

Schoenstatt Movement

Australia

June 18 2022 | Volume 3, Number 6

1. COVENANT DAY MESSAGE

**“Schoenstatt’s Way:
Authentic Witness to Holiness”**

Dear Schoenstatt Family and Friends,

Wishing you many blessings for this Covenant day – 18th June. We recently celebrated several solemnities, including the Ascension of the Lord, Pentecost Sunday and then last Sunday, the Feast of the Holy Trinity.

All these solemnities are very much at the heart of our faith. They are also very much a part of the life of our Blessed Mother. They exemplify for us that if we give ourselves completely to the Mother of God, she leads us not just to her Son, she also leads us via her Son to the Holy Spirit and the Heavenly Father – to the Triune God.

During his life, Father Kentenich directed his Schoenstatt Family time and again to the mystery of the Blessed Trinity. He saw Mary in her manifold relationship to the mystery of the Trinity and he wanted his spiritual family to see itself as an image

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of the Triune God and to take its bearings from this reality. In the course of Schoenstatt's founding period, the covenant of love with the Blessed Mother developed into a covenant of love with the Triune God.

When speaking to the Schoenstatt Family in May 1966, Father Kentenich said:

"Woman, here is your son" (Jn. 19:26 f). Isn't this the moment that a covenant of love is constituted; isn't this the great commission, that the Blessed Mother should make a covenant of love with all of God's children here on earth!

Why does she want to draw people to herself? To begin with, because it is her task. If I were to express it differently, in more ethical terms, I'd say: God means to use the Blessed Mother, our Mother Thrice Admirable and Queen of Schoenstatt, as she is enthroned and lives in the shrine as a magnet. God wants to use her as a magnet; through her he wants to draw people to himself; from the hands of the Blessed Mother, from the heart of the Blessed Mother the Triune God accepts these hearts. According to our way of thinking, the covenant of love with her is meant to be an expression of the covenant of love with our Lord and the Triune God; at the same time it means to be a protection of the covenant of love with the Triune God and with our Lord and, ultimately, keeping intact the covenant of love that these youthful hearts make with the Triune God and our Lord. (...)

We are attached to Our Blessed Mother because it is her task to draw the hearts of people to herself and to lead them through her heart into the heart of the Triune God; she does not keep these hearts for herself. The covenant of love with the Blessed Mother offers us the best guarantee for taking the covenant of love with our Lord and with the eternal God and Father seriously... "

J. Kentenich Conference for the Schoenstatt Family, May 1, 1966

O Triune God, be eternally praised for all the great things you have done for us: For giving Schoenstatt a Mother and for immersing us, through her, deeply into Christ.

We praise you because Mary's life has given us the norm for our daily living and brought the splendour of Christ the Sun so humanly near to us.

Our Covenant of Love, unites us as a family centred on Our Mother Thrice Admirable, and through her, with the Blessed Trinity. We ask Our Mother Thrice Admirable to bless each of us and our families.

We ask her to take special care of those in our own families and the Schoenstatt Family, who are struggling at this time with illness or in any other ways.

May each of you receive many blessings and graces from our Shrines on this Covenant Day and for the remainder of this month.

Shirley Hall



2. Annual Marian Pilgrimage, Mulgoa 15th May 2022

Mary, perfect model of holiness". This was the theme for this year's Marian Pilgrimage. It was in keeping with the motto of the striving of the Australian Schoenstatt Family this year: "Schoenstatt's way: Authentic witness to holiness.

As this was the first time our Schoenstatt Family in NSW had been able to come together for this celebration since 2019, the pilgrimage was eagerly awaited, especially by the Pilgrim Mother Coordinators. However, the weather was not being kind to us and on the Friday prior to the pilgrimage, the decision had to be made whether or not the Holy Mass could be held outside. Not only was there a good chance of rain on the Sunday, but because of the amount of rain that had already fallen over many days prior to the celebrations, the grounds, particularly around the shrine and the stage area were extremely wet underfoot.

The decision was therefore made that the Holy Mass would take place in the Family Hall with many chairs also being placed outside to cater for those who would not be able to be seated inside the Hall. This was the first time over many years of celebrating the Marian Pilgrimages that a PLAN B had to be put into place.

However, in spite of the inconveniences caused by the weather, and the many adjustments that had to be made to the arrangements for the Holy Mass, the day turned out bright and sunny. People seemed overjoyed at being able to come together once again to give thanks to our Mother Thrice Admirable for all the graces and blessings she has bestowed on us over the past few years. We particularly wanted to thank her for the graces received through her Pilgrim Mother Shrines and the dedicated Coordinators who take responsibility for sharing our Blessed Mother with others in their circles.

Although there were not as many people as in previous years, a real sense of unity permeated the day as once again we could celebrate as one Schoenstatt family. It was a special blessing to see about 20 of our Schoenstatt Family from Melbourne joining us for this day. Over the years they have been very loyal in attending the Marian Pilgrimages and it was wonderful to have them with us again. Some had travelled overnight and went back that evening. Others arrived only on the Saturday afternoon and returned to Melbourne on the Monday. They gave a wonderful testimony to loyalty and commitment to our Blessed Mother and to her Shrine and it was a real sign of solidarity to come together as one family. In fact it seemed that all who took part in the celebrations, were feeling truly blessed to be able to come together once again around our Blessed Mother in her Schoenstatt Shrine.



The main celebrant for the Holy Mass was the Bishop of Parramatta, Most Reverend Vincent Long. Concelebrating with the Bishop were Father Terry Bell, Father Pawel Barszczewski, OP, Father Paul Marshall and Father Shane Reade, SDB. Seminarians from the Holy Spirit Seminary, Diocese of Parramatta, were servers for the Mass and it was wonderful to see these future priests assisting at the Holy Mass.

At the beginning of Mass Bishop Long expressed his joy at once again being able to celebrate this Holy Mass at Mount Schoenstatt. In his homily he began by saying:

"I welcome all of you who have come from near and far to this Schoenstatt Shrine. I welcome especially the Pilgrim Mother Coordinators who will be re-commissioned during this Mass in order to be apostles in the Schoenstatt tradition. You are sent forth from this sanctuary to be God's instruments of peace, justice, compassion and love.

Indeed, that is the missionary call that all of us received by virtue of our baptism and confirmation. We are meant to be salt of the earth and light for the world.

Mary gave us an example of trust and courage in times of disruption and turbulence. She aligned her heart and mind to God's unfolding plan. We must do the same as a community of disciples. We must have the humility and courage to reset ourselves once again to the self-emptying journey of the humble Servant-Leader rather than reverting to fear and defence of



status quo. Let us pray that we followers of Christ may not grow stale and insipid. Like him, may we have the courage to leave our security, to accompany, to serve and to empower all people to live life more fully. In this way, may we be an agent of the Gospel and able to transform our society into what God intends for all. Let us pray that we have the faith and courage of Mary in responding to unmet needs. May Mary help us to be carers and protectors of those who have been entrusted to us. May she intercede for us as we follow her example of embodying the Gospel of love and service in the world."

This is a message which should resonate with all of us and give us much to think about as we strive to live as authentic witnesses to holiness after the example of Mary our Heavenly Mother, who is a "perfect witness to holiness".

The re-commissioning of the Pilgrim Mother Coordinators took place after Holy Communion. It was wonderful to see so many Pilgrim Mother Coordinators standing throughout the Hall and on the outside perimeters, holding up their PM Shrines. The Bishop thanked the coordinators for taking on this responsibility for another twelve months and then after their re-commitment, he proceeded to go around the Hall and outside blessing them.

At least the tent which should have been used for the Holy Mass was not completely wasted. It was used by one of the priests for Reconciliation before the Mass and at the lunch time some families used it as their picnic area.

However, while people sat around in the sunshine enjoying lunch and the company of each other, it was time to make a decision about the afternoon program as some rain had been falling.

It was decided that we needed to go with another Plan B. However this Plan B hadn't been organised for the afternoon, except that if it rained, the program would be re-located to the Family Hall. So after a quick discussion, the afternoon program was re-organised to include most of what had been planned for the afternoon.

In spite of these changes, people were very accepting and it was a real joy to see people being so generous about accepting the changes, and even when asked, quickly stepping up and taking on a task. It showed a real spirit of working together and accepting that God obviously had a better plan in mind for us for this day.

The changed program meant that all who wished, could now receive the blessing of the sick. While this took place, the Rosary was prayed, together with some of the hymns from the procession which were sung between the decades. The celebrations concluded with Father Pawel leading the Benediction.

There was certainly a joyous atmosphere evident throughout the day and the depth of the devotion of the people had been shown in the way they responded to the day. And even the changed program did not deter most people, but seemed to almost give a more 'family-like' atmosphere to the day. So it seemed that indeed, God DID have a better plan in mind for us for this day.



This was reflected in some of the comments that were made after the Pilgrimage. Bishop Vincent Long sent the following message to Sr. Luisa Maria:

“I write to thank you for the way the sisters welcomed and looked after us last Sunday. It was such a joy to meet the pilgrims from near and far and to celebrate the Mass with them. The atmosphere was wonderful, and one could tell that people had longed to be back after a period of disruption. The clergy, seminarians, and I enjoyed the fellowship immensely. May the Mother Thrice Admirable intercede for you and your ministry among us.”

Fr John Frauenfelder (Vice Rector of Holy Spirit seminary) wrote:

“What a blessed day it was yesterday and I thank you for the invitation to share this experience, a delightful introduction to the Schoenstatt spirituality. This was my first time at Mount Schoenstatt! I arrived earlier than anticipated, arriving just as Mass commenced, and appreciated the vibrant and joyful liturgy, and later shared a beautiful lunch.

In spite of having to change your original program you responded quickly and appropriately to changed circumstances in a short space of time.

Sister, thank you once again.”

One of the Pilgrim Mother Coordinators who was sitting outside commented afterwards that she thought it was the best Annual Pilgrimage Mass she had attended. Someone else commented that it was wonderful to hear everyone joining in the singing. There was a real sense of unity and community.

It seemed that all who took part in the day, and particularly the Pilgrim Mother Coordinators, went home inspired and renewed in their enthusiasm for, and commitment to Our Blessed Mother and the Pilgrim Mother Apostolate. We pray that through their example many others will be inspired to help in this mission to bring all people, particularly our families, to Christ and the Heavenly Father through devotion and praying to Our Blessed Mother.

This pilgrimage could not have taken place without the hard work and commitment of so many people who generously gave of their time and talents to assist with this day. This included not only Bishop Vincent Long, the priests and seminarians, but all who made this day possible and in particular, all the Pilgrim Mother Coordinators and all who took part in the day.

This year especially when so much of the planning had to be re-organised to suit the new program of the day, some of which had to be done at the last minute it was wonderful to see the way everyone worked together.

The Pilgrim Mother Apostolate Team thanks each one of you very personally for your assistance. We offer you our sincere appreciation and ask Our Blessed Mother to reward and bless you.

Shirley Hall

(On behalf of the Organising Team)



3. 70th Anniversary of the Blessing of the Kew Shrine – celebrated 21 May

The Victorian Schoenstatt family was blessed to be able to get together once again and celebrate after 2 years of restrictions and isolation due to the Coronavirus pandemic. The community was determined to make the 70th anniversary of the blessing of the Kew Shrine (actual date 11th May) a memorable occasion where we honoured Our Lady for her faithfulness and loyalty and many blessings bestowed over the last 23 years, since the re-conquering of the Shrine.



Preparation:

In the lead up to the event, there was much preparation, which included.

- Daily contributions to the Capital of Grace
- Reflections prayed in the home for each day during the month of May,
- Preparation of symbols for the day,
- Reaching out to the community to remind and invite to the event, and
- Negotiation with the Pallottine community for Mass and use of the premises.
-

The community came together beautifully as always, for in Melbourne we do not have resident sisters on whom we can lean to assist with the organisation.

Symbols:

- We are very blessed to have so many talented people as part of our community. The following outstanding contribution cannot go without mention:
- Florida Nugara who prepared a huge celebration cake, with decorations of a Shrine and other symbols that was so beautiful and well done that we were reluctant to cut it.
- Annerine Pragnesekera who came up with the idea of a Souvenir and gathered information and photographs from many sources to share the history which we treasure with the community
- Yvonne Roche who prepared the Mass booklet and programme.
- Lidia Dias who prepared beautiful cards with a picture of the Shrine on the front, and when you open the doors you see the inside of the Shrine. These were used to record contributions and petitions and placed in the jar.
- The rest of the community who assisted with the setting up, liaising with the Pallottine community, and organisation of refreshments, and of course clean up afterwards.



Our Lady did her part in providing us with the most gorgeous weather, of beautiful sunshine and blue skies, We were able to share Mass together, celebrated by Fr Pat Jackson, in the Pallotti House with around 50 people attending. We then proceeded to the Shrine in procession and serenading Our Blessed Mother. In the Shrine we offered our contributions and joyfully praised Our Mother in song and prayer.

We were sorry that Sr. Elizabeth could not join us on this occasion, and we continue to pray for her full recovery. We were blessed that so many of the pioneer members of our community were able to join us in this milestone celebration. Thank you to everyone who contributed and made the day possible and such a memorable one.



4. “Discovering God’s Footsteps” everywhere with “Practical Faith in Divine Providence”

“The God of life wants to communicate with man through life. A key moment is the conviction of being able to discover God’s footsteps everywhere: what is within us interiorly, in encounters with other people, with creation, in the small and great events of history, in the scientific and technical processes.” (Hubertus Bransen: ‘Search for Footsteps’ – schoenstatt.org)

The image of God’s footsteps also conjures up memories of Adam and Eve in the Garden (Genesis 3:8) where upon hearing them, it caused them to hide. This idea of hiding is actually how most people treat God – the idea that God is playing a practical part in their lives does not seem feasible to them and so many times when God is trying to communicate they miss the point.

The gift of believing practically in God’s Providence is given to all the baptised because the universe is still in a “state of journeying” toward an ultimate perfection yet to be attained” (CCC302). Yet many of us do not fully “trust in God’s care” or spend time in “constant dialogue with the God of life and history” and certainly many do not know “that we have to actively seek God’s will” (200 Questions: Q23).

Looking in to this further:

Trust in God’s Care:

For those who have a practical faith in Divine Providence they know that God is wise, powerful and loyal and has a plan of love for humanity and for each person within it.

Constant Dialogue with God:

Those who understand ‘practical’ faith, know, plan and form their real lives accordingly through the light of faith, the voices of the times, their soul and their being.

Actively seeking God’s Will:

Practical faith in Divine Providence leads them to actively seek the will of God in life and its events and with filial love respond to it. The trick is to continually seek this will and carry it out, believing that God has inspired the path and that way is the way to go.

Many of the Schoenstatt persons we have come across in the Camino Novena show exemplary understanding of belief in this practical faith. All the founding Sisters travelled from Germany to Australia believing in God’s and Mary’s plans for a Shrine in our country. Fr. Boes and Fr. Evans saw the Schoenstatt path as the only way for them to be truly able to fulfil their practical belief in Divine Providence.

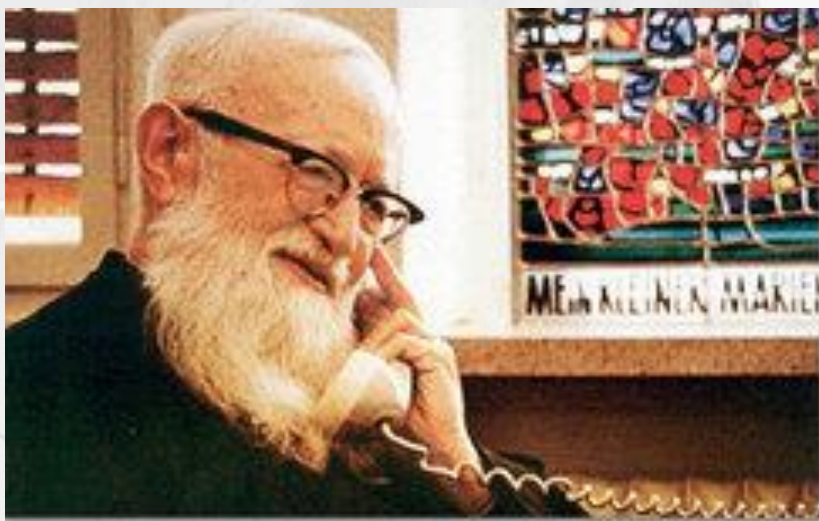


Fr. Kentenich, the founding Sisters and priests have walked many miles in their lives listening for 'God's Footsteps'. Can you think of any time in your life where 'God's footsteps' were heard in your life and pointed you to a belief in Divine Providence? Did your heart beat faster as your heart perceived His Will? Did the beating faster heart come because like Adam and Eve you perceived you might not be in a good place or you were ashamed to own up to God? Then there's the times when beauty or some good deed gives the heart the immediate connection to God because of your practical faith. Only today as I write, an 89yr old friend told me "he knew what I was doing at 'a minute after 10pm' tomorrow!" When I looked at him very puzzled, he said, "13 years ago at that time you brought communion to Margaret in Palliative Care at Calvary". That statement for me was a 'Wow moment' one that ties together 'God's footsteps', practical faith in Divine Providence on two occasions 13 years apart and a fast beating heart in the present moment as well as goose bumps and humility.

The 'voice of God' is like the blades of the windmill that receive the wind and transform it into energy. That is what we discover in our own hearts and our surroundings as signs of the time that appeal to us and at the same time give us the strength and energy to respond to it in our lives. (Fr. Guillermo Camona, 'What is Schoenstatt?' Fr. Rafael Fernandez, '150 questions about Schoenstatt' and Hubertus Brantzen: 'Search for Footsteps': schoenstatt.org).

As we move through life may more people through our understanding of Schoenstatt, become aware that they themselves like the universe are in a "state of journeying toward an ultimate perfection yet to be attained" (CCC302), because they are hearing God's footsteps and discovering a better understanding of "Practical Faith in God's Divine Providence" in their lives..

Angela



5. Vale Nancy Green -18.10.1936 – 6.5.2022

On 24 May we farewelled Nancy Green, a very loyal member of the Schoenstatt Women's League. Nancy was a member of the very first group of Schoenstatt single women in Australia. She died on 6 May after suffering from cancer for a couple of years.

Nancy first came to know Schoenstatt when she met the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary in Wandering Mission, south of Perth WA. In the mid-1960s Nancy heard about a request of the Pallottine Fathers for lay missionaries at Wandering Mission. She travelled together with a friend to the Mission and worked there for one year. Her main task was in the kitchen working with one of the Schoenstatt Sisters. During this year she came to appreciate the Sisters and their work and so after Nancy returned to Sydney she kept in contact with the Sisters. In December 1968 she joined the first group of the Schoenstatt Single Women's League in Australia.

Over a few decades Nancy was a very loyal member of the Women's League, participating in meetings, retreats and very often making herself available to selflessly serve fundraising efforts of the Schoenstatt Movement. Nancy was often seen helping in the kitchen at Mount Schoenstatt with Sr. Mary who had been the superior in Wandering while Nancy was there. Nancy loved Mount Schoenstatt as a second home.

On 20th October 1974 when the Schoenstatt Movement in Sydney crowned the picture of the Mother Thrice Admirable in the foyer of the Joseph Kentenich Retreat House at Mount Schoenstatt, the gift of the Single Women's League was to have been the silver plates for the inside of the Tabernacle in the shrine. As the silver plates were not ready for the crowning, a ciborium cover was made and embroidered by Nancy. This ciborium cover symbolised the striving and the crowning gift of the Women's League.



In presenting the Ciborium cover, the Women's League members prayed:

"Dear Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt, we the Women's League present this gift in homage to you. May it be a symbol of our striving to become Living Tabernacles, bringing Christ to the world."

This ciborium cover is still used today and was placed on Nancy's coffin as an expression of gratitude for all she had done in the service of Schoenstatt, and in particular for the Schoenstatt Women's League.

Shirley Hall and Ivana Derek were able to represent the Schoenstatt Women's League at the funeral Mass, bringing up the Offertory gifts. Other Schoenstatt members did the readings and placed the ciborium cover on the coffin.

Nancy can be seen in this photo together with members of the Women's League on 12 August 1995 at a Covenant of Love celebration.

Some years ago when Nancy was no longer able to travel to the Shrine, she became an active member of the Catholic Women's League in her parish and served their mission as loyally as she had in Schoenstatt. Both communities will sadly miss her and her generosity, good works, faithful friendship, love and loyalty, acceptance, balance and gratefulness.



6. Priestly Ordination of Father Kentenich, 8 July 1910

On Friday, July 8, 1910, eight new priests were ordained in the house chapel of the Pallottine Limburg Mission House. The youngest of these, not yet 25 years of age, was Joseph Kentenich.

The following Sunday, July 10, in the same house chapel, Fr. Kentenich celebrated his solemn First Mass. Fr. Kolb, the provincial superior, was the assisting priest.

A solemn First Mass in his home parish in Gymnich followed on July 24. The Mass was held in St. Cunibert's Church and afterwards the family gathered to celebrate.

Joseph's ordination and First Mass were a cause of great joy for his mother. After many years of sacrifice and prayer she saw him reach his goal. For the occasion she gave him an ornate 4-foot (120 cm) wooden crucifix. She had this dedication hand-carved in ornate letters on the back: "Dear Joseph! Your Mother gives you this Cross for your First Mass".

Joseph's ordination card placed a kind of headline over his life's vocation. The motto he chose was: "Unite, O my God, all minds in truth and all hearts in love!" To this he added: "Heart of Jesus, I trust in you" and "Sweet Heart of Mary, be my salvation"

Over 50 years later, in 1962, he commented on the spirit in which he embarked on the priesthood. Speaking of himself in the third person he said: Throughout his life he was inspired by a single great ideal: God and souls. For him all else was secondary. All else was resolutely ordered and subjected to this great idea of his life. Hence, he always sought to open souls for God and unite them inseparably with God. And this made it imperative for him to see to it that the soul be opened and remain open – wherever possible to its inmost depths – to God and the divine.

Fr. Kentenich understood his entire priesthood to be in the light of service to God and others: Throughout his life he was inspired by a single great ideal: God and souls. For him all else was secondary. All else was resolutely ordered and subjected to this great idea of his life.

(Adapted from: "Brushstrokes of a Father", Volume 1, Fr. Jonathan Niehaus)



7. Schoenstatt May Pilgrimage WA

Our annual May Pilgrimage was able to take place, in beautiful fine weather, on Sunday 29th May 2022 to honour Our Lady. A crowd of about 140 people attended – fewer than usual because of the present Covid situation in WA.

As we processed from the Shrine around the grounds we prayed the Rosary. A number of children also followed carrying flowers. Fr Mark Baumgarten from St Francis Xavier Parish in Hilbert, led us for the procession, and this was then followed by three reflection readings from Fr Kentenich, read by members of the Schoenstatt Movement, on the theme “With Trust and Hope We Go With You, Mary”. Everyone also enjoyed singing hymns to honour our Blessed Mother.

Three new Pilgrim Mother Co-ordinators (from the Parishes of Thornlie, Canningvale and Baldivis) were then Commissioned as well as the annual ‘sending out’ of other Pilgrim Mother Co-ordinators in attendance.

Father Mark then concluded our ceremony with Benediction. This was followed by afternoon tea and fellowship. Many people commented that they had a lovely afternoon.

Philomena Theseira and photos by Chris Quinn



8. Information and Links

➤ **Shrine Opening Hours:**

Please check the websites for updated opening times of the Shrine.

Mulgoa Shrine, NSW. Open daily: 8 am – 7 pm

Mt Richon / Armadale Shrine, WA. Open daily 7am – 7pm.

The Kew Shrine, Melbourne, VIC open for individual visits 9 am – 5pm

➤ **Links:**

Official Schoenstatt Website

<http://www.schoenstatt.com>

Schoenstatt Australian Website

<http://www.schoenstatt.org.au>

Schoenstatt Australia YouTube Channel

www.youtube.com/schoenstattaustralia

Video for June Covenant Sunday Authentic Evangelizer

http://www.youtube.com/schoenstattaustralia_

Recent videos on this Channel:

Video for April Covenant Sunday - Our Ecclesial Movement proclaiming Christ

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oEiUk7jpSic>

Video for March Covenant Sunday - 'Slow' Evangelisation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mRpEodPfyhw>

Video for February Covenant Sunday – Baptism, our Call to Evangelisation.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F628pW_M45k

The Sisters singing the consecration prayer may be viewed at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O29tXet2DQQ>

➤ **Contributions to the Newsletter are welcome.**

Please send to movtooffice@schoenstatt.org.au before the beginning of each month.

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