies of clergy, religious and laity to inspire and touch hearts. Available in the Magnificat Store or Amazon.com

Order a Proclaims book at:
store.magnificat-ministry.net

A Great & Inspiring Read!

Rochester, NY Magnificat, September Meal and 25th Anniversary
By Ann Iten, Assistant Coordinator

On Saturday, September 7th Meal we celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the Spouse of the Holy Spirit

Magnificat Chapter. God has been so good to this Chapter. We are fortunate to have some faith-filled women who discerned for three years and stepped out in faith to start this Chapter.

To start off our morning, our current Service Team members processed in with candles as the music ministry played a beautiful song. We had some special guests in attendance to help us celebrate our 25th Anniversary of the Chapter. Former Service Team Members: Kathy Murty, Gert Amesbury, Sue Waterstraat, Pat Smith, Pat Roman and Jean Wierzewski, along with our former Spiritual Advisors Father Mike Mayer, and Father John Gagnier, and current Spiritual Advisor Father Ed Palumbos. We also acknowledged the Service Team members that had gone before us.

Annually, we give out an award to a woman who has exemplified faith in God. Jeanne Walker, our Historian, announced the recipient of the award which was Gina Battisti. Gina has been a long-time attendee of Magnificat, a St. Pius parishioner, Eucharistic minister and a prayer group leader. Gina was overcome with emotion as she accepted the award.

Here are some key points from Father Ed's reflection:

- Worship over worry during difficult times
- God embraces all of us
- No one can earn God's love, it's a gift
- We must listen to each other and keep our hearts open.
- If we are looking for God's presence, we must be present to God and one another.

Our speaker was Carolyn Cannizzaro. Carolyn spoke about being a proud wife, mother, and grandmother. She lives with her husband, Andy, on a farm in Pennsylvania. Most of all, Carolyn loves our Lord Jesus and desires to share His love with others. Besides her teaching degrees, Carolyn received her Pastoral Ministry Certification from Seton Hill University in PA. She is the Chairwoman for the 2024 Diocese of Greensburg "Spirited" Women's Conference and was the Director of Prolife Advocacy for that Diocese. In her home parish, Carolyn also serves in many roles. She is a member of the Living Praise Worship Team for Magnificat events, retreats, and Life in the Spirit Seminars (livingpraiseworship.com). Carolyn has experienced many trials in life including marital strife, the loss of both parents and the tragic loss of her first husband and eldest daughter. Through these many difficulties, she surrendered and found her trust and joy in the Lord. The Lord is continually directing Carolyn's life.

A Praise Report of complete healing was given for Louise Carson's husband Bob.

Breakfast was prepared by the St. Pius Knights of Columbus and what a delicious spread they prepared for our anniversary Meal. Because this was a special event, we also included ice cream cups! We know that ice cream is not a usual breakfast food, but we were celebrating a special occasion. So we decided to eat dessert first!!



Speaker Guest- Carolyn Cannizzaro



Spiritual Advisor- Fr. Ed Palumbos



25th Anniversary Procession



Women of Faith Award- Gina Battisti



Raffle Winner- Judy Szczech



Original Service team Members- Kathy Murty, Gert Amesbury, Sue Waterstraat, Pat Smith, Pat Roman and Jean Wierzewski,

2024 Giving Opportunity

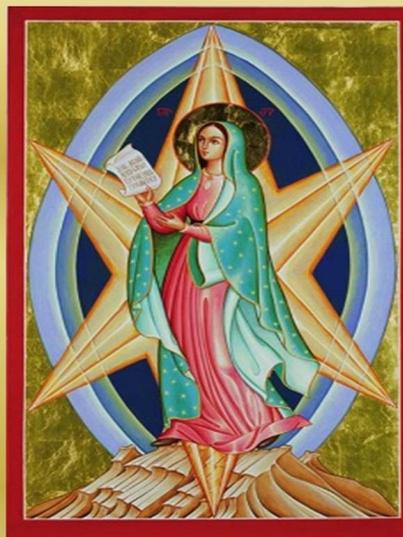
Please consider supporting Magnificat in our mission to evangelize and serve Catholic women through joining our Five Star Share giving program. Your financial gifts enable the Ministry to support Chapters worldwide, develop new programs and materials for individual and community spiritual growth and development. These funds also help women forming Magnificat Chapters in new locations.

Click on Five Star Campaign or the Our Lady of Guadalupe icon to donate.

Together, let us proclaim the greatness of the Lord to all the world!

God loves a cheerful giver! (2 Cor. 9:7)

Five Star Campaign



*Our Lady of Guadalupe
Star of the New Evangelization
Pray for Us*

HELP WANTED: ACCOUNTING SKILLS NEEDED (CPA would be helpful!)

For anyone who is qualified and feels called to help the Ministry with any of the areas listed below, please contact Sharla Prejean, CST Treasurer at sharlaprejean@gmail.com

Controller type work for the Magnificat Ministry which includes:

1. Assisting the CST Treasurer with cash management, including:
 - Maintaining cash balances
 - Paying bills
2. Monthly closing of the Ministry books and preparing financial statements,
3. Ensuring that all payroll, contractor and donor reporting requirements are met in a timely manner,
4. Annual budgeting for CST,
5. Assistance with cash collection at the biennial conference,
6. Administration of donor, bill pay and credit card software,
7. Providing reports for annual Federal and State tax for preparation by a CPA.

Some necessary experience requested would include

- QuickBooks Online & Microsoft Office experience needed,
- Prefer accounting degree.
- Familiarity with donor, event, bill pay & credit card software or ability to learn new software quickly.

The Ministry is looking for a volunteer(s), but may be able to offer a nominal stipend. The estimated

time involved is approximately 10 hours per week for one person, and of course less if multiple volunteers become available.



Why do I attend Magnificat Meals?

'The favors of the Lord are never exhausted, his mercies never end, they are renewed each morning. Great is his faithfulness.'
Lamentations 3:22-23

A living and visible testament of the Lord's supernatural revelation is witnessed at every Magnificat Meal.

MAGNIFICAT Prayer Booklet

The MAGNIFICAT prayer booklet has been a daily companion to thousands on their spiritual journey, enriching their prayer life and helping them grow in love and knowledge of Christ and the Church. Every subscription to the MAGNIFICAT publication directly benefits our Magnificat, A Ministry to Catholic Women worldwide.

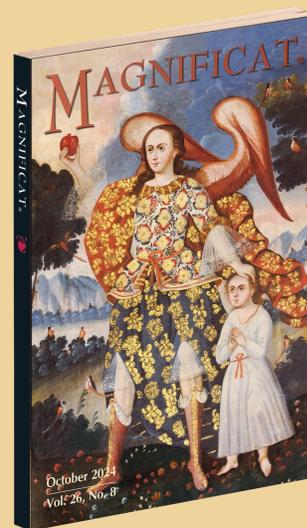
Regular Edition first subscription \$49; second subscription \$39; and subsequent subscriptions \$35;
Large Print Edition: first subscription \$69; second subscription \$59; and subsequent subscriptions \$54.

It is available in several languages.

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You can hear great Magnificat testimonies, teachings, Conference 2023 talks/homilies and encouraging words on your computer, tablet, or phone. Click on the Podcast icon and enjoy listening to the variety of programs available. Save programs as a favorite to your computer or phone and listen to them anywhere and anytime. Tune in regularly and don't forget to sign up for updates!



This Newsletter is brought to you by the Central Service Team

Elise Botch - Editor
Colleen D. Swiatek - Layout Page Designer
CST Communications Team

We appreciate articles/pictures of interest from our Chapters.

New submissions can be sent to elisembotch@gmail.com

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