



Holy Name Society Newsletter

Spreading Devotion to the Most Holy Name of Jesus

SPEAK LORD, YOUR SERVANT IS LISTENING

We often find concepts and words bandied about without much awareness of their meaning and implications. The words obedience, humility and authority are very important components of our spiritual life and it is worthwhile to reflect on the rich meanings they convey.

The term *authority* conjures up impressions of power, influence even oppression. The word *author* is the root of the word. This term denotes the idea of competency or reliability. Authority when used in the Bible

and the Church carries very positive and important overtones. In religious or spiritual matters authority refers to God, the **author** of life, the creator, the one who can neither deceive nor be deceived. God's authority and all the truths that flow from it takes on a significant reality for all of us – God's authority is in fact the very highest level of authority.

The word obedience comes from a Latin term *obedire* which means to hear or to listen. When a person is obedient, it means the person is listening, and attend-

ing to what is said or written. There is a beautiful and powerful example of this in the Old Testament story of the young boy Samuel, prophet-to-be and the priest Heli. When Samuel finally understands who is calling him his response is: *Speak Lord, your servant is listening* (1 Samuel 3:9)

Also there is an important virtue that must be present when we are preparing to hear the Lord and do His Will. We must be humble. With its Latin roots in the word *humus* which literally

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A PATHWAY TO HOLINESS

About midway through the Easter Proclamation (the "Exultet") at the great Easter Vigil, the deacon sings, "*The power of this holy night ...casts out hatred, brings us peace, and humbles earthly pride.*" This ancient chant urges all of creation, the whole earth, and the entire Church to exult in Christ's resurrection. Jesus Christ, meek and humble of heart and perfectly obedient to His Father, redeemed humanity by dying and ris-

ing. In Him we see the wonder of humility and obedience at their best.

In the secular world, humility and obedience are equated with weakness and subservience. Few men ever reach the humility of Mohatma Ghandi or accomplished as much, what the world called "civil disobedience" was, in actuality, true obedience to a higher authority. He brought freedom and liberty to an entire nation of

people – one of the largest populations on earth - and changed the course of world events. So much for weakness and subservience!

Humility and obedience are multifaceted gems. Humility is a right and proper assessment of ourselves before God. Obedience, dreaded by the old Adam within us, is the conformity of our free will with God's will for us.

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THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE HOLY NAME SOCIETY

- Promotes the honor and glory of our Divine God and the personal sanctification of its members by acts of love and devotion to the most Holy Name of Jesus. This spiritual life of its members is a perpetual act of reverence and love.
- Promotes respect for the most Holy Name of God, faith in the Catholic Church and the Magisterium, loyalty to one's country, and respect for all lawful authority, both civil and religious
- Our members perform the Corporal Works of Mercy: to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, give drink to the thirsty, shelter to the homeless, tend the sick, visit those in prison, and bury the dead; as well as the Spiritual Works of Mercy: to convert sinners, instruct the ignorant, counsel the wayward, comfort the sorrowing, bear adversity patiently, forgive offenses, and pray for the living and the dead on a parochial, diocesan and national level.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Opportunity knocks: you have a chance to be part of National Holy Name history by planning to attend this year's convention. The 41st National Holy Name Convention will be held in Baltimore, Maryland from Wednesday, September 21st to Saturday, September 24th at the Tremont Plaza Hotel. For the first time in over twenty years, it will be a constitutional convention! The goal for this year's convention is to update the Policy Manual. Some of the recommended changes to the Policy Manual will require changes to the NAHNS Constitution. As part of the convention agenda, we will present to the delegates proposed changes to the Constitution and Policy Manual. This effort should result in the

restructuring of the National Association, making it a more viable organization for the 21st century. Other items on the conventions agenda include election of National Officers for 2012 – 2013. There will be a Prison Ministry workshop and the organizing committee is planning to have a renowned speaker at the convention.

Baltimore is a beautiful city and the convention is being held in the heart of downtown at the Tremont Plaza Hotel. This will afford attendees the opportunity to visit such sites as Basilica of the Immaculate Conception (America's first Basilica); Mother Seton House; Fort McHenry (birthplace of the Star Spangled Banner) and the home of Babe Ruth, just to name a few. In addition, the

attendees to this year's convention will help the Baltimore Archdiocesan Holy Name Union celebrate its 100th anniversary.

The theme for this year's convention is "Service In His Holy Name". As members of the Holy Name Society, we are all called to a life of service by our Baptismal Promises. Shape the course of the Holy Name Society by taking part in this important gathering. Your involvement will help ensure a successful convention outcome. Check out the NAHNS website (www.nahns.com) for the latest convention information. I look forward to seeing you in September.

Joe Lapointe
NAHNS President

SPEAK LORD, YOUR SERVANT IS LISTENING

(Continued from page 1)

means earthly or of the ground, *humilis* has come to mean lowly or insignificant or submissive in character. In English it means self-deprecating and in the spiritual sense it has taken on a

special meaning as one of the principal virtues of the Christian life. Humility puts a check on one's own excellence and recognizes one's worth in its true light. There are two

functions for this virtue, namely to restrain the inordinate desire for asserting one's own excellence and setting a person in right relation to God, recognizing that all good

gifts come from God. Though sometimes not sufficiently addressed by spiritual writers, humility does not falsify a person's excellence; it simply puts it in its proper place. Humility is not an enemy of the truth and

there is a constant need to remember this. Humility removes the power of pride which obstructs the work of grace. The virtue of humility keeps a balanced relationship between personal self-esteem and the recognition that all man's powers and talents are God-given.

For Holy Name members what better summary of true humility than the opening verse of Psalm 115: *Not to us O Lord, but to Thy Name give the glory.*

Fr. Thomas Hayes O.P.
NAHNS Spiritual Director

"For Holy Name members what better summary of true humility than the opening verse of Psalm 115: Not to us O Lord, but to Thy Name give the glory."

OBEDIENCE AND THE GIFT OF LIFE

We live in a culture that seems to say that all values are relative. Many people believe that there are no moral imperatives and that morality is just a matter of public opinion. As a Catholic Priest I challenge these beliefs. I believe that God is in charge of this world, and our greatest work in life is to discover the will of God and to be obedient to God in everything that we do.

I believe that women and men were put here on earth for a reason, to give glory to God. In doing this work there are

times that we do it in different ways. Many women give glory to God by being mothers; many men give glory to God by being fathers. While these roles are complimentary, they are not the same.

I grew up in a family which had four children. My mother saw her primary role as being a mother to all of us. Her family came first, her career was secondary. My father shared

the same values. Both my parents worked very hard raising all of us, and there was no doubt about what they valued most in their lives - the family that God gave them to

raise.

Their motivation came from their love for God which they learned

through their Catholic Faith.

Our Catholic Faith teaches us that God is the Supreme Being. He creates children, all

of whom He loves. It is the responsibility of parents to care for all the children that God gives to them. He is the one who chooses to create a child.

Parents are given the right to choose to enter the process for having a child, but once that choice is made they must humbly and obediently allow God the right to create a child if He so desires. Once God creates a child, the child has a right to live, and no person can take this right away.

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A PATHWAY TO HOLINESS

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In the spiritual life, humility is the foundation of prayer. When we pray, we speak to God from the depths of a humble and contrite heart. Only when we humbly acknowledge that we do not know how to pray as we ought are we ready to receive freely the gift of prayer (cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2559).

In the dark world of addiction, humility is also the basis of the Twelve Steps that lead to the free and joyful life of sobriety and cleanliness. Without humility, the Twelve Steps are impossible; with it, all twelve can be accomplished. True humility, i.e., a right assessment of ourselves

before God, frees us from self-deception and makes it possible to enter the Twelve Step world of healthy living in both body and soul.

Humility and obedience shine in the life of all the saints, and the month of May, in the glory of the Easter Season, show us three persuasive examples of saintly humility and obedience. St. Damien de Veuster (1840-1889) served the lepers on the Hawaiian Island of Molokai; he served them as a priest and as a friend. He brought them the consolation of the sacraments, helped them erect their cottages, tended their wounds, made their coffins and dug their graves. His feastday is May 10th.

St. Bernardine of Siena (1380-1444), the famed Franciscan preacher of the Holy Name of Jesus, humbly bore the false accusations of those who envied his eloquence, and he submitted obediently to the ecclesiastical trial which ultimately vindicated him. In his preaching, he frequently showed the people a monogram of the Holy Name surrounded by rays painted on a wooden tablet, and many lives were reformed through his teaching and preaching. His feast day is May 20th.

The Blessed Virgin Mary, the humble handmaid of the Lord, shows us what obedience truly means. “To obey (from the Latin ob-audire, to ‘hear or listen’) in faith is to submit freely to the word that has

been heard, because its truth is guaranteed by God, who is Truth itself. Abraham is the model of such obedience offered us by Sacred Scripture. The Virgin Mary is its most perfect embodiment.” (Catechism, 144). After uttering her famous *fiat* at the Annunciation, Mary went to visit her kinswoman Elizabeth (Luke 1:39-57). The feast of the Visitation is May 31.

Humility and obedience may not get us into the Guinness Book of Records, but they do form an essential part of the pathway to holiness and to Heaven.

*Rev. Paul Chovanec
St. Justin Martyr Parish,
Houston, TX*

HOLY NAME SOCIETY NEWS

New York Archdiocesan Union HNS

St. Ann's Parish HNS is sponsoring a Mass and breakfast for disabled veterans on Saturday, June 11th. A letter writing campaign to veterans who may be confined to homes or hospitals is being considered.

St. Sylvester's parish has started a new Youth Ministry. Richmond Division Spiritual Moderator, Msgr. James J. Dorney, informed the HNS that Archbishop Dolan is placing more emphasis on youth within the Archdiocese with the formation of a new Catholic Youth Ministry Council. This new focus of the

Archbishop is in line with the new NAHNS Life Marriage Family Youth Committee.

Msgr. Dorney is encouraging all parish Holy Name Societies within the Richmond Division to support the Archbishop by aiding in the formation of parish Youth Ministry activities in their parishes.

The Archdiocesan Union HNS Annual Family Holy Hour will be held on Sunday, May 15th at 3:00 p.m. in the Church of St. Francis Xavier in the Bronx. The Holy Hour will be conducted in observance of the World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

St. Frances De Chantal, Bronx HNS

The Holy Name Society of St. Frances De Chantal will be sponsoring a Parish Spring Blood Drive on May 22nd.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel HNS, Bronx

Each monthly meeting of the Holy Name Society includes a review and discussion of matters of faith. Topics from this past year have included the following: The Blessed Sacrament, Christ the Life of the Soul, Annulments, Our Catholic Prayers – the Sign of the Cross, Come Holy Spirit, Eternal Rest, Understanding the Bible, and a recap of Pope Benedict XVI Apostolic Exhortation – *Verbum Domini* (The Word of God). Fr. Eric D. Rapaglia is spiritual director.

New York City Fire Dept. HNS

The 87th Annual Mass and Communion Breakfast will be held on Sunday, May 1, 2011. Mass will be celebrated in St. Patrick's Cathedral. This year's honorees are Firefighter William J. Leahy and Retired Battalion Chief John F. Bruckner.

St. Michael Cathedral HNS, Passaic, NJ

The Holy Name Society of St. Michael's Cathedral Holy Name society sponsored a Day of Recollection on Saturday, April 16th. The theme of the Day of Recollection was, "Refresh and Renew 2011". Bishop William Skurla and Fr. Jack Custer were the main speakers.

Richmond Division HNS

Two hundred people attended the Mass and Communion Breakfast held at St. Peter's on January 30th. His Eminence, Edward Cardinal Egan, Archbishop Emeritus of New York, celebrated the Mass and was the homilist. The concelebrants were Co-Regional Vicars, Msgr. James J. Dorney, pastor and Spiritual Moderator of St. Peter's and of the Richmond Division, and Msgr. Peter G. Finn, pastor and Spiritual Moderator of Blessed Sacrament Holy Name Society. Fr. Brendan Fitzgerald was Master of the Ceremonies.

Cardinal Egan noted that his father had been a longtime member of the Holy Name Society and expressed appreciation to all members of the HNS for their efforts in their parishes. Cardinal Egan was the guest speaker at the breakfast program following Mass. Cardinal Egan gave a talk on the True Presence in the Eucharist. Msgr. Dorney presented the Archdiocesan Union Award of Appreciation to Cardinal Egan.

Corpus Christi, Port Chester HNS

The Holy Name Society of the Church of Corpus Christi financially sponsors a child through the Children's International program. They also hold a Fr. Rinaldi Awards dinner each year.

Holy Family Church HNS, Latrobe, PA

Members of the Holy Name Society of the Church of the Holy Family attended its 50th Annual Retreat at the St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center, South Side of Pittsburgh.

The theme of the retreat was, "Because Christ Lives in Me". The HNS provided carpooling to aid members making the trip.

Chicago Association of Holy Name Societies

The Holy Name Society of Immaculate Conception Parish is sponsoring the 31st Annual Spiritual Assembly for the CAHNS on Friday, June 10th. The event brings together hundreds of men and their guests from over fifty Holy Name Societies throughout the Archdiocese. The evening will begin with the procession of banners followed by a Mass to be celebrated by the Archbishop of Chicago, Cardinal Francis George. The evening concludes with a reception and dinner in the parish center.

Funds raised by the event will be used to assist the CAHNS in ongoing support to all parish societies, church pastors and school principals throughout the archdiocese in teaching sound values, promoting good character, performing charitable works, and mentoring children.

HOLY NAME SOCIETY NEWS

Baltimore Archdiocesan HNU

President Steve Krasowski and 1st Vice President Carroll Pupa from St. Michael the Archangel Holy Name Society attended this year's March For Life (a gathering of pro-life Americans) in Washington, D.C. with other parishioners. It is the goal of St. Michael's Holy Name Society to educate and involve the entire parish community on ways to respect life in the parish and provide the resources to recruit parishioners to attend the March For Life in the future.

Even with the cold temperatures (high of 24 degrees), approximately 400,000 marchers made the journey from the Midwest and surrounding states to make this year's 38th Annual March For Life the biggest and most enthusiastic ever. Next year's March for Life will be on January 23, 2012 and the St. Michael's Holy Name Society hopes to increase their participation.

BAHNU is planning for a retreat at St. Joseph's-In-The-Hills Malvern Retreat House in Malvern, PA on October 28 – 30, 2011. St. Ignatius, St. Clare, St. Michael the Archangel and Sacred Heart of Mary Holy Name Societies are cooperating in having this annual retreat.

Cleveland Diocesan Union HNS

The Annual Convention was sponsored by the Central Deanery and held on February 19th at the Church of the Holy Spirit in Garfield Heights. Bishop Pilla celebrated the Mass. Talks were given by Fr. Joseph Kraker and two seminarians, Matt Byrne and Rich Samide.

The Southern District Deanery was blessed to have two very successful Traveling Rosaries for World Peace and sponsored a Blessed John Mass and Holy Hour on March 27th.

The annual Bishop's Brunch was held March 20th in Landerhaven. All proceeds from the event will go to help out the seminarians with their expenses.

The 56th Annual Lorain County Deanery 2011 Awards banquet will be held on May 1 at Tom's Country Place in Avon, Ohio. Joel Arrendondo will be the Master of Ceremonies and Fr. Gerald Keller will be the Spiritual Moderator. A seminarian will be present to give a talk on his journey to the priesthood.

Our Lady Queen of Peace of Grafton will host a Holy Hour in honor of Blessed John of Vercell on June 13th. The Celebrant for the Mass and Benediction will be Fr. John Seabold, Pastor.

San Antonio Archdiocesan Union HNS

The Annual Memorial Day Mass is scheduled for May 29th at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. The Executive Board is reviewing several initiatives on how to best prepare for and celebrate devotion to the Most Holy Names of God and Jesus. Areas of focus are on how to increase attendance at the monthly Hour of Prayer held throughout the diocese at local parishes and on sponsoring a special AUHNS procession.

In January, members joined in prayer for the protection of the unborn at the Church of the Holy Family located in New Braunfels. Prayers were offered in the Grotto of Our Lady of Guadalupe. In February the parish Holy Name Societies from St. Henry and Blessed Sacrament co-hosted the Hour of Prayer. A Day of Recollection and Stations of the Cross was held at Blessed Sacrament in March. The Church of the Sacred Heart in Uvalde, TX hosted the March Hour of Prayer.

New York City Police Dept. HNS

The 93rd Annual Communion Mass was held on April 3rd and St. Patrick's Cathedral. Inspector James Guida was recognized as the Society's Man of the Year.

The St. Frances Cabrini Holy Name Society is officially organized as a new Society in Lorain County. This is a combination of parishes that were recently clustered together as part of the restructuring in Lorain. Fr. John Retar is the Spiritual Moderator of the Society and Don Atry is the President.

St. Brendan's Holy Name Society hosted a Lenten Retreat on April 9th. Fr. Stephen Moran was the Retreat Master. Fr. Stephen Moran is presently the Pastor of the Church of the Immaculate Conception of St. Mary in Wooster, OH.

The Rosary for Life is held the first Sunday of each month at various parishes and or retirement facilities located throughout the Diocese.

St. Joseph Church HNS, Joliet Il

Members of the Holy Name Society of St. Joseph Church participated in the 40 Hours Eucharistic Devotion by taking an hour of adoration on March 18th.

Members are also encouraged to participate in the St. Thomas More Lecture Series - a series on the Catholic faith held every Wednesday during lent.

HOLY NAME SOCIETY NEWS

St. Paul and Minneapolis AAHNS

The Annual Spring Awards Banquet to recognize members for their contributions to the Holy Name Society, is scheduled for Saturday, May 21st at the Church of St. Albert the Great in Minneapolis.

The Executive Board is in the planning stages for rolling out a new program that would be open to Catholic men and their sons. The events would be scheduled monthly at various parishes across the Arch-

diocese. The evenings would begin with Eucharistic Adoration, confession, prayer and end with a catered meal and a lively discussion on a Catholic Apologetics topic.

Church of St. Augustine HNS, South St. Paul, MN

The Holy Name Society of the Church of St. Augustine completed their *Faith for Real Men* program in April. The program ran from October

through April. The monthly sessions begin with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, recitation of the Litany to the Most Holy Name of Jesus, and confessions. The discussion section of the program is centered on Catholic Apologetics – arming members of the Society with information on the Catholic faith so they are able to answer questions about the faith and be able to evangelize to friends, family and coworkers.

The NAHNS and Social Networking

The NAHNS web site has unveiled a new web-log (or “blog”) and will feature many of the past and future articles written for the NAHNS Newsletter.

The Holy Name Society Facebook page has now well over 2700 friends and the Twitter account has 88 followers and is listed by 13 different Catholic people and organizations.

Check out the links to each at nahns.com

41ST ANNUAL NAHNS CONVENTION - BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

The Archdiocese of Baltimore, Maryland is hosting the **41st Annual National Holy Name Convention, Wednesday, September 21 through Saturday, September 24**. The registration fee is \$275 per person. The registration fee includes; all convention materials, the Presidents Dinner and Banquet and a tour. The convention Banquet (dinner, short program) on Saturday evening is also included in the registration fee.

Advanced registration requested. Convention Registration must be received on or before **September 1, 2011**. Please book your hotel reservations by **August 24, 2011** at **Tremont Plaza Hotel: (800) 873-6668** to take advantage of the discounted con-

vention rate of \$119 per night (state and local taxes and fees will be applied to the rate).

2011 Convention Highlights!

- NAHNS Constitution & Policy Manual Review
- NAHNS National Officer Elections
- Prison Ministry Workshop
- Tour the Sites in Baltimore, America’s First Roman Catholic Cathedral, Mother Seaton House, Fort McHenry: Birthplace of the Star Spangled Banner, Home of Babe Ruth, Harbor Place

Please include a check payable

to: **BAHNU** and send your reservations to:

**2011 NAHNS Convention
c/o Mr. George Parker
213 St. Ives Drive
Severna Park, MD 21146**

Registration information and forms are available on the NAHNS website (nahns.com)

Please show your support of the 2011 National Holy Name Society Convention by placing an ad in the convention program book. The convention program book is delivered to people who attend the activities of the convention as well as those taking quarter page or larger advertisements. An ad can be placed by an individual, by groups of individuals, by parish Holy Name Societies,

or by a business.

A full page ad is 8.5” by 11” less margins. Advertising must be in digital format (camera-ready). Black and White Pictures may be included in a Full, Half and Quarter Page Ad at no additional charge. Deadline is **August 10, 2011**.

Send electronic ad copy and artwork to GLNNMP@aol.com or mail paper copy to the address below. Please make check payable to: **BAHNU**

Mail check and this completed form to:

**2011 NAHNS Convention
c/o Nancy Novak
7616 Carson Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21224**

NAHNS PRISON MINISTRY UPDATE

A Metanoia retreat was held for inmates at the Cross City State Prison, Florida Department of Corrections in March of 2011. The retreat team was lead by Fr. Bob and Sr. Carol, who gave very good spiritual director talks. The sharing of the men at the closing of the retreat was very heart warming. Examples of some of the witnessing are as follows:

The Metanoia retreat was life-moving. This will be remembered for the rest of my life.
John J.

The Metanoia retreat is the greatest change of heart experience that I have ever felt in my life.
Larry G.

My life has been changed forever. At the end of the retreat I felt like a new man!
Weldon T.

This is the first Catholic retreat I have ever attended. It felt good to get away and get close to God!
Angel S.

I felt my life had changed, I believe more in God than I did before the retreat.
Lucas S.

I feel more confidence in my conversations with God since the St. Dismas Metanoia retreat.
Jose C.

It was such a wonderful experience, I was truly blessed.
Ray E.

I felt the love of Christ coming from perfect strangers, and it showed me that the volunteers from both the Pennsylvania team and the Florida team truly cared

about us and not about what we did in the past or what we are. I thank them from the bottom of my heart. It's so good to see and be a part of the brothers of St. Dismas, working to build Catholic small-faith-community, to help each other grow in faith, hope, and love in the Lord Jesus! Even in prisons! In Christ Jesus love.
Pete. V.

The NAHNS Metanoia Prison Apostolate asks for the continued prayers and financial support of all Holy Name Society members. Prison doors are opening in Santa Fe, NM, Miami, FL, and Jasper, FL. Praised be the most Holy Name of Jesus Christ. Now and forever!

Bud Cope
Chair, NAHNS Metanoia Retreat Prison Apostolate

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OBEDIENCE AND THE GIFT OF LIFE

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Our culture seems to believe that a child is a piece of property belonging to a woman. Since the child is seen as a piece of property, the woman has the right to do with "it" as she pleases. This is a diabolical belief driven by human pride. It shows contempt for the very idea of motherhood, and it makes a mockery of God who created the child as a human being and not as a

piece of disposable property.

As I look at our American culture, which places the diabolical disobedient value system of Margaret Sanger and her Planned Parenthood ahead of the value system given to us by God, I can see why our society is so violent towards women and children. The role of a mother is one of the greatest vocations given by God to a woman. I believe

that we should treasure that calling by God.

Remember the Blessed Virgin Mary: she saw her vocation of motherhood as a special calling by God. Once she said "yes" to God, she saw bringing the child Jesus into the world as the greatest privilege ever given to a woman.

Fr. Thomas Haren
Spiritual Moderator
Cleveland Diocesan Union HNS



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THE HOLY NAME SOCIETY

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Fund**

Donations are being accepted to help promote the efforts of the NAHNS to encourage greater devotion to the most Holy Name of Jesus. If you would like to remember the NAHNS in your will or would like to make a tax deductible donation to the NAHNS, please contact:

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Mr. Carl F. Nott, Chairman,
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