



Spring 2005

“Training men for the priesthood for over 100 years.”

# The Herald

A Newsletter for the Alumni and Friends of Kenrick-Glennon Seminary

## Mission Statement

Kenrick-Glennon Seminary is a community of faith, formation, and learning, located in the Archdiocese of St. Louis, preparing men for the Roman Catholic priesthood of Jesus Christ.

Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and to the praise of God the Father, we cultivate the human, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral gifts of candidates for the diocesan ministry.

To this end, we commit ourselves to a responsible and effective stewardship of resources, carrying on our recognized tradition of service to the Church.

## The Annual Peter Richard Kenrick Lecture A Gift From the Ordination Class of 1944

When the Tenth Annual Peter Richard Kenrick Lecture begins at 7:30 p.m. on March 10, you can be certain the members of the Ordination Class of 1944 will be smiling.

Proud to sponsor renowned lecturers such as Rev. Joseph A. Fitzmyer, S.J. (and his presentation “The Ossuary of James and Its Implications”), the Class of 1944 wanted to leave something of lasting value to the institution that means so much to them.



2005 Lecturer  
Rev. Joseph A.  
Fitzmyer, S.J.

Rev. Msgr. Louis F. Meyer jovially mentions that his ordination classmates from 1944 refer to themselves as “the best of the vintage.”

“From the very start, we’ve been a close-knit group of friends who have always kept in touch and gotten together on an ongoing basis,” said Msgr. Meyer. “Like the classes before and after us, we got a very good education at Ken-  
*(Lecture, continued on page 2)*

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## Kenrick-Glennon Seminarians March for Life



By Aaron Nord, Theology III  
Archdiocese of St. Louis

Braving a twenty-two hour drive, snowstorms, and biting cold, Kenrick-Glennon Seminary traveled to

Washington, D.C., to stand up for life. Five priests, thirty-three theologians and seventeen collegians joined a hundred thousand Pro-Lifers from all around the country at the 32<sup>nd</sup> annual March for Life. Thanks to their new seminary banner, Kenrick-Glennon seminarians found each other in the vast crowd, sang litanies and prayed the rosary as they marched towards the Capitol. As they approached the Supreme

Court Building, Scott Hastings (Theology I, Omaha) led the pilgrims in invoking the Father’s mercy on our nation in the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Ed Nemeth (Theology I, St. Louis) told *The Herald*, “The best thing



Seminarians Tom McFall (left) and Derrick Flannigan prepare to march. *(Jeff Geerling)*

about the March for Life is seeing tens of thousands of Catholics and other Pro-Lifers descend on our Nation’s Capitol, united on this singular issue of great importance. I feel united to those who went before us to stand up for injustice and oppression, because we march in the same places where thirty years ago people marched for equal rights.”

## Faculty Profile: Dr. Lawrence J. Welch



Since 1994, Dr. Lawrence J. Welch has educated Kenrick seminarians as Professor of Systematic Theology. A graduate of Marquette University and the University of Notre Dame, Dr.

Welch currently teaches Grace and Anthropology to Theology I seminarians and Marriage to second year Theologians. Last Fall, Dr. Welch taught Ecclesiology to Theology II as well as Creation, Sin, and Eschatology to the seminarians of Theology III.

During his undergraduate studies at St. Meinrad College in Indiana, Dr. Welch developed a passion for Theology, a subject he finds to be especially rewarding in the context of educating the future priests of the Archdiocese of St. Louis and the Midwest.

“It is gratifying for me to know that my classes help these men to

think theologically and to gain a greater grasp of the theology of the Faith so that they can proclaim the mystery of faith in an effective manner,” said Dr. Welch. “For example, recently some of the newly ordained priests told me that what we discussed in Eschatology class has served them in a practical and helpful way during their parish ministry.”

Dr. Welch is quick to credit the entire seminary faculty on their unified commitment to the mission of the seminary.

“The caliber of the Kenrick faculty is very good,” said Dr. Welch. “These are people who are genuinely expert in their field of study.”

Dr. Welch went on to elaborate as to how the seminary’s faculty helps to shape the priests formed at Kenrick Seminary.

“The men who study for the priesthood at Kenrick appreciate the seminary’s emphasis on the Theology of the Body, as that has been a focus of the Holy Father’s teaching as well.

The men who are ordained from Kenrick Seminary come away from their formation with an up-to-date, comprehensive education,” said Dr. Welch. “First and foremost, these are priests who are men of prayer. These are men who think with the Church, who speak to the people of today. To be a part of their formation is enormously rewarding because I am able to see the immediate effects of my work in the ministry of these men. For example, when I hear people praising a priest like Fr. Joe Classen [Associate Pastor, St. Margaret Mary Alacoque Parish, Oakville, Class of 2003] for what a holy and down-to-earth priest he is, I am very grateful and pleased that I played some part in the formation of a priest of that caliber.”

Dr. Welch’s wife, Shawn McCauley Welch, has a doctorate in Moral Theology and works part-time with the Paul VI Institute as Associate Dean. Dr. Welch and his wife have three children.

*(Lecture, continued from page 1)* rick-Glennon Seminary. And when we gathered together back in the early ’90s—a couple of years prior to celebrating our fiftieth anniversary—we decided we should do something for Kenrick Seminary.”

What followed was a generous donation from the Class of 1944. Their gift helped to create the *Peter Richard Kenrick Chair of Pastoral Theology Endowment*, which provides “the students and alumni of Kenrick-Glennon Seminary with an educational opportunity of topical interest enhancing the pastoral formation of each individual” (From the PRK Chair of Pastoral Theology Endowment Operating Policy).

Named after the first Archbishop

of St. Louis, Peter Richard Kenrick, this lecture series is sponsored by Kenrick-Glennon Seminary to foster the spiritual and academic growth of priests, deacons, and others who serve the Church of St. Louis.

Past speakers include: His Eminence Avery Cardinal Dulles, S.J. (2003); the Honorable Antonin Scalia, Associate Justice, United States Supreme Court (2001); and Cardinal Francis George, O.M.I., Ph.D., S.T.D. (2000).

Msgr. Meyer reflects on the lecture series thus far and encourages support for the endowment from other Kenrick ordination classes.

“For years, Kenrick Seminary has been the maker of priests and bishops throughout the Midwest,”

said Msgr. Meyer, “and our hope was that this lecture series would contribute to the development of future priests and bishops. When we started this endowment, we were hoping that every class celebrating their fiftieth anniversary would contribute to the Peter Richard Kenrick Fund. This endowment is in need of support, be it from alumni or other generous donors.”

The scheduled speaker for the Eleventh Annual Peter Richard Kenrick Lecture is Mr. George Weigel, noted columnist and author. Mr. Weigel’s previous works include *Witness to Hope: The Biography of Pope John Paul II*. The date for that lecture will be March 23, 2006.

## 'Couch Potatoes': An Entertaining Evening Filled With Music, Laughter, and Seminary Spirit



By Aaron Nord, Theology III  
Archdiocese of St. Louis

The seminarians and faculty of Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in Shrewsbury will be presenting "Couch Potatoes," a fun-filled variety show. This year's production is the fourth year of enjoyable family entertainment, following last year's successful run of "Spam and Cheese: Unsolicited Entertainment." This year's show answers a question burning in the minds of

all Catholics, "If seminarians controlled television, what wonders would we see?"

Rumors around the seminary expect acts to include ever-popular chorus numbers, Fr. Edward Richard's bluegrass band, interactive game shows, music by the Priestly Boys,

Deacon Jack Gardner (Diocese of Bismarck, ND) performs at the 2004 variety show, "Spam and Cheese." (William Hennecke)

and comedy sketches. All in all, "Couch Potatoes" promises to be a tour-de-force of the talents and imaginations of the seminary community.

There will be three showings this year: Thursday, February 24<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. and a matinee on Sunday, February 27<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$5, available at the door or in advance by calling Kyle Hill at 314-792-6241. Special group and family rates are available. Call the same number for directions or additional information. Ticket sale proceeds benefit student activities and Pro-Life work, including an annual pilgrimage to the Pro-Life March in Washington, D.C.



The annual seminary variety show at Kenrick-Glennon: occasionally irreverent, sometimes outrageous, always good family entertainment. (William Hennecke)

## 2005 Deacon Class to Host Youth Rally April 29th

By Aaron Nord, Theology III  
Archdiocese of St. Louis

St. Louis' deacon class of 2005 has big plans for the eve of our ordination to the diaconate. Chris Dunlap, Chris Martin, Nick Muenks, and I plan to host a youth rally sponsored by the Vocation Office of St. Louis at Incarnate Word Parish. We invite the teens and young adults of St. Louis to join us for *Oremus* (translated from the Latin, meaning "Let Us Pray") from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. on April 29<sup>th</sup>



for a high-impact, high-energy evening of Eucharistic Adoration, praise and worship music, and personal witness from the ordination class of 2005.

Chris Martin told *The Herald*, "We're excited to invite the young people of the diocese to be a part of our ordinations since we're not ordained for ourselves but for the people of God and they represent the future of the Church."

The author of this article agrees whole-heartedly. Praise and worship and Eucharistic Adoration have been powerful influences on our class, and *Oremus* will let us share these awesome wellsprings of prayer with youth from all over the archdiocese.

## Faculty News and Notes



**Fr. Jack Hunthausen, S.J.**, Kenrick Director of Spiritual Formation, was recently published in the Winter 2004 issue of *Seminary Journal*. The article that Fr. Hunthausen contributed is titled

“Honesty: A Healthy Support to Priestly Fidelity.”

Fr. Hunthausen also reports that on Tuesday, March 29, there will be a workshop conducted for the seminarians of the Kenrick School of Theology at the seminary. The title of the workshop will be “Receiving Spiritual Direction.” While primarily directed to the needs and interests of the seminarians, all of the seminarians’ spiritual directors will be invited.

There will be a panel of three experts in the field of spiritual direction: the Right Rev. Thomas Frerking, O.S.B., Abbot of the Abbey of Saint Louis; Rev. Benedict Ashley, O.P., Emeritus Professor of Moral Theology at Aquinas Institute in St. Louis; and Rev. Richard O. Buhler, S.J., Director of the White House Retreat House. Each member of the panel will give a formal presentation from the perspective of his religious order’s tradition of spiritual direction. The seminarians will spend time in small groups discussing the presentations and offer questions to the panel and there will also be a general questions-and-answers session.

Some of the topics that will be addressed are: What is spiritual direction? How should one go about selecting a spiritual director? How should one prepare for a spiritual direction session? What benefits should one expect to receive from spiritual direction?

The program will begin at 9:00 a.m. and will conclude at 4:00 p.m.



On January 10, Kenrick-Glennon Seminary’s President-Rector, **Msgr. Ted L. Wojcicki**, gave the invocation at the Inauguration Day ceremonies in Jefferson City, as

Matt Blunt was sworn in as Missouri’s newest Governor.

The following is an excerpt from that invocation:

We praise and thank you Lord, you are the source of all LIFE, of all LOVE, You are the source of all GOOD, the source of all TRUTH.

In our SHOW ME STATE, you *have* shown us the wonders of your grace. When we are TRUE to our heritage, IN GOD WE TRUST.

Keep our eyes open, Lord to the way you wish to lead us, in our private lives *and* in the public square—under God.

Bless our newly elected governor MATT BLUNT, as he assumes the duties of office—with wisdom, fortitude, counsel, and all the gifts of the Spirit.

Bless him with your presence throughout his years of service;

Bless all who offer him assistance and advice—with the *fortitude* to pursue the truth and the wisdom to know that all truth comes from God.



Dante’s *Divine Comedy*, which is being offered for the first time at Kenrick by **Sebastian Mahfood**, Asst. Professor of Intercultural Studies, is the first of its kind. Not only is it being facilitated entirely online, but it is also a literature course gone interdisciplinary with the virtual participation of the entire faculty who inform the theological structure of Dante’s universe via video clips posted through-

out the *Inferno*, the *Purgatorio*, and the *Paradiso*. Eleven students are registered in the course representing each year in the theology program. Fr. Earl Meyer, a Capuchin Franciscan priest assisting at St. Mark Parish, is also enrolled in the class. The pilgrims on this journey read one canto a day for the entire hundred days of the class and have the opportunity to interact with others in the tour group through the discussion boards set up for each canto. Visitors from the community are welcome to login at <http://fishersnet.blackboard.com> using the username: “dante” and password: “dante”.



This February, **Dr. Susanne Harvath**, Professor of Pastoral Counseling, will present “Celibacy and Healthy Relationships” at the Day of Enrichment for

the newly-ordained priests of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau. This presentation will take place at the residence of the Bishop of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, the Most Reverend John J. Leibrecht.

In April, Dr. Harvath will be presenting to the priests of the Diocese of Belleville on the topic of Grief.



**Msgr. Ed Griesedieck**, Associate Spiritual Director, led a pilgrimage to sacred places in Spain and Portugal last October and November. During his

prayer at these places sacred in Catholic history and tradition, Monsignor remembered the intentions of Kenrick-Glennon’s seminarians, faculty, and administration.



**Anne Marie Kitz, Ph.D.**, Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, is currently working with Robert Englund, Professor of Assyriology, of

(Faculty, continued on page 6)

# Seminarian Spotlight



**The encouragement of family and friends is an important aspect of a seminarian's priestly discernment. These Kenrick-Glennon seminarians reflect on those people in their lives who played a key role in their discernment and who continue to support them in their vocation toward the priesthood.**



**Rev. Mr. Jack Weldon, Theology IV / Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana / Home Parish: St. Lawrence in Lafayette, IN / Diaconate Parish: St. Charles Borromeo in St. Charles, MO**

"It wasn't until I was almost engaged that my girlfriend asked me to consider what I had once described as 'a thought of being a priest.' After hearing the call in fourth grade, and running from it until I was twenty-three, I finally responded with a 'YES!' after a discussion with my pastor and time spent in Eucharistic Adoration. By the grace of God I am just months from priesthood ordination, and it has been the prayers of the people I have met in the parishes that has really carried me through. To them I am forever grateful."

**Jeffrey Geerling, Second Year, Cardinal Glennon College / Archdiocese of St. Louis / Home Parish: St. Sabina, Florissant, MO**

"'Lead by Example.' This quote has definitely applied to the lives of my parents. They have been the most important aid in discerning my vocation to the priesthood. My parents have always modeled a loving, supportive and responsible marriage, with proper respect and devotion for Catholicism. Without my parents' prayers and support, I would not be attending Kenrick-Glennon Seminary. In addition, the great Catholic example provided by other relatives and close friends is an inspiration for me as I continue on my journey to the priesthood."



**Andrew Schmidt, Theology I / Diocese of Bismarck, North Dakota / Home Parish: Cathedral Parish, Bismarck, ND**

"As a seminarian at Kenrick I've realized that there is a common analogy of 'igniting a fire' used with vocations and spirituality. I would say that my mother put most of the kindling needed for my fire in place by reading the children's bible to me and also by seeing to it that I went to Mass every Sunday at the Church of the Holy Cross in Fargo, ND. While attending St. Mary's Central High School in Bismarck, ND, Fr. Tom Richter provided the spark to ignite that kindling. By simply asking me if I'd ever considered being a priest, and by telling me that I would make a good priest, he sparked my vocational discernment. As a result, God's call has remained in my life to the present day."



**Rodger Fleming, Pastoral Internship / Archdiocese of St. Louis / Home Parish: All Souls, Overland, MO / Parish Assignment: St. Mark Parish, Affton, MO**

"In discerning my call to the priesthood, I learned that I needed the knowledge and support of a priest. I needed to talk to a priest who I trusted and felt comfortable talking to about this calling. I was torn between a call to the priesthood and my desire to get married. For help in discerning God's calling, I went and asked my pastor, Fr. Paul Rothschild, if we could talk. Without any pressure, he listened and gave me the help and guidance that I needed."



## The Ad Multos Annos Associates Friends Who Remember the Seminary in Their Estate Plans

“Ad Multos Annos”: translated, these Latin words mean “and many more years” and serve as the traditional toast for priests. The blessing and hope these words convey, that a priest will continue to serve in his ministry for many years to come, are at the root of the newly formed “Ad Multos Annos Associates,” a group of generous people who have remembered Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in their wills and through various planned gifts involving their estates and assets.

The latest member of the “Ad Multos Annos Associates” is Kenrick Seminary alumnus Rev. Martin J. Petrasic (Ordination Class of 1943) of the Archdiocese of Omaha, Nebraska. Eighty-seven years old and still going strong, Fr. Petrasic credits Kenrick-Glennon Seminary for his priestly formation, which included an education consisting of two years of philosophy and four years of theology.



Fr. Petrasic

“The seminary nurtured me for those six years,” recalls Fr. Petrasic. “I got a good education in all of the fundamental areas.”

Fr. Petrasic specifically credited several faculty members with his formation, including Rev. Martin O’Malley, C.M.

“Fr. O’Malley taught us Church History at Kenrick,” said Fr. Petrasic. “He was a powerful preacher and an excellent teacher. I will never forget the impact he had on me during my discernment. Fr. O’Malley is just one of the reasons I’ve included the seminary in my estate plans.”

“The creation of the ‘Ad Multos Annos Associates’ is Kenrick-Glennon Seminary’s way of identifying and thanking those donors who have remembered the seminary in their wills,” explained John Cleary, the seminary’s Director of Development. “It so often happens that we first learn of a donor’s bequest to the seminary after that person has passed away. And while we are able to

thank the relatives of the donor for that person’s generosity, it would be ideal if we knew about the actual donor’s interest in the seminary while they were still living, if only to thank them now and involve them in the Kenrick-Glennon community while it is still possible.”

Cleary invites any person who has remembered Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in their estate plans or who would like to become a member of the “Ad Multos Annos Associates” and invited to participate in the life of the seminary, to contact him at 314-792-6113 or e-mail him at [cleary@kenrick.edu](mailto:cleary@kenrick.edu).

Cleary continued, “Unless we have their permission to do so, we never publish the names of our donors. The purpose of the ‘Ad Multos Annos Associates’ is not to ‘show-off’ the generosity of these benefactors; rather, its purpose is to thank people here and now, and to invite them to share an evening of prayer, a Mass, or a meal with the future priests they obviously care so much about.”



*(Faculty, continued from page 4)*  
UCLA to begin efforts to digitize the cuneiform tablet collection housed at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary. The goal of this project is to use cyberspace to reunite Kenrick’s tablets with other such tablets located in Paris, France, at the Institut Catholique and the Louvre.



**Dr. Andrew Sopko**, Director of the Souvay Library and Professor of Bibliography, served as a co-editor for a Festschrift honoring another theological librarian,

Fr. George Papademetriou. This collection of articles is entitled **The Church and the Library** and has been published by Somerset Hall Press. In addition to serving as an editor, Dr. Sopko also contributed an article to the Festschrift entitled “Orthodoxy and Scholasticism: Some Current Observations.”



On February 8, **Fr. Paul J. Rothschild** joined Kenrick-Glennon Seminary as Assistant to the Dean of Students. In this role, Fr. Rothschild

will continue his duties as a Formation Advisor in Cardinal Glennon College.

We welcome Father Rothschild to the Kenrick-Glennon Seminary community and look forward to his sharing his gifts for the benefit of the mission of the seminary.

Fr. Rothschild recently celebrated his twentieth anniversary of ordination (Kenrick Ordination Class of 1984) as a priest of the Archdiocese of St. Louis. He has held a variety of parish appointments; most recently as pastor of All Souls Parish in Overland.

## Seminary Open House Welcomes Friends for an Afternoon Visit

By John Straatmann, Second Year, Cardinal Glennon College, Archdiocese of St. Louis



On Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, Kenrick-Glennon Seminary hosted its first ever Open House. The

seminary was open to the general public from 2:00 until 5:00 p.m., and an estimated 200-250 visitors toured the seminary and met their future priests.

John Cleary, the seminary's Director of Development, stated that the idea for the Open House came from several different sources.

"There was a lot of support for this event. The Board of Trustees, the faculty, and the seminarians all wanted to open up our home to the friends of the seminary. Our President-Rector, Msgr. Ted Wojcicki, was very supportive of the Open House, and once he gave us the go-ahead to plan the event, the seminary's Publicity Committee, faculty, and seminarians did just that."

Both Kenrick and Glennon seminarians gave guided tours throughout the afternoon. Those who visited were impressed with the seminary.



St. Louis seminarian and tour guide Ed Nemeth (Theology I) with a group of visitors at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary's December 5th Open House.



St. Louis seminarian Donald Anstoetter (Sophomore, Cardinal Glennon College) shows off the College side of the seminary to a pair of visitors.

"People enjoyed the architecture, the library, and the St. Joseph's Chapel," remarked First Year Theologian Ed Nemeth, who served as a tour guide for several groups of visitors. "It's great to see people actually put some faces with the name 'seminarian.' These visitors no longer view the seminary as some kind of mystery. Seeing the seminary firsthand and meeting the seminarians help the people of the archdiocese take ownership of their seminary and it fosters a care and concern for the good things done here."

Most important to the people who visited were the seminarians themselves.

"The highlight for most visitors was meeting the seminarians and getting the opportunity to speak with their future priests," Cleary added.

In addition to providing refreshments for the afternoon, the seminary dining hall included booths set up by faculty, staff, and the seminarians themselves. The faculty booth included articles, books, and videos published by some of the faculty members including Fr. Don Henke,

Fr. John Paul Heil, Dr. Susanne Harvath, and many others. The seminarians showed off their time and talent through displays such as the Pro-Life booth, led by St. Louis Theologian Michael Houser and St. Louis Collegian Tim Noelker. St. Louis seminarian Jeff Geerling, a sophomore in Cardinal Glennon College, produced a video about a day in the life of a college seminarian. Other Collegians, along with college director Fr. Timothy Cronin, helped to produce this video.

Wrapping up the day at the seminary was the annual Christmas Novena later that evening. Rev. Mr. Dana Christensen, a deacon studying for the Diocese of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, presided and preached that evening's Novena.

When asked if the seminary will be hosting another Open House, Cleary stated that plans were already being made.

"We will definitely do it again in 2005," Cleary said. "As always, friends of the seminary are welcome to visit us here in Shrewsbury. Anytime you're in the neighborhood, stop by and pay us a visit. We'd love to talk about the seminary, have you meet your future priests, and discuss vocations to the priesthood."



St. Louis seminarian and Third Year Theologian Christopher Martin leads a tour group through the seminary's St. Joseph Chapel.

## Coming Events at Kenrick-Glennon

### Evening Prayer With the Seminarians

Kenrick-Glennon Seminary invites you to join our seminarians for Evening Prayer in the seminary's Chapel of St. Joseph. Future dates (all Sundays, all beginning at 7:30 p.m.) for this once-a-month event open to the public include March 13 and April 24. Mark your calendar now.

### Seminarian Variety Show

The Kenrick-Glennon Seminary Community is proud to present "Couch Potatoes," a musical variety show featuring Kenrick-Glennon seminarians. This year's show will take place on February 24<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, and 27<sup>th</sup> at the Seminary in St. Louis. (There's no Friday show this year – it's Lent!) Tickets are \$5, available at the door or in advance by calling Kyle Hill at 314-792-6241. Special group and family rates are available.

### The Peter Richard Kenrick Lecture

On Thursday, March 10 at 7:30 p.m., Rev. Joseph A. Fitzmyer, S.J., will present "The Ossuary of James and Its Implications." RSVP's due by March 8. Call 314-792-6100 for details.

### Priesthood Ordination for the Archdiocese of St. Louis

On Saturday, May 28 (10:00 a.m. at the Cathedral Basilica), Rev. Mr. Gerald Blessing will be ordained to the priesthood. Please join Deacon Blessing and the seminary community for this joyous event.



Kenrick-Glennon Seminary celebrates the first anniversary of the installation of Archbishop Raymond Leo Burke, installed on January 26, 2004, as the ninth bishop and eighth archbishop of the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

*Ad Multos Annos!*

## Things That Make You Go 'Hmmm'

A statistic from our friends in the Vocations Office:

78% of priests ordained in 2003 in the United States said that they were invited by a priest to consider the priesthood.

30% of priests invited men to consider the priesthood.

Have *you* invited anyone lately?



*The Herald*

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