



INFORM

ISSUE 59

A Newsletter published by the Catholic Bishop of Christchurch

December 2004

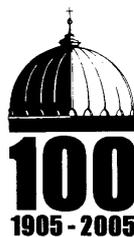
A New Monsignor!

Congratulations to Monsignor Charles Drennan. Monsignor Charles, who has just completed a month's holiday at home in Christchurch, was surprised to be informed soon after returning to his work in the Vatican that the Holy Father has conferred on him the honorific title of Monsignor. Monsignor Charles works in the Secretariat of State which encompasses the diplomatic mission of the Church as well as being the Secretariat to His Holiness. Most of Monsignor Charles' work involves writing speeches and talks for the Pope. Prior to taking up his position in the Holy See two years ago, he had been on the staffs of the national seminary and the theologate in Auckland. Before that Monsignor Charles had served in Hoon Hay, Timaru North and Bryndwr parishes as well as teaching at Good Shepherd House.



Monsignor Charles Drennan

Update: Cathedral Centennial Project



The new "Stations of the Cross", commissioned to mark the Cathedral's centenary, are now mounted on its walls. A large cross will be incised in the stonework above them, and finely crafted titles will be hung below. Presently advice is being sought as to the best way of lighting them.

All fourteen "Stations" have now been gifted. With the consent of the donors the list is being published in *Inform*, and in a booklet on the "Stations" to be published in 2005. A permanent record of the donors will also be kept in the Memorial Chapel of the Cathedral.

The list of donors (in no particular order) is as follows: the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament Charitable Trust; the Anglican Diocese of Christchurch and the Chapter of Christ Church Cathedral; in loving memory of Charles McKinlay, brother of Mary Drake and Catherine Connolly; K.J.C.; Father Leo O'Connor, in memory of his mother; Monsignor J. M. Harrington in memory of his parents; estate of the late Brenda Smith; in loving memory of Alfred Joseph and Eliza White, donated by a great grandchild; T. M. and M. E. O'Brien; P. Bede Cosgriff; anonymous; Michael and Vicki Summerfield, Father Rick Loughnan; "Catherine"; and in loving memory of Barbara Carroll Fahey and Matthew Robert Cecil Glass, gifted by Bill, Luke, Roberta and John Glass.

The Bishop and the Cathedral Trust are indebted to all concerned. The "Stations" will be dedicated at an Ecumenical Service at 2.00pm on Saturday February 12 2005, the centenary of the Cathedral's dedication.

CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL
Centennial Ball
Saturday May 28th 2005
7.00 pm
Christchurch Convention Centre
Lucky Ticket Prize

Ticket Price \$125.00 per person
(Includes drinks, three course meal with wine & live entertainment)

*To order your ticket
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22 Longmuir Street
Christchurch
Phone (03) 357-9390
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Make up a table or come on your own and
enjoy a night you will never forget



A letter from our Bishop

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Last month in Mexico at Guadalajara, the Pope's delegate presiding at this year's International Eucharistic Congress opened for the whole Church the "Year of the Eucharist" from October 2004 through to October 2005. The Holy Father gave a televised message. There in Mexico as hopefully throughout the entire world, Masses, times of adoration and processions to Christ in the Blessed Sacrament were featured or will take place. Our Christ the King procession at Nazareth is in that ancient and most worthy of traditions. The faith of generations of Jesus' disciples has been expressed and nourished by Christ sacramentally present and spiritually active in Holy Mass, Holy Hours and Eucharistic and Marian processions. I encourage you to remain faithful to Sunday Mass, find opportunity to participate in weekday Masses being with Jesus and his people in worship of the Father. Also as you are able, make visits to the Blessed Sacrament. Worship the Lord faithfully and fruitfully during the year of the Eucharist.

Pope John Paul asks us to be involved in the central celebration of "The Year of the Eucharist" on the feast of Corpus Christi on May 29 next year. That day is also planned as the principal celebration on the feast day of our Cathedral of the



Blessed Sacrament in its centennial year. Please keep an eye on your parish newsletters and copies of *Inform* notifying celebrations and events throughout the year 2005.

By happy coincidence next year the centenary of the Sisters of Nazareth in this diocese is being marked. We thank God for their continuing presence in Brougham Street. The actual date of establishment of Nazareth House was January 7 1905. The Cathedral was opened on February 12 1905. The solemnity of the dedication of the Cathedral will be marked that day. It will feature an Opening Mass, shared lunch and an Ecumenical Service during which the Stations of the Cross specially commissioned for the centenary will be dedicated.

Next year the Christ the King Procession will take place in the Cathedral grounds given the Cathedral's

one hundred years and the fact that for many years the annual Christ the King Procession was held in Barbadoes Street in the environs of the Cathedral.

■ From a theological point of view it is important to emphasize that a procession is a sign of God's relationship with his people with Christ and after Christ. It is also a sign of the witness to the faith that every Christian and each Christian community is obliged to give to the structures of civil society. The procession is also a sign of the Church's missionary task which reaches back to her origins and the Lord's command which sent her to proclaim the message of salvation to all peoples.

■ From a liturgical point of view processions should be oriented towards the Liturgy. Those who journey along the way pass as people living in this world towards that communion of saints living in heaven. Beginning with a moment of prayer the procession continues with the Word of God, the singing of hymns and concluding with a doxology to God and Benediction.

■ From an anthropologic perspective the procession should clearly be seen as "a commonly undertaken journey". The people feel united with the Lord and one another, intent on giving concrete expression to their Christian commitment throughout the journey of life.

I congratulate the Nazareth Sisters on their upcoming centennial celebrations. May our Eucharistic King bless all associated with Nazareth and the whole diocese in the significant anniversary of our beloved Cathedral.

With blessings and best wishes for a happy and holy Christmas.

Sincerely,

John Cunneen
Bishop of Christchurch



(Photo 12) A group of 500 people took part in the Christ the King procession in the grounds of Nazareth House in November.



Parishes

Bryndwr

Hanmer Springs

St Roch's parishioners, past parishioners, past clergy, and visitors from around New Zealand, 120 people in all, celebrated the centenary of St Roch's Church on Saturday, October 2 2004.



Sr Koleti SMSM, Pauline Jones, Trish Prenderville, Eileen Dorreen and Cora Zuppich.

Members and friends of the CWL Bryndwr Branch hosted Sr Koleti SMSM for a week-end while she was on study leave. Sr Koleti is in charge of St Mary's School, which is the Bryndwr Mission Station in Tonga. Sister spoke after the Parish Mass about her work in Tonga.



Celebrations commenced with the Centennial Mass celebrated by Bishop John Cunneen and concelebrated by parish priest, Fr Leo McAteer SM, past clergy, Monsignor B O'Gorman, Frs. Paddy Cahill, Kevin Clark, Mike Doyle, Ray Schmack and frequent visitor to the parish with Young Adult Groups from Christchurch, Fr Rick Loughnan. The organist was Michael Zon and the choir from St Joseph's, Papanui, Christchurch.

Following Mass centennial photographs were taken followed by lunch and get together at the Hot Springs Hotel.

Monica Smith, St Roch's longest serving parishioner and resident of Hanmer Springs for 52 years, cut the cake. Monica also compiled a history of the church and parish which is recorded in the centennial book *St Roch's Church - Hanmer Springs - 1904-2004*.



Hornby

St Bernadette's Parish 50th Golden Wedding Jubilee celebrities for 2004 from back left - Peter Peterson, Fr Paulo Filoiali-i Parish Priest, Mel Parrie and Len Fone. Front left - Honora Peterson, Amelia Parrie and Tess Fone.



People

Fr Miles O'Malley recently had the dignity of Archpriest conferred on him by Bishop Peter Stasiuk CSSR, in Melbourne. The title recognises Fr O'Malley's involvement with the Eastern rite Ukrainian Catholic Church over the past 10 years.



Nada Al-Sayyad, Annalee Jones and Maree Sutton from the St Anne's Young Vinnies helped to pick and deliver bright bouquets of daffodils in early Spring to distribute to the elderly in the area. The St Anne's Parish Conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society has initiated the project over the last few years.



Organisations

CATHOLIC OUTDOOR CLUB Celebrates 21 years

On Sunday October 31 2004 the Club celebrated its twenty-first year with a Mass at the Arthur's Pass Chapel celebrated by Father Brian Fennessy (our Chaplain) who made a special trip down from Waiouru for the occasion. Father Brian and members of the Club reflected on the special significance of the mountain home in its peaceful and beautiful alpine environment offering the opportunity for natural recreation or time for relaxed solitude.

The members shared a celebration meal at the Club house complete with an anniversary cake. A tree was then planted in memory of one of the Club's founding members the late Denis Lombard.

The Catholic Outdoor Club Inc. was formed in 1983 with the object of providing opportunity and encouragement for outdoor recreation. The Club acquired the lease of an aged ex NZ Railway house at Arthur's Pass which had not been occupied for at least two years.

The house was completely renovated and in May 1984 was blessed and officially opened by the late Father Mark Moesbergen (our first Chaplain). Since that date the house has fulfilled the objectives of the Club many times over being used by families, school classes, religious groups, retreat teams, youth groups, tramping clubs and many other

special purpose groups.

The Club purchased the house property in March 1998.

The house was completely upgraded thanks to funding by way of membership of the Club, generous donations of funds and materials and the voluntary efforts of a hard working project team. Maintenance of the house has been carried out by volunteers and consequently the rental has been maintained at a rate affordable for families – in fact for all users.

The Club house is a fully equipped lodge with three bedrooms (six bunks in each), a large community room incorporating kitchen facilities, two separate bathrooms and two toilets. It is an ideal place to relax away from everyday pressures.

For information and bookings contact:

Booking Officer: Suzanne Summerfield
Ph/Fax (03) 342-9841. Club email address: coc@paradise.net.nz

Police Chaplaincy



Fr Dan Doyle was recently inducted as Police Chaplain for the Canterbury District. With him at the induction ceremony conducted by ex-District Commander Warwick Nicholl were two former Police Chaplains: Msgr Gerry O'Connor & Msgr Bede O'Gorman and fellow Police Chaplain, Major Bob Miller.



group programmes and counseling.

The agency had a very busy and rewarding year. Two new psychodrama group courses were developed, a new staff member came on board, Heather Nebbs, and sensible progress has been made with our young persons

Check out our www.cathsocservs.nz site or our December newsletter for details about next year's programmes. Call Mary on (03) 379-0012 if you would like to be added to our mailing list.

We would like to thank all who have in any way supported us throughout this year and wish everyone a Blessed Holy Christmas and many joys in the New Year. Do not forget we are here to serve YOU.

Catholics Returning Home

Do you know someone who has left the church? Most of us do not have to look very far to find non-practising Catholics in our circle of family and friends.

The South Christchurch parishes of Addington, Beckenham, Halswell and Hoon Hay have combined to offer a special programme run to help non-practising Catholics return to the Church entitled "Catholics Returning Home". This series begins on **Tuesday January 25** and runs from 7.30-9.00pm. Please pass this article on to anyone who might be interested.

For more information call Sonya on (03) 981-9481 or email stpeters@paradise.net.nz

Pilgrimage 2005

Fr Chris Friel will be leading a 22 day pilgrimage tour to Lourdes, Fatima, Garabandal and the ancient pilgrims' route across northern Spain to Santiago del Compostela – departing two weeks after Easter on April 9.

The pilgrimage starts in Madrid and travels through many historic cathedrals, apparition sites, shrines and medieval towns and cities in the three counties that will be visited.

To find out more or for a registration form phone Peter Fleming on 0800 356 728 or write to

Pilgrimage Tours,
Freeport TOURS,
PO Box 11458,
Ellerslie,
Auckland.



Sumner Catholic Women's League

The Sumner Catholic Women's League held its Golden Jubilee on November 6 and 7. Celebrations began with a Mass of Thanksgiving at Our Lady Star of the Sea. The Parish Priest and Branch Chaplain, Fr Denis Nolan, celebrated the Mass, together with concelebrants Bishop John Cunneen, Fr John Morrison – Diocesan Chaplain, Fr Finian Conway – former Parish Priest and Chaplain, and Fr Chris Friel – St Anne's Woolston Parish Priest.

Following Mass members and friends gathered for a Festive Lunch held at "The Manor on Bealey", where speeches to honour the occasion were made and

"tales were told" of early events in the history of the League in Sumner.

On Sunday morning the members again gathered at Our Lady Star of the Sea for the Parish Mass. To mark the milestone two brass candlesticks were presented to the parish from the League. These were then blessed during Mass. The Parish Council hosted morning tea after Mass for the CWL members in appreciation of their dedicated work and involvement in parish life over the past 50 years.

Cutting the Sumner CWL Jubilee cake are Mrs Joyce Cooke; Mrs Mollie McGrade-Clark, the current President; and an early member and Past President, Miss Peggy Ledge, a Life Member



BEGINNING AGAIN

Each year at Advent the Church begins a new cycle of its liturgical year. The Sacred Liturgy is the reality of the Church's life and the source of our lives if we wish to live in union with Christ. So the Scripture readings of the four Sundays of Advent provide us with indispensable light on what this season is about, and why we can think of it as a time for new beginnings.

This year's readings, Year A of the liturgical cycle, are particularly vivid, dramatic and lyrical by turn, full of promise and urgent warnings. In them we find some of Isaiah's most moving words about how things will be when the time comes that God DOES rule over all, the time when Christ has restored all things to his Father. In those days the waste land will bloom and bring forth flowers, the wolf will live with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together, and there will be "no hurt, no harm on all my holy mountain". But there is also, as well as powerful re-assurance to encourage our hope, a great deal of exhortation and warning that we are not

moving towards the triumph of God's kingdom on a conveyor belt. Isaiah says, "Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees, and say courage to all faint hearts"; John the Baptist flatly enjoins us to repent, and warns of judgement if we don't; Christ reminds us we do not know when the end will come and need to stand ready for it at all times. On the last Sunday, St Paul states succinctly what the Good News is, what Christ has given us and what response from us this calls for.

All the Advent readings, week by week, set out for us the reality of the world and human life that God has revealed to us. It could scarcely contrast more sharply with the "reality" that pours over us and threatens to swamp us as the Christmas rush, New Zealand style, comes upon us like a tsunami. All this talk about taking stock, recalling our real identity, beginning anew to seize the gift of life in Christ, the gift surpassing all others, could hardly come at a worse time, a more distracting time. We could well feel that it would be better if Advent

came AFTER Christmas instead of before it, when we are all so busy!

But in fact it is NOW, as we prepare to celebrate Christ's birth in the stable at Bethlehem, the pivotal event of human history, that the Spirit asks us to stop and listen to what he is saying to each one of us in the Advent Scriptures. It is in these weeks, with all their preoccupations and fatigue, that we are called to absorb and reflect on his words, and allow them to take root in our hearts. How often we make the excuse that we could do this or that right action "in an ideal world"? But there never was and never will be "an ideal world". There is always and only one world, the one God has given us, the here and now with all its painful inadequacies and restrictions, the sins and failings which burden us. Advent should above all recall us to the reality that NOW is the acceptable time – to take stock, take courage, and begin again.

Betty O'Dowd bmodowd@globe.net.nz



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Youth News

Youth & Young Adult News from the Catholic Youth Team

It has been a busy time for the Catholic Youth Team over the past couple of months with various activities and programmes happening. In this issue we are focussing on what has been happening in the Young Adult area of our ministry over the last few months.

“Immaculata” Young Adults’ Retreat

Over Show Weekend, our final Young Adults’ retreat for 2004 was held at Glentui. Forty young adults gathered together for a time of retreat, fellowship and fun. Father Dominic Murphy OP, a Dominican Priest from Melbourne, Australia, led the weekend and gave five amazing talks on how the Blessed Virgin Mary leads us closer to Jesus Christ. There were also a number of optional workshops such as “The Mercy of God”, “Prayer Journaling” and “Discernment”. It was a fantastic weekend with many highlights, including the fellowship and sharing among the participants, the prayer experiences of Mass, Adoration and the Scriptural Rosary, the free time and of course, the wonderful food and music! It was clearly obvious to see the Lord working powerfully in the lives of many throughout the weekend. Everybody really enjoyed themselves and it was a great chance to get away, relax and be spiritually refreshed. Thanks to all those who came along and helped to make the retreat the success that it was.



Fr Dom and his guitar.

Having fun on retreat



Participants on the “Immaculata” retreat.

Young Adults’ Overnight Adoration Event

In June of this year, Pope John Paul II announced a “Year of the Eucharist” beginning in October. We thought that we would hold an event to mark the opening of this year. On Friday October 8 Young Adults gathered together at Good Shepherd House for a night of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. The event began with Mass at 7.30pm followed by all night adoration and concluded with Mass at 9.00am the following morning. It was an amazing night and it was so great to see so many Young Adults adoring Jesus present in the Blessed Sacrament for an hour throughout the night (and some even staying all night!). We concluded with a cooked breakfast in the morning that was enjoyed by all. We hope to repeat this event in 2005.

Hearts Aflame 2005

Hearts Aflame, the Catholic Summer School for Young Adults, will be held in Hamilton from Friday December 31 until Sunday January 9 2005. This is an amazing and life-changing event and I would highly recommend attending. The cost for Hearts Aflame is \$380.00 and registration forms are now available from your local parish or the youth team office. Registrations are filling up fast so be in quick! For more information on Hearts Aflame please contact Matt at the Catholic Youth Team Office on (03) 366-9869. The Hearts Aflame website (www.heartsaflame.org.nz) is well worth a visit with heaps of information.



2005 World Youth Day Wall Planners For Sale

In 2005, a group of Young Adults from this Diocese are hoping to attend World Youth Day in Cologne, Germany. As part of our Fundraising, we are selling World Youth Day Wall Planners for only \$5. These are great value and will make excellent Christmas presents. If you would like to buy one, please contact us at the Catholic Youth Team Office on (03) 366-9869.

Young Adults Soiree

In mid September we held a very successful social evening for Young Adults called a Soiree at the Mairehau Parish Hall. A Soiree is a semi formal event and it gave Young Adults the chance to dress up. What a fantastic night we had! Over 100 Young Adults enjoyed a night of music (including live Jazz), dancing (including Latin American dance lessons), great company and wonderful food. The Soiree was also a World Youth Day fundraiser for the pilgrims looking to go to Cologne in 2005.



The likely lads at the Soiree.

St Mary's Past Pupils' Association Diamond Jubilee

On Sunday September 26 2004 about 80 past pupils of the former St Mary's College, Colombo Street, gathered at St Mary's Parish Church and Hall (Manchester Street) to celebrate the diamond jubilee of the Past Pupils' Association.

Father Peter Blake SM welcomed the group to the 10.30am Mass at which members of the Association's Committee took part as readers and bearers of the gifts to the altar. After Mass members mingled with parishioners at morning tea in the church narthex. Before moving to the parish hall, a photograph of the assembled past pupils was taken in the sanctuary of the church.

The hall was decorated with balloons and photographs for the informal sit-down luncheon and jubilee celebrations. Father John Jolliffe SM said grace and Rima Arney, the president of the Association, welcomed the members to the jubilee gathering then cut the celebratory cake assisted by Sister Cornelia Kearns RSM, a past pupil of the College and a former head of St

Mary's Convent. Marie Lockey, the last principal of St Mary's College, then proposed the toast to the Association on celebrating 60 years. Marie outlined the history of the Association, from its foundation in 1944, as a vehicle for organizing a debutante ball for past pupils of the College, through its change of name in the 1960s from Old Girls' Association to its present name, Past Pupils' Association, and through its survival to the present year after the closure of the College at the end of 1981.

Marie paid tribute to the outstanding work and commitment of the president, Rima Arney, who has acted as president on three other occasions, and to hardworking perennial committee members like Molly Banks and Marie McKee. A toast to the 60 year old Association and the hope for its survival for a number of years in the future was acclaimed by all present.

After lunch singers and dancers from Nan's Grans entertained the members for a happy-making hour. Afternoon



Rima Arney and Sr Cornelia Kearns RSM cutting the Jubilee cake.

tea rounded off a very heartening and successful gathering for the diamond jubilee of the St Mary's Past Pupils' Association.

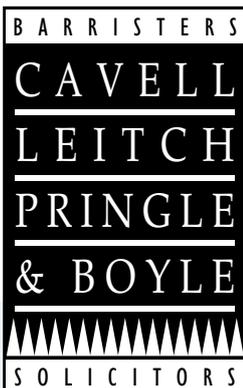
Our Lady of Fatima School

"Sing Jubilee" was the song which rang around Our Lady of Fatima Church on the Friday of Labour Weekend as pupils from Our Lady of Fatima School, Mairehau, celebrated the Opening Mass marking the School's 50th Jubilee. Past pupils and teachers came from around the world to join in the celebrations which included a Conversazione providing the opportunity to renew friendships, reminisce, and make

nostalgic visits to classrooms and playground of primary years.

A Mass of Remembrance had three past pupil priests concelebrating (Frs. Kevin and Peter Head SM, and Fr Carl Telford SM), during which a roll of deceased teachers and pupils was part of the procession of gifts. A Mass of Thanksgiving was attended by past pupils, current pupils and parishioners.

A highlight of the weekend was having 13 Holy Faith Sisters present, including Sr Anne Warren CHF, the Congregational Leader from Dublin. Mrs Hilary Dewe, the first lay principal retires at the end of this year. The very fine leadership begun by the Holy Faith Sisters 50 years ago will continue with Mr Denis Aberhart from 2005 and in the words of the School motto "In Faith, in Hope, in Love - Advance".



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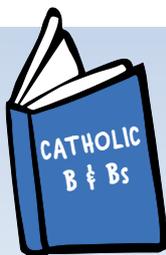
The National Catholic Vocations Symposium was held from November 22 to 26 – as *Inform* was going to press.

Two keynote speakers who gave input during the week were Sr Mary Ryan RSJ, currently the Executive Officer of Catholic Vocations Ministry in Australia,

and Fr Cyril Hally SSC, a Columban priest lecturing in Missiology at the Catholic Institute of Sydney. His introductory lecture on globalisation gave informing, interesting and challenging food for thought. A fuller report will be printed in the next issue.



Fr Rick Loughnan, Sr Raylene RSM, Fr Cyril Hally SCS, Mrs Anne-Marie Pike, Sr Mary Ryan RSJ, Sr Judith Moroney RSM and Fr Dominic Murphy OP.



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Good Shepherd House this year

With lectures, prayer, pastoral work, and social functions, the year at Good Shepherd House has been fairly busy. Chris and I have certainly enjoyed it though, and the maxim "Time flies when you are having fun" certainly has applied! By far the most time consuming activity here is our lectures. We have eight areas of study, namely Scripture and Tradition, Theology of the Priesthood, Faith of the Church, Spirituality, Philosophy, Liturgy, Maori, and, my personal favourite, Church History. These will serve as a foundation to the study I will continue in Auckland next year.

The house certainly is an ideal place for Chris and myself to test our vocations. The friendly environment, and familiar surroundings of Christchurch, have helped me to discern what God's will for my life is. I'm surprised that other dioceses do not have similar houses, since we are finding it so helpful. Of course we all know Canterbury is the best place in New Zealand!

David Carshalton

Rosary House Spiritual Life Centre

Guided Retreat March 5-10
Patricia Anne Dennis B.A. M.R.E.

Journey of Return

Understanding our personality is key to psychological and spiritual integration. It frees us to live life fully. The retreat will focus on peeling the layers of the personality in order to live life more authentically.

Prayer and Fasting – Poustinia
April 1-3 Rosary House Team

A time of prayer, fasting, solitude and silent listening to God, offered in love and atonement for ourselves, our country and our world.

Guided Retreat April 5-14
Rosary House Team

Life's Healing Journey

A journey towards healing of life's hurts. This is a blend of meditations on the humanity of Jesus, of input on the normal and necessary grieving/healing process, private time and individual accompaniment.

For booking and further information please contact:

Rosary House, 15 Dublin Street, Christchurch. Ph (03) 379-1298
Fax (03) 366-1418
or email roho@xtra.co.nz



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INFORM

A Quarterly published by the Catholic Bishop of Christchurch.

Deadline for the 60th issue: **February 21 2005**

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