



## Providence Associates



*Dear Providence Associates*

**175 years of blessings!**

*W*e are now in November and the festivities of the 175th anniversary of the founding of the Sisters of Providence are proceeding well. We are delighted and give thanks to



## *continuation...*

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God for all the wonderful activities that have taken place during the present year, which is not over yet!

We have been filled with wonder as we read and heard about all the manifestations of love and aid that has been given to those most in need, during recent months. The "Tables of the King" organized by our Providence Associates, often in collaboration with Sisters of Providence, are living proofs that the Providence Family is deeply committed to the Mission. Various other events, each more beautiful and original than the next, are all blessings of Providence for the society of our time.

As the General Coordinator of the Providence Associates Movement, I give thanks to the Lord for your generosity, your actions, and your love for the vulnerable of our world. Blessed Emilie Tavernier-Gamelin, our inspiration, is inviting us through her experience and example to continue accordingly. Emilie Tavernier-Gamelin "was assisted in her work by an 'Anonymous Association' of relatives and friends who worked with her. Twelve persons from this group were later to become members of the Corporation for Aged and Disabled Women established on September 18, 1842. The Corporation, then completely made up of lay members, supported the work financially." (Mother Gamelin A Woman of Compassion, Providence Collection No. 13, p. 20)

We wish you well in joyfully continuing the festive activities marking the 175th anniversary of the founding of the Sisters of Providence,

Providence of God, we thank you for all!

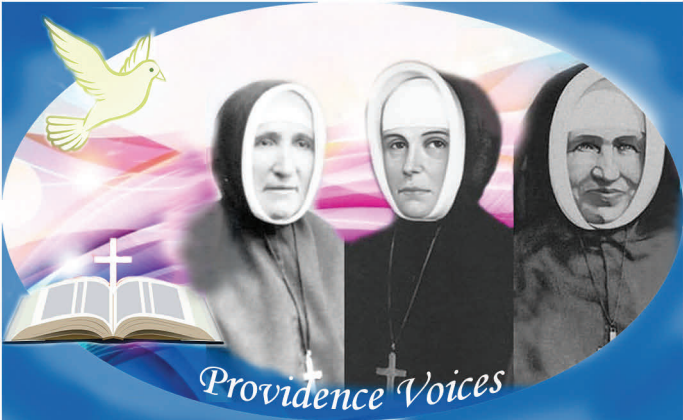
*Hortense Demia-Mbailaou, s.p.*

PA General Coordinator



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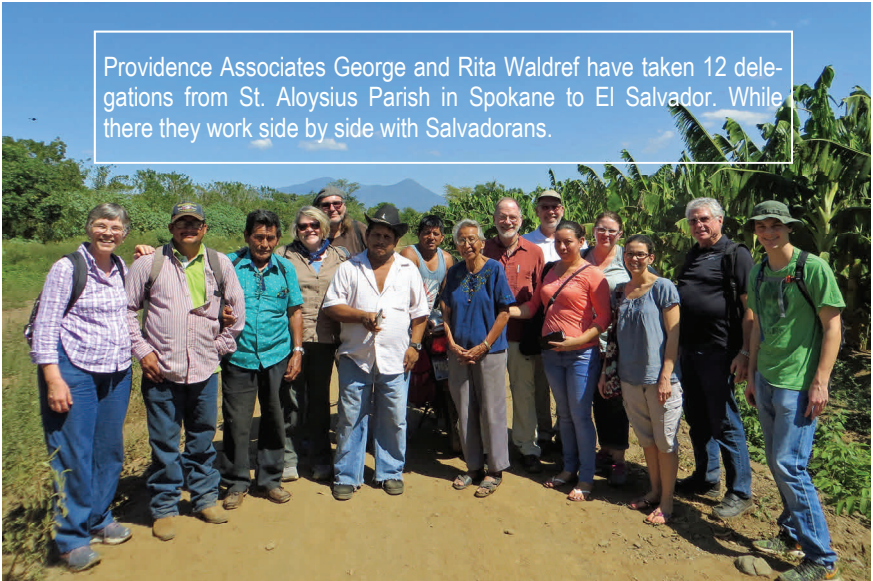
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## PARISH'S SISTER RELATIONSHIP IS A BLESSING FOR PROVIDENCE ASSOCIATE MOTHER-JOSEPH PROVINCE

Providence Associates George and Rita Waldref have taken 12 delegations from St. Aloysius Parish in Spokane to El Salvador. While there they work side by side with Salvadorans.



The sister relationship between St. Aloysius Parish in Spokane, Washington, and the Christian Base Communities in the Bajo Lempa region of El Salvador has been Providence-inspired from its inception.

I minister at St. Aloysius Parish and was co-facilitating a 30-week Just Faith group in 2002-03. When the program concluded in the spring, our group was discussing, "What next?" Several members suggested a sister relationship with a faith community in a poor

country. I was thrilled by the idea. Group member Brenda Velasco (at that time a Providence novice and now a Providence Associate) planned to travel to El Salvador that summer to visit members of her religious community who were living there. She volunteered to check out the possibility of a twinning relationship. She returned with positive feedback from Sister Fran Stacey, who was engaged in ministry with the Christian Base Communities.

A year and a half later, my husband George, a nurse at Holy Family Hospital, was invited to join a 2005 Providence-sponsored delegation under the direction of Mark Koenig, Providence International Missions (PIM) director. I begged to tag along. With the encouragement of Sister Fran, whom I had known when she ministered in the Spokane Diocese, I was able to participate in the delegation and explore building a relationship with the Christian Base Communities and St. Aloysius Parish. On that trip, I fell in love with El Salvador and its people, and made a personal commitment to share the nation's story of suffering, faith and hope. Now, El Salvador is my second "home."

In January 2018, the 12th delegation from St. Aloysius visited our sister community, which is located in and around Tierra Blanca, Usulután. Our itinerary was

## *Continuation of the news...*

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reminiscent of those planned by Sister Fran: conversations and prayer with members of the Christian Base Communities, visits to homes and farm cooperatives (corn, cattle, shrimp), time with scholarship students, and a challenging truck ride to La Quesera, the site of a 1982 massacre of between 400 and 600 campesinos. Years ago, while returning from one of these visits, Sister Fran invited George and I to become Providence Associates. She was rather relentless in her invitations, so George and I explored the possibility and realized the Providence charism matched our own desire to grow as Christians. Thank you, Sr. Fran!

During the past several years, the Providence Scholarship (Beca) Program for Salvadoran students has become a focus for the Providence Sisters – and it has become an important part of the St. Aloysius delegation experience. Sisters Marcia Gatica and Marita Capili have the awesome ministry of working with the Beca students. In January, the delegation spent time with the students as they displayed and shared their projects, essential components of the scholarship program. It was a festive occasion, followed by Mass with the Bishop, students and their families. George and I believe these young men and women have a future because they have been gifted with an education. We are committed

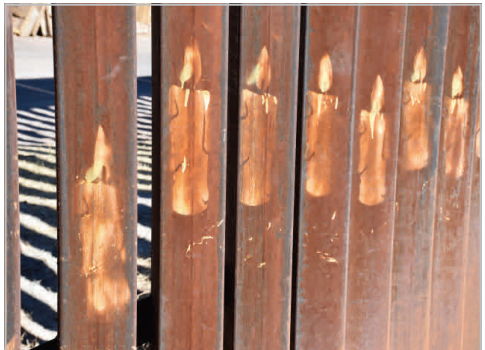
to monthly giving and have included the Beca program in our will. In January 2019, I will, once again, have the privilege to take another delegation to El Salvador. Blessing upon blessing. Providence of God, I thank you for all!

*George and Rita Waldref, PA*



**PROVIDENCE ASSOCIATES BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING –  
AUGUST 25, 2018  
MOTHER-JOSEPH PROVINCE**

Providence Associates of Mother Joseph held their annual Board of Directors meeting recently at the Hawley Center in Renton. Attending were regional liaison sisters and Associate regional coordinators from as far away as the Philippines. Of course, there was the usual business such as approving the new budget for the coming

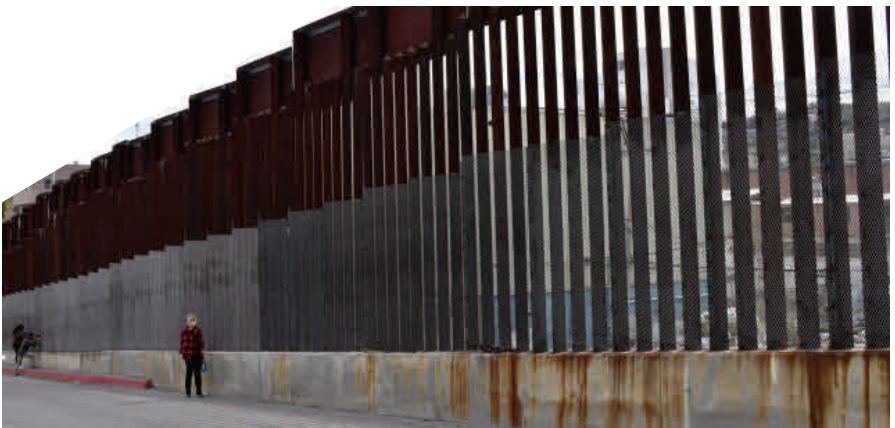


year, discussions around how to “grow” the associate movement and more.

This year, there were two excellent “outside” presenters. Sister Mary Kaye Nealen gave a wonderful presentation about the art of Sister Mary Trinitas Morin, well known for her beautiful and creative art. She worked with multiple modalities such as metals, clay, watercolors, oils, wood, stained glass and much more. The chapel at the University of Providence in Great Falls is a showcase of her artwork.

Kate Vanskike showed a power-point and talked about her experience at the border that took place in January of this year. It was a powerful presentation of the dilemma at the US-Mexico border for those who hope to immigrate or even to simply visit family for the day. Kate’s blog, with photos, can be found at <https://wordsncoffee.com/2018/01/15how-do-you-plead/> It is highly recommended that you read it.

*Province Mother Joseph Communication Office*





**GREETINGS TO ALL PROVIDENCE ASSOCIATES, WORLD WIDE  
HOLY ANGELS PROVINCE**



The Providence Associates of Calgary continue to enjoy their journey of following-in the footsteps of Mother Emilie Gamelin. And despite health and age related problems afflicting a few of our members, we have kept the fire of Mother Gamelin's mission burning in our hearts and at our meetings.

Our group may be small in numbers, but our hearts are in the right place, as each of us strives to lead a good spiritual life, and practise acts of mercy and kindness in our own small way.

Our goal is to value every member in our group, bring out and use, their individual talents and strengths. Members are encouraged to facilitate meetings and be involved in all our group-inspired projects. Prayer, spiritual readings,

presentations, and related discussions, are at the heart of our meetings.

In 2017 we had to search for a new location for our monthly meetings. It was a disheartening and stressful time, but we never gave up hope, because Mother Gamelin was watching over us and our Lady of Sorrows interceding for us! After several phone calls and meetings, Fr. John at Sacred Heart Parish, spoke to the Parish Council, and they very kindly and graciously gave us a more than adequate room with kitchen amenities, for our meetings! In gratitude, we gave the parish a Christmas donation, and will continue to contribute as much as we can, towards the Building fund for Sacred Heart Church.

A month after getting our new home at Sacred Heart Church, we celebrated the Renewal of our Commitments. We were blessed with the presence of friends and 5 Sisters of Providence, who made our celebration even more meaningful and special.

Then, in the summer of 2018, we organized a beautiful Spiritual Retreat, with dear Sr. Katrina, of the Divine Mercy order, conducting the Retreat. We invited some parishioners from Sacred Heart Parish, the response was positive. About 25 of us were blessed to hear Sister give us a stirring talk, followed by a question and answer period. This was followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, prayers, including the Divine Mercy rosary (which was

partially sung), and  
B e n e d i c t i o n ,  
courtesy of Fr.  
Daniel. We began  
the Retreat with a  
wonderful spread  
of delicious foods  
and left nourished  
both in body and  
in soul!



Some of our  
regular yearly group projects we are involved with are,  
support of prison ministry, bringing joy to the homeless  
at Christmas with gifts of winter items or hygiene packs,  
putting together a surprise Christmas food hamper for  
our local Sisters of Providence, and giving monetary  
donations to the parish, and various charities e.g., the  
Red Cross when major disasters occur. This year we will  
be contributing to the Children's Shoe Project through  
Life Outreach International.

Our eldest PA member is Pat Gallagher who celebrated  
her 95th birthday, and this year 68 years of marriage to  
her husband Joe Gallagher! Despite severe macular  
degeneration, Pat is an active member, even making  
calls to our members reminding them of upcoming  
meetings. Pat has a gift for Poetry which she composes

and periodically recites for us at a meeting. She is well-spoilt, by the group!

Another long-time member who proves her devotion to the group, is Angie Webster who despite having a stroke about 2 years ago, has returned to the monthly group meetings, with the help and kindness of a friend, Ken, now a welcomed visitor at our meetings.

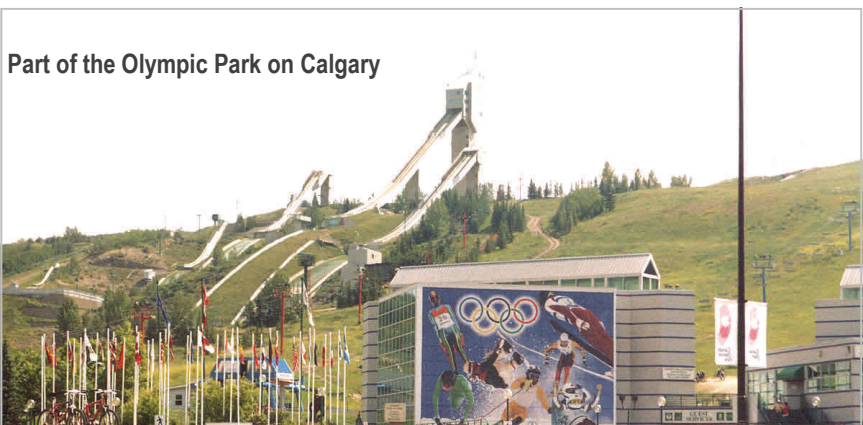
Last, but not least, I must make mention of Sister Evelyn who, when in need, has helped us out on several occasions.

The PAs of Calgary send love and blessings to all their fellow PAs all over the world! Let us pray and support one another, during these difficult times.

Providence of God we thank you for all!

Providence de Dieu, nous vous remercions pour tout!

*Patricia (Pat) Nex, AP,  
Calgary, Alberta (Canada)*



**TWO PROVIDENCE ASSOCIATES WON THE ANNUAL PA RAFFLE  
AND WILL TRAVEL TO OUR MOTHERHOUSE IN MONTREAL  
BERNARDA MORIN PROVINCE**



In the draw, two happy Providence Associates won airplane tickets to Canada to walk "In the Footsteps of Emilie..." and visit the Motherhouse of the Congregation in Montreal. The winners are Providence Associates Isabel Cid, from the Providencia de la Serena PA community, and Nelly Lizana, from the Providence Associate Community of San José. The airplane tickets were an additional prize to the traditional annual PA raffle, which took place July 14th in Provincial Hall. There were other winners in the raffle: Ruth Soto from Santa Rosa Community won a \$50,000 prize; Felipe Cubillo won \$100,000; and Ana Hermosilla, from Llo-Lleo community, won \$150,000 (all prizes are in Chilean

currency). There were also several other surprise prizes. The goal of this annual raffle is to raise funds for continued formation activities that the movement implements in all PA communities, it also contributes to the National PA Annual Assembly fund. On this occasion, several sisters of Providence were present; Sister Rebeca Malhue, PA Liaison with the Provincial Council was among them. Among the many PA communities those present were: Santa Clara, Santa Rosa, Maipú and San José, as well as the executive board. "There was an atmosphere of familiar warmth", as expressed by Elizabeth Farías, National Coordinator of the movement. Sister Ana María Montenegro, together with Sister Orietta Coopman and the Associate Doris Llopis, enlivened the activity with singing classical and folk songs. During the raffle, the sale of snack foods was an additional opportunity for fund-raising.

*Bernarda Morin Province Communication Office*



**PROVIDENCE ASSOCIATES OF BERNARDA MORIN PROVINCE**  
**DELIVER FOOD AND OFFER THEIR PRESENCE**  
**TABLE OF THE KING**

Our Providence Associate communities follow the example of our foundress, Blessed Emilie Tavernier-Gamelin, offering social assistance on a regular basis. One of them is the Table of the King, on which occasion the Providence Associates give food and offer their presence to those in need.

For example, the Providence Associates community of Ovalle organizes several Tables of the King throughout the year, giving food as well as bedding, footwear and clothing for those in need. These Tables are held approximately every three months when much joy and love is shared around the table.

Another example is the Providence Associates movement of Vicuña. They collaborate with the Immaculate Conception Parish in serving lunches offered to immigrants. Last year, the Providence Associates signed up to organize a lunch for Haitian immigrants.

We rejoice because God's infinite Providence continues to inspire many lay people, men and women committed to discover their mission in the Church and in the entire world.

*Bernarda Morin Province Communication Office*

**VISIT OF SISTERS REBECA MALHUE AND MARÍA ANTONIETA TRIMPAY IN ARGENTINA**  
**Comodoro Rivadavia and Caleta Olivia**



The main objective of our journey, which began on September 12, was to visit the Providence Associates of Comodoro Rivadavia, in the Argentinian Province of Chubut, and the Providence Associates of Caleta Olivia, a town located in the Province of Santa Cruz.

On the 14th, we met with the Associates of Comodoro. We introduced ourselves and went on with a reflection. Then they shared with us how they make present the Providence charism and spirituality in the parish, in their workplaces and during home visits to families. The group is supportive of one another through difficult times. They are people of prayer in their daily life.





On Sunday, September 16, the Providence Associates of Comodoro renewed their commitment during the Eucharistic celebration, in the presence of their families. On the same occasion, a Providence Friend, Mrs. Mónica Adriazola, made her first commitment.



We were highly impressed upon our arrival at the Providence Associates House in Caleta Olivia. There, the strength of the Providence spirituality is such that one can experience something mystical. They have a statue of the Lord in a small chapel, where they meet on Thursdays. They pray the Seven Dolor Rosary, reflect and share on the Gospel of the day. It is in this same space that on September 15, twelve Associates renewed their commitment; the remaining four will do so in October. In total, there are sixteen Associates in Caleta Olivia. These people are very committed and are immensely grateful to the sisters who left them with a profound and lasting formation on the Providence Charism and Spirituality.



With this experience, I wish to thank our Provident Father for sending me to strengthen my spirit. I received many spiritual gifts from each of the Associates. Moreover, being able to appreciate the beautiful work these great people carry out to assist so many others. How they make present our spirituality and charism was also a gift to me. In both of these areas, the love for the poor is very much alive; Mother Emilie walks with them, in company of our Mother of Sorrows. Thank you, Lord, for sending me and allowing me to live this beautiful experience.

*Rebeca Malhue, SP*

**THE PROVIDENCE ASSOCIATES MOVEMENT IN BERNARDA MORIN PROVINCE EXPERIENCED AN UPSURGE OF GREAT VITALITY DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER**



In October, the Providence Associates of Bernarda Morin Province received many blessings and fruits one of which was the renewal of commitments within a number of communities, and also the permanent incorporation of new members to the movement.

## **Tocopilla PA Community**

In the Tocopilla community, the renewal of commitments took place on October 6, in the Sagrado Corazón de Jesús Parish. It is on this occasion that Mrs. Angelina Alcayaga Torrejón made her entry into the movement using the ritual of admission.

The ceremony was very emotional and meaningful; in his homily, the priest highlighted the testimony of each Associate, for they all are profoundly engaged in the pastoral ministry of the parish.



## **San José PA Community**

On Friday October 26, the PAs of San José Community renewed their commitments during a beautiful Mass honoring the 104th anniversary of San José School. On this occasion, Ms. Lilian Bahamondez joined as a new Associate Member. Sister Ana Delia Silva, Superior of the San José community received the commitment as well as the renewal of commitments of all PAs. Father Ignacio Gramsh, priest at San Alberto de Sicilia Parish and vicar for the Northern Zone, celebrated the Mass. Among the attendees were

Sister Gloria García, Director of Centro Educacional Santa Clara, Sister Pabla Vargas and Mrs. Rosa Rubio, Director of Hogar de Ancianas San José, a home for the elderly, as well as some parents and representatives of the school.

### **Other Renewals and a Formation Day**

The Linares, Lollole and Emilia Gamelin communities also renewed their commitments. Vicuña PA community members had renewed their commitments much earlier, on July 22, an information now available on our provincial website. In addition, the movement had a nice Formation Day on October 27 during which the different communities worked on various questions coordinated by the PA Formation Team, composed of Sister Herna Astorga and Mr. Juan Rodríguez, PA of Vicuña.

### **Santa Rosa PA Community Renewed their commitments and Welcomed a New Associate**

It is with great joy that on Friday, October 19, the Providence Associates of Santa Rosa community celebrated the first commitment of Mrs. Ilva Zunino, and the renewal of the Providence Associates commitments of Evelin Arévalo, Idilia Caballero, Alicia Carvajal, Juanita Cristi, Ivonne Gac, Susana Garrido, Doris Llopis, Sonia Matamala, Sonia Ramírez, María Ivonne Ramírez and Inés Zamora. The Mass was celebrated by Father Javier Montón.

On this occasion we welcomed Sister Jaquelina Juárez, Provincial Secretary, to receive the commitments of all of the Associates.

An activity by the Grand-parents of Santa Rosa College's kindergarten allowed for their participation in the Mass,

after which all the participants shared food in an atmosphere of unity and happiness.

"We rejoice for this beautiful mission that our Provident Father prepares for us in daily life", the members of the Santa Rosa community said, thanking Sister Rebeca Malhue, liaison for the Providence Associates who sent a small gift, brought by Sister Jaqueline, and presented to each associate.

We give thanks to our Provident God for the great vitality of PA Movement in the Bernarda Morin Province..

PA Bulletin Bernarda Morin Province

## **PROVIDENCE ASSOCIATES ANNUAL GRAND BAZAAR ÉMILIE GAMELIN PROVINCE**



In a spirit of union and good-fellowship, some Providence Associates, Sisters of Providence, collaborators, and friends joined together last October 12-13 to carry out the Providence Associates Annual Bazaar at the Motherhouse.

The purpose of our fund-raising is to open a bakery and pastry shop in the south of Haiti (Torbeck), whose employees, administrators and beneficiaries will all be local people from the parish. This project will be very beneficial for everyone in the area.

## Past, Present and Future

In 2016, through our solidarity bazaar, silent auction and sales of our home pastries, we managed to raise more than \$ 5,500 Can. With this amount we were able to purchase the land next to the school of the Sisters of Providence in Torbeck (École Émilie-Gamelin).

Now, we would like to move on to the next steps: the construction of the building with local materials, and the purchase and shipping of the equipment required to operate the bakery. We continue to make and sell pastries to reach this goal. Moreover, the money raised at the bazaar this year amounts to \$ 6,000.00 plus the additional monies from other parallel fund-raising activities such as the Christmas market and the Haitian gourmet dinner – all are a welcomed addition to our efforts.

## 3 Aspects

When planning our bazaars we always have in mind three aspects that we consider essential and the real purpose of our activity:

**The Mission Aspect:** Together, the Sisters of Providence, Providence Associates, collaborators and friends, all work for the Mission. In this case it is the PA mission in Torbeck;

**Social Aspect:** During our activity we are a bridge between PAs and SPs, a



moment during which we all work like bees for a common goal. In addition, our activity is a privileged moment for our elderly sisters, since they are invited to socialize in a context that is different from their daily life.

**Environmental Aspect:** We take care of our common home, as we were asked by Pope Francis ; through our Bazaar we reuse, we recycle and we raise our clients' awareness while offering items at a very affordable price.

**Acknowledgments**

The Providence Associates of Émilie-Gamelin Province, in a common voice, thank each person involved in the organization, sorting, displaying, sale, etc., in favour of our Grand Bazaar, to the benefit of the PA ministry in Haiti (Torbeck).

A sincere thank you goes to all of those who offered items for sale, and similarly, to those who so generously purchased our merchandise, our greeting cards, our plants, or made cash donations. Very sincere thanks to everyone who attended our "snack bar", and who helped us in many ways. Providence of God, I thank you for all!

The Provincial and General Leadership Teams receive our sincere thanks for their support.



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