

Church of St. Theresa

A Caring Community Reaching Out To One Another in Christ

2855 St. Theresa Avenue, Bronx, New York

SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday at 5:00pm,
Sunday at 7:30am, 9:00am(Italian),
10:30am(Family Mass) 12:15pm ,
1:30PM(Spanish) & 5:00pm

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday thru Saturday 8:00am & 9:00am

DEVOTIONS

Miraculous Medal & St. Theresa
Novenas after Monday morning Masses
St. Anthony Novena after Tuesday
morning Masses.

Thursday 12 Noon Mass
& Eucharistic Adoration

Exposition & Benediction of the
Blessed Sacrament First Friday 6:00PM

CONFESSION

Saturdays from 4:00pm to 5:00pm
and by appointment

BAPTISMS

Baptisms take place most Sundays
after the 1:30pm Mass.

We ask parents to attend the Baptism
preparation meeting. Register at the
Rectory for the meeting.
The date of the Baptism will be discussed
at the Baptism meeting.

MARRIAGES

Call the Rectory at least six months in
advance of the wedding date to make an
appointment with parish clergy.

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"ST. THERESA STRONG"



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FROM THE DESK OF FATHER DERIVAN

On the front door of St. Patrick's Cathedral, there are statues of some of our American saints. Let me mention two of them in particular. The first is the statue of the great missionary St. Isaac Jogues. St. Isaac was a French priest, renowned as a teacher. He could have spent the rest of his life in his home country. But he heard of the Native American people in what is now our own New York State and he accepted the task of being a missionary to them. But he was persecuted for bringing the Gospel of Jesus to these people. He was tortured and treated as a slave. Finally through the efforts of Dutch Protestants, he escaped and returned to his native France. He could have spent the rest of his years, renowned as someone who had suffered for Christ. But instead he returned here, knowing what might befall him. On October 19, 1646 he was tomahawked to death at an Indian village now called Auriesville, near Albany, N.Y.

It would seem that St. Isaac's life and his mission were failures. But they were not. Nine years later a little girl was born in the same village. Hers is the other statue which I hope you will notice on the Cathedral door. Her Mohawk Indian name was Tekakwitha. When she was four years old, the terrible disease of smallpox afflicted her village. Many people, including her parents, died of the disease. Tekakwitha herself survived, but the terrible smallpox marks disfigured her face and remained there for the rest of her life. Tekakwitha learned of the Catholic faith, first from her mother and then from Jesuit missionaries, but her uncle strongly opposed her conversion. However she was determined and at the age of twenty she was baptized and given the name Kateri or Catherine. But she had to flee from her village to a friendly Christian village in Canada where she spent the rest of her short life caring for the sick. She died at the age of 24. When she died, the smallpox marks disappeared from her face. The Christian woman who was taking care of her said that Kateri had looked at heaven and her face became bright and clean.

We celebrate the feast of St. Kateri Tekakwitha this Wednesday. Her story teaches us that the Lord can bring forth great good even out of the greatest difficulties. St. Isaac's work in the eyes of the world was a failure. But in God's eyes, his work planted the seed of faith in that village of Auriesville where Kateri nine years later was born. The fact that their two statues are on the door of our Cathedral gives us a powerful lesson. We must always remember that we are in God's hands, not our own. Both St. Isaac and St. Kateri put themselves in God's hands—St. Isaac as a missionary knowing that he could be martyred for preaching the faith and St. Kateri as a young woman who suffered rejection, humiliation and even hatred from her own people because of her newfound Christian faith. But the point is that they both were ready to do the Lord's will. And that made their lives successful. They teach us that success does not mean achieving fame or wealth or prestige. True success for a Christian person means that we put our trust completely in the hands of the Lord, knowing that whatever happens to us, He will bring forth good.

St. Kateri was canonized by Pope Benedict XVI in 2012. At the canonization ceremony the Pope said exactly what made her a saint: "Her greatest wish was to know and to do what pleased God. She lived a life radiant with faith and purity." Kateri had a short life, but she is an inspiration to us four hundred and fifty years after her death. Pope Benedict went on, "Kateri impresses us by the action of grace in her life in spite of the absence of external help and by the courage of her vocation, so unusual in her culture. In her, faith and culture enrich each other! May her example help us to live where we are, loving Jesus without denying who we are."

May the example of St. Kateri help us to live our faith here and now. When we face temptations in practicing our faith or living up to our faith, let us think of Kateri, our first Native American saint. We may not have to face the trials and hardships that she had, but nonetheless we all know that it is hard to be a Catholic—a real Catholic, a Catholic who truly lives his or her life every day "living where we are, loving Jesus without denying who we are." Kateri was proud to be a young Mohawk Indian woman. But she was even prouder to be a Catholic. May we be proud of who we are. And may we be even prouder of our Catholic faith.

"St. Kateri Tekakwitha, pray for us. Amen."

THE YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH:



As you know our Holy Father Pope Francis has declared a special **YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH**, extending from last December 2020 to December, 2021. During these summer weeks we are presenting in our bulletin some of the words of Pope Francis from his Apostolic Letter **Pateris Corde** (With a Father's Love) announcing the Year of St. Joseph and explaining why St. Joseph is so important for us all. May St. Joseph help us to come ever closer to Jesus Our Lord.

In his letter, Pope Francis emphasizes the fatherhood of St. Joseph. In this excerpt he calls St. Joseph: **A TENDER AND LOVING FATHER**

Joseph saw Jesus grow daily "in wisdom and in years and in divine and human favor" (Lk 2:52). As the Lord had done with Israel, so Joseph did with Jesus: he taught him to walk, taking him by the hand; he was for him like a father who raises an infant to his cheeks, bending down to him and feeding him (cf. Hos 11:3-4).

In Joseph, Jesus saw the tender love of God: "As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him" (Ps 103:13). In the synagogue, during the praying of the Psalms, Joseph would surely have heard again and again that the God of Israel is a God of tender love, who is good to all, whose "compassion is over all that he has made" (Ps 145:9).

The history of salvation is worked out "in hope against hope" (Rom 4:18), through our weaknesses. All too often, we think that God works only through our better parts, yet most of his plans are realized in and despite our frailty. Thus Saint Paul could say: "To keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, but he said to me: 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness' (2 Cor 12:7-9).

Since this is part of the entire picture of salvation, we must learn to look upon our weaknesses with tender mercy. The evil one makes us see and condemn our frailty, whereas the Spirit brings it to light with tender love. Tenderness is the best way to touch the frailty within us. Pointing fingers and judging others are frequently signs of an inability to accept our own weaknesses, our own frailty. Only tender love will save us from the snares of the accuser (cf. Rev 12:10). That is why it is so important to encounter God's mercy, especially in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, where we experience his truth and tenderness. Paradoxically, the evil one can also speak the truth to us, yet he does so only to condemn us. We know that God's truth does not condemn, but instead welcomes, embraces, sustains and forgives us. That truth always presents itself to us like the merciful father in Jesus' parable (cf. Lk 15:11-32). It comes out to meet us, restores our dignity, sets us back on our feet and rejoices for us, for, as the father says: "This my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found" (v. 24).

Even through Joseph's fears, God's will, his history and his plan were at work. Joseph, then, teaches us that faith in God includes believing that he can work even through our fears, our frailties and our weaknesses. He also teaches us that amid the tempests of life, we must never be afraid to let the Lord steer our course. At times, we want to be in complete control, yet God always sees the bigger picture.

JULY , 2021

MESSAGE OF OUR HOLY FATHER POPE FRANCIS FOR THIS SUNDAY

Today's Gospel passage (cf. Mk 6:7-13) narrates the moment Jesus sends the Twelve Apostles on mission. After calling each of them by name "to be with him" (Mk 3:14), listening to his words and observing his gestures of healing, he now calls them again to "send them out two by two" (6:7) to the villages he was going to visit. It is a sort of "internship" of what they would be called to do following the Resurrection of the Lord, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Gospel passage pauses on the style of the missionary which we can sum up in two points: the mission has a center; the mission has a face.

First of all, the missionary disciple has his center of reference who is Jesus himself. The narrative indicates this by using a series of verbs which have him as the subject — "He called to him"; he "began to send them"; he "gave them authority"; "he charged them", "he said to them" (vv. 7, 8, 10) —, so that the going out and working of the Twelve appears to be radiating from a center, reaffirming the presence and work of Jesus in their missionary actions. This demonstrates that the Apostles have nothing of their own to proclaim, nor any abilities to manifest, but rather that they speak and act as "emissaries", as messengers of Jesus.

This episode of the Gospel also applies to us and not only to priests but to all baptized people called to witness to the Gospel of Christ in the various spheres of life. And for us too, this mission is authentic only in so far as its unchanging center who is Jesus. It is the mission of the Church, inseparably united to her Lord. No Christian proclaims the Gospel "on his/her own", but is only sent by the Church who received the mandate from Jesus himself. Indeed it is Baptism that makes us missionaries. A baptized person who does not feel the need to proclaim the Gospel, to proclaim Jesus, is not a good Christian.

The second characteristic of the missionary's style is, so to speak, a face, which consists in the poverty of means. Indeed the Twelve have the order to "take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts" (6:8). The Teacher wants them to be free and unhampered, without reserves and without favors, certain only of the love of the One who sends them, strengthened only by his Word which they go to proclaim. The staff and the sandals are the gear of pilgrims because that is what the messengers of the Kingdom of God are, not omnipotent managers, not irreplaceable officials, not celebrities on tour, but rather humble workers of the Kingdom..

May the Virgin Mary, the first disciple and missionary of the Word of God, help us to convey to the world the message of the Gospel in a humble and radiant exultation, beyond any rejection, misunderstanding or tribulation.

Angelus Message, July 15, 2018

MESSAGE OF CARDINAL DOLAN ABOUT SUNDAY MASS



Dear Family of the Archdiocese of New York,

May I raise two points with you today?

First, allow me to wish all of you an enjoyable Summer. It is my hope that, after the trials and difficulties of these past 16 months, you will have an opportunity for some much-needed rest and relaxation. I am very much looking forward to spending some time with family and friends that I have not seen for more than a year!

Second, let me remind you that there is still a sacred obligation to attend Sunday Mass, even if you are on vacation. Unfortunately, there has been some confusion recently over whether or not a "dispensation" from Sunday Mass has been in effect. Here in the Archdiocese of New York, there has never been a dispensation from Sunday Mass, because no man can "dispense" or set aside a Divine (as opposed to man-made) law. The Third Commandment says, "Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day," and I can no more say that this no longer applies than I can say that we can forget about "Thou shalt not steal" or "Honor thy father and thy mother." To deliberately miss Mass is a sin.

Of course, the Church has always held that there may be some justifiable reasons why a person can miss Mass, including old age, illness, and infirmity; this is still the case. During this pandemic, public Mass was not being celebrated for several months, and when Mass resumed, there was still a possibility of catching or spreading the coronavirus, and individuals could, after carefully consulting their conscience, decide not to return to Mass right away. However, now that vaccination rates are up, Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted, and people are returning to a more normal way of living, this excuse cannot be said to exist any longer. If you're going to the mall, having dinner out in restaurants, heading to the ballgame, visiting the hairdresser, and the like, then you should also be at Mass!

Please be assured of a remembrance in my Mass and prayers during these Summer months. Might I ask for a remembrance in yours?

A blessed Summer.

Faithfully in Christ,
Cardinal Timothy Dolan
Archbishop of New York

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



JULY 14
ST. KATERI TEKAKWITHA
(1656-1680)

"The blood of martyrs is the seed of saints." Nine years after the Jesuits Isaac Jogues and John de Brebeuf (October 19) were tomahawked by Iroquois warriors, a baby girl was born near the place of their martyrdom, Auriesville, New York. Her mother was a Christian Algonquin, taken captive by the Iroquois and given as wife to the chief of the Mohawk clan, the boldest and fiercest of the Five Nations. When she was four, Kateri lost her parents and little brother in a smallpox epidemic that left her disfigured and half blind. She was adopted by an uncle, who succeeded her father as chief. He hated the coming of the Blackrobes (Jesuit missionaries), but could do nothing to them because a peace treaty with the French required their presence in villages with Christian captives. She was moved by the words of three Blackrobes who lodged with her uncle, but fear of him kept her from seeking instruction. She refused to marry a Mohawk brave and at 19 finally got the courage to take the step of converting. She was baptized Kateri (Catherine) on Easter Sunday.

Now she would be treated as a slave. Because she would not work on Sunday, she received no food that day. Her life in grace grew rapidly. She told a missionary that she often meditated on the great dignity of being baptized. She was powerfully moved by God's love for human beings and saw the dignity of each of her people. She was always in danger, for her conversion and holy life created great opposition. On the advice of a priest, she stole away one night and began a 200-mile walking journey to a Christian Indian village at Sault St. Louis, near Montreal.

For three years she grew in holiness under the direction of a priest and an older Iroquois woman, giving herself totally to God in long hours of prayer, in charity and in strenuous penance. At 23 she took a vow of virginity, an unprecedented act for an Indian woman, whose future depended on being married. She found a place in the woods where she could pray an hour a day- and was accused of meeting a man there. She humbly accepted an "ordinary" life. She practiced extremely severe fasting as penance for the conversion of her nation. Kateri died the afternoon before Holy Thursday. Witnesses said that her emaciated face changed color and became like that of a healthy child. The line of suffering, even the pockmarks, disappeared and the touch of a smile came upon her lips. She was beatified in 1980 and canonized in 2012.

Kateri said: " I am not my own; I have given myself to Jesus. He must be my only love. The state of helpless poverty that may befall me if I do not marry does not frighten me. All I need is a little food and a few pieces of clothing. With the work of my hands I shall always earn what is necessary and what is left over I'll give to my relatives and to the poor. If I should become sick and unable to work, then I shall be like the Lord on the cross. He will have mercy on me and help me, I am sure."

(From Church of St. Kateri, LaGrangeville, NY)

Novena Prayer to St. Kateri Tekakwitha



Kateri, favored child and Lily of the Mohawks,
I come to seek your intercession in my present need:
(State your intention here...)

I admire the virtues which adorned your soul:
love of God and neighbor,
humility, obedience, patience,
purity and the spirit of sacrifice.

Help me to imitate your example in my state of life.
Through the goodness and mercy of God,
Who has blessed you with so many graces
which led you to the true faith
and to a high degree of holiness,
pray to God for me and help me.

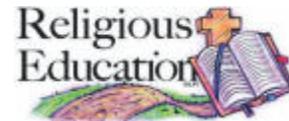
Obtain for me a very fervent devotion to the Holy Eucharist
so that I may love Holy Mass as you did
and receive Holy Communion as often as I can.

Teach me also to be devoted
to my crucified Savior as you were,
that I may cheerfully bear my daily crosses
for love of Him Who suffered so much for love of me.
Most of all I beg you to pray for me
that I may avoid sin,
lead a holy life and save my soul.

A M E N.

(From Bureau of Indian Missions)

CCD (Religion Class) REGISTRATION (Religion Classes for children who attend public school)



Applications are now being accepted for classes which begin in September 2021. Sunday classes: Grade 1, 2, 3 and Communion Class-9:00AM. Wednesday evening classes: Grades 4,5,6,7 (Confirmation Class)-7:00PM.

HOW TO APPLY Pick up an application in the Rectory Office or download applications from the St. Theresa Church website: www.sttheresachurchbronx.org
Applications are available both in English and in Spanish.

SACRAMENT CLASSES FOR CHILDREN

Students must complete 2 consecutive years of CCD classes to be eligible to receive sacraments. Elementary school children who have not been baptized must attend CCD prior to receiving Baptism.

For additional information contact Mrs. McCarrick, CCD Coordinator, at sainttheresa.religioused@gmail.com

HANDICAP ENTRANCE TO THE CHURCH

The side entrance to the Church on Pilgrim Avenue will be open every Sunday for anyone who is handicapped or in a wheelchair. Also this same entrance will be opened every weekday until 9:30AM.



JULY 12
SAINT ZÉLIE MARTIN
 Married Laywoman († 1877)

Zélie Guérin was born in Gandelain, Normandy, France, to good-hearted parents. She desired to enter religious life, but the mother superior of the Daughters of Charity kindly, but firmly, refused her. Zélie met her husband, Louis Martin, while studying to make lace. She was to bear him nine children. Five daughters would mature to adulthood, including the future Saint Thérèse of Lisieux.

Yet her middle child Leonie was a difficult case. Leonie had health problems. She was thrown out of school two times. Zélie offered repeated prayers and sufferings for her most difficult daughter, and for a time, Leonie's behavior improved. But in her early teens she began to act out again. Zélie visited her sister who was dying and begged her to obtain a miracle. A month later, Zélie's eldest daughter, Marie Louise, noticed a strange exchange between the housemaid and Leonie. Upon investigation, Zélie discovered that the maid had been physically and psychologically abusing Leonie. She immediately forbade the maid from any contact with Leonie. Weakened by illness and preoccupied by her work, Zélie had missed the signs of the abuse. She considered the discovery a miracle.

Shortly after this, Zélie succumbed to a malignant breast tumor. Léonie continued to mature. She entered religious life and became a disciple of her little sister Therese. In 2015, Leonie's own cause for canonization was introduced.

Father of mercies, through the intercession of Saint Zélie Martin, grant me faith that moves mountains.



JULY 12
SAINT LOUIS MARTIN
 Married Layman († 1894)

The son of a French army captain, Louis set up a flourishing watch-making business in Alencon, France. At the age of thirty-five he met Zélie, a successful lace-maker, and they were married three months later, on July 12, 1858.

Having initially decided to remain continent in their marriage, Louis and Zélie changed their minds at a confessor's urging. Of their nine children, five daughters survived to adulthood. All of them entered religious life. In their home, Louis and Zélie made the Church's rhythms their own: prayer, fasting, and daily Mass. They gave alms discreetly and cared for the sick among their acquaintances. After Zélie's death in 1877, Louis retired to Lisieux, where he raised his daughters near his wife's family.

In 1889, Louis suffered a succession of strokes. When he was sent to the mental hospital, he told his doctor, "I have always been accustomed to commanding, and I see myself reduced to obeying: it's hard. But I know why the good God has given me this trial. I had never had any humiliation in my life. I needed one." He died at home in 1894.

Louis' daughter, Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus, attested to the pure, simple faith of her parents: "God gave me a mother and father more worthy of heaven than of earth." In 2015, Louis and his wife Zélie became the first married saints to be jointly canonized.

Merciful Father, through the intercession of Saint Louis Martin, when I am humiliated, conform me to your suffering Son.



JULY 16
OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL

In the 12th century, a group of European hermits came to live near the well of the prophet Elijah on Mount Carmel in the Holy Land. They built a chapel in honor of the Mother of God and consecrated themselves to God as the "Brothers of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel." When Saracen invaders came, the hermits fled back to Europe, scattering to different places, where they founded religious houses—each one of them a little "Carmel."

It is said that on July 16, 1251, the Blessed Mother appeared to their superior, Simon Stock, who was struggling to maintain the unity of the Carmelites. She offered him a yoke-like cloth to be worn with his habit and promised to obtain for anyone who wore this cloth the grace of final perseverance. This cloth, a "scapular," became a feature of the Carmelite habit; devout laypersons later adopted a modified form.

The scapular signifies a relationship: the wearer pledges himself to Mary, who has promised him her maternal protection. Since the 16th century, various popes have confirmed the value of the devotion to Our Lady of Mount Carmel signified in the wearing of the scapular. And heaven itself seems to have affirmed the devotion. The final Lourdes apparition occurred on July 16, 1858, and Mary revealed herself as Our Lady of Mount Carmel during the final apparition at Fatima.

Loving Father, through the intercession of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, protect me from all anxiety.

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PETITION BOOK

Have you noticed our Petition Book in the vestibule of the Church? Every Saturday before the 5:00PM Mass, the petitions entered into the book for that week are brought up to the altar of the Blessed Mother, where they remain for all the weekend Masses. Please pray for these intentions.



II Anthony LoMedico & Julia Mercado



THIS WEEK'S ALTAR BREAD IS IN LOVING MEMORY
OF
CATHERINE WYNNE
LOVE, FELICIA GENTILE & FAMILY



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED
MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH AND THEIR FAMILIES
ELISABETH JANSKI, GREG MASKARA,
ROSE GALLAGHER & ROSEANN DELLPENNA

Prayer for the Year of St. Joseph



Good St. Joseph, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage,
and defend us from every evil.
Good St. Joseph, pray for us. Amen.

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY JULY 10, 2021

5:00PM Marie Halpern & Joseph Tripodi

SUNDAY JULY 11, 2021

7:30AM Parishioners of St. Theresa

9:00AM Anna Persic

10:30AM Anna Cernaro

12:15PM Teresa Tocco

1:30PM Amalida Rosa Gomez

5:00PM Amelia DiBartolo

MONDAY JULY 12, 2021

8:00AM Marie Sansalone

9:00AM Louise Lentini

TUESDAY JULY 13, 2021

8:00AM Tara Lane

9:00AM Salvatore D'Andrea

WEDNESDAY JULY 14, 2021

8:00AM Maria Signorelli

9:00AM Angelina Neglia

THURSDAY JULY 15, 2021

8:00AM John Gray

9:00AM Frances Lanza

12NOON Frank Bonfiglio

FRIDAY JULY 16, 2021

8:00AM Vevette Samuels & Huldah Gordon

9:00AM John McDevitt

SATURDAY JULY 17, 2021

8:00AM Joseph P. Poidomani

9:00AM Sergio A. Ocasio Roman

5:00PM Frances & Charles DeClemente

SUNDAY JULY 18, 2021

7:30AM Parishioners of St. Theresa

9:00AM Rosalie Masters

10:30AM Maureen & Marco Pozzuto

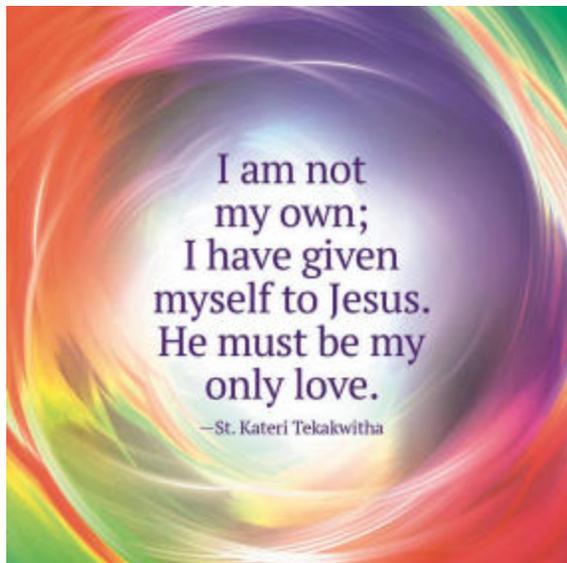
12:15PM Patricia Musano

1:30PM Gerardo & Alberto Gomez

5:00PM Joseph P. Poidomani



Nancy Cardone, Thomas Egan, Louise Esposito,
Josephine Graziano, Maryann Maiorana, Lisa Murphy,
Joseph Pisano, Margie Primiani, Antoinette Primiani,
Lisa Primiani, Benny Primiani, Frances Riccio, Denise Siracusa
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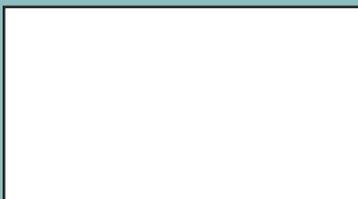
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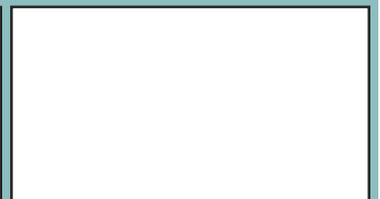
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