



A Plea for the New Year

If we are to embrace the next chapter of our lives with open arms, we need to take time to cultivate a sense of closure from the last chapter.

As 2022 comes to a close, we've probably given some thought to our resolutions. While the cultural tradition has been criticized by some as being unsustainable, laying out specific intentions at the beginning of the year can propel us toward positive growth when set realistically. Looking ahead and setting healthy goals for ourselves — whether physical, spiritual, mental, or emotional — can bolster our sense of hope and create valuable inner motivation for moving forward.

But entering into a new year is not only about a new beginning; it's also about an ending. If we are to embrace the next chapter of our lives with open arms, we need to take time to cultivate a sense of closure from the last chapter. After all, it's equally important to look behind as it is to look ahead. Without pausing to take a conscious assessment of the past year, setting new resolutions will likely only keep us running on the proverbial hamster wheel. Eventually, we'll become exhausted. If we're looking for true, soulful inner growth and not a quick fix, carving out time to pray and deeply reflect on the past 12 months is in order.

When we stop to take inventory of our life experiences — especially in smaller increments of time, as with one calendar year — we have the opportunity to engage in deep listening with the Holy Spirit to better understand how God has been at work in our lives. The end of December provides the perfect time to reflect on the patterns and movements of God within us. It is also a time to look at the circumstances that we may not have noticed as

Continued on page 2...

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Continued from page 1

they were happening in real time. Hindsight, as they say, is 20/20.

Identifying the highs and lows of the past 12 months can offer valuable insight on how to make the most beneficial choices in the future: We can see what has moved us closer to God and what has moved us further away. Putting together the pieces in this way could be akin to following a trail of bread crumbs in order to find the right path for moving forward in the year ahead.

Of course, looking into the past with openness and vulnerability is not always easy or pleasant. Painful things have likely happened in the past year; perhaps even things we would like to run from. But when we turn to God, we get the chance to see God's presence even in the hardest times.

Consolation/Desolation

St. Ignatius wrote about times of "consolation" and times of "desolation," indicating that both are part of the spiritual life. A state of consolation is when we are acutely aware of and are experiencing God's active presence in the world and in our lives. In these times, we can clearly see the gifts of the Holy Spirit, such as love, goodness, mercy, and peace. On the other hand, a state of desolation is when we can't seem to see or feel God's active presence in the world. It may be because we are resisting God. Desolation tends to be marked by difficult feelings such as resentment, selfishness, fear, and gloom.

Consolation certainly feels more pleasant, but desolation has things to teach us too, which is why annual days of reflection can be so beneficial. No experience, however trying, is wasted when brought to God: There is always growth, redemption, and fullness of life to be had when we put our life in divine hands.

As we reflect on the year and seek understanding of God's movements in our lives, it's often helpful to pull out a journal and write down our thoughts as they come. Previously prepared questions can serve as prompts to get us started, such as, "What did I learn this year?" "What rhythms worked for me?" "What do I wish I had more time for?" "What brings me closer to God?" "What feels unnecessarily hard?" "What feels unhealthy to me?"

In the frantic pace of our busy culture, taking an entire morning for prayer and reflection can feel ludicrous and wasteful. The temptation is to barrel on into the new year with grandiose resolutions that we hope will improve our lives. But without stopping to seek God first, will any of those resolutions really last? Instead of taking a sip out of the nearest water fountain, what if we took the time to dig a deep, nourishing well? We might just taste the living water that Jesus promised.

By Shannon K. Evans for the December 2021/January 2022 issue of St. Anthony Messenger Press.

7% Bonus Ends this Weekend

December 31st is the last day of the calendar year, it means the end of a fiscal tax period. **If you intend to make an end-of-the-year gift to the parish, you'll need to date it before January 1st and get it into our office in an envelope marked "Christmas Collection."** Gifts made in this manner are free from the usual Archdiocesan taxation of 7%.

When it comes to calculating your charitable deductions for the Internal Revenue Service this coming April, the cutoff date for 2022 deductions is this Saturday, New Year's Eve. Quickly review your tax strategy.

A significant portion of our parish operating revenue comes from end-of-the-year contributions which can be in the form of cash, securities, stock, real estate and other negotiables. Consult your tax preparer who can guide you as to the best way of making a donation to St. Ambrose. Or, our own parish accountant can also be of assistance if you call the rectory.

January Retreats

The Capuchin Retreat center in Washington, MI is inviting parishioners to "Retreat" into the new year.

Every weekend throughout January are installments in their Living The Lord's Prayer series. The retreat conferences offer a wonderful opportunity to reflect upon the words and spirituality of the Lord's Prayer so that we dare not only to PRAY, but also truly dare to LIVE within this prayer.

The first two weekends will host the men, with the final two weekends hosting the women's retreats. To register, please visit capretreat.org or call (248) 651-4826.

*Please
Save us a seat*

The wooden pews in St. Ambrose church building have served this congregation "in good times and bad" for coming up on a century now.

They were designed and installed in 1925 and crafted in Michigan out of Red Oak, with the secondary wood of the seat portion in American Elm – a lesser wood back then, but almost non-existent today.

Preparing for the building's centennial, each pew is being removed from the building and taken to a workshop in Ubly, Michigan, where it will be disassembled, sanded, stained and refinished, along with the Hymn book racks and kneelers, which will be rebuilt and refitted with new hardware.

In honor of the thousands of faithful who have sat here, please consider committing to restoring one of our antique pews.

For further information or to generously sponsor a pew, please visit stambrosechurch.net, follow the QR Code to the right or call our office at (313) 822-2814.



All Things Considered

Here's a shortened version of Pope Francis' message for the World Day of Peace which we celebrate today. The title says it all: "NO ONE CAN BE SAVED ALONE."

The key proposition of the Holy Father is for us to recall that all crises are interconnected and that we must not forget any of them, but work for the good of humanity.

He says, "when tragic events seem to overwhelm our lives, we are called to keep our hearts open to hope and to trust in God, who makes himself present, accompanies us with tenderness, sustains us in our weariness and, above all, guides our path."

Three years after the start of the pandemic, he stresses, "the time is right to question, learn, grow and allow ourselves to be transformed as individuals and as communities" reminding us, as he has done before, that "we never emerge the same from times of crisis: we emerge either better or worse."

Pope Francis goes on to stress that this is not the post-Covid era we had hoped for or expected. "At the very moment when we dared to hope that the darkest hours of the pandemic were over, a terrible new disaster befell humanity," he said, noting that the world witnessed the onslaught of another scourge: the war in Ukraine, "driven by culpable human decisions."

"What then is being asked of us?" the Pope asks, in light of all these difficult times. "First of all, to let our hearts be changed by our experience of the crisis." In fact, he explains: "we can no longer think exclusively of carving out space for our personal or national interests, instead we must think in terms of the common good."

And he calls on all those in positions of responsibility and on all

men and women of goodwill "to revisit the issue of ensuring public health for all"; to "promote actions that enhance peace and put an end to the conflicts and wars that continue to spawn poverty and death"; "to join in caring for our common home and in implementing clear and effective measures to combat climate change"; "to battle the virus of inequality and to ensure food and dignified labour for all, supporting those who lack even a minimum wage and find themselves in great difficulty."

Finally, Pope Francis asks that in the coming New Year that "we journey together, valuing the lessons that history has to teach us."

The early part of this New Year pushes forward a number of administrative issues for the parish.

One that is been in the works for a number of years was the renewal of the lease with National Heritage Academies on our school property. NHA has been a partner with us since 2002. They operate a very successful program in this location which services more than 700 students. The last year we ran St. Ambrose Academy, we barely could retain an enrollment of 150 students. While I believe that we did an excellent job in providing a quality education, the fact of free tuition made all the difference. Here in Michigan, tuition-free charter schools certainly have an advantage in the education system.

The new lease with NHA will be for a period of 20 years, with two 10-year extensions as a possibility. That will secure this educational opportunity for the neighborhood potentially until the year 2062. Likewise it will secure a revenue stream for St. Ambrose for that same amount of time.

The fact that NHA is willing to agree to such a long-term agreement indicates that management and their students are being well served. NHA now manages 100+ schools across nine states. But one unique feature of our NHA Merit Academy program is a program set up by the Carol and A. Paul Schaap Foundation which provides private high school scholarships for just

about any of their graduates. That's been a life-changing opportunity for students who in many cases could never afford private/parochial school tuition.

As you can imagine, a contract of this length of time is a complex piece of negotiations. In written form, the last draft was 24 pages of small print, which covers details as minute as use of closet storage space.

But on the other side of the equation, there are rather significant things in the proposed contract, the most notable is the building of a gymnasium. This received approvals as a donor item years ago, but that gift did not materialize. Since NHA sees a gym as essential to their operation here, there ensued a negotiation brokered by the Archdiocese of Detroit Properties Office which has NHA as the funding entity.

It's the details of this arrangement that are currently being reviewed. The Merit Board of Directors insists on construction beginning within the year. Both NHA and St. Ambrose are anxious to get this agreement inked as the first order of business in 2023.

Other active administrative items to address in 2023 include:

- The finalization of the incorporation of the parish as its own legal entity – particularly in banking.
- Continuing Infrastructure Committee meetings regarding the older storm and sanitary water network and the impact of new construction next to and around our campus.
- The expediting of the repairs from the "Water Event" of 2021 and the restoration of the ARK for use. A revisiting of how to staff and use that facility.
- Less we forget, we are in the middle of a major model change with the Family of Parishes' reorganization of our Archdiocese.
- And certainly not the least in terms of effort and priorities is the re-invigorating of the parish population and participation following Covid.

It's going to be a busy year.

TRP



Name

Home Phone

Work Phone

Email Address

- ☐ I would simply like to learn more about the Catholic Faith.
- ☐ I desire to prepare for my Baptism into Christianity.
- ☐ I've been Baptized as a Christian and now desire to join in Catholic Communion.
- ☐ I'm non-Catholic, but married to a Catholic, and now wish to join the Catholic Church.
- ☐ I'm Catholic and I would like to complete my initiation into the Catholic Church by celebrating Confirmation and/or Communion.
- ☐ I'm Baptized Catholic and would like to learn more about my faith and how to practice it.
- ☐ I want to propose someone for Catholic Church membership and offer to serve as their sponsor.
- ☐ I would be willing to help with an R.C.I.A. program.
- ☐ I have other needs, requests, and questions. Please contact me.

Return this to the Parish Rectory or place it in the Collection basket.

The Buzz\$ ☺

A blessed and peaceful New Year to you and yours! There is a special emphasis on world peace every January 1st in the Church. (See the 56th annual papal message for New Year's Day 2023 at the Vatican.va website.)

For a while under Pope Paul VI, peace seemed to be growing as the preferred theme to be celebrated for New Year's Day. But then under the very Marian Pope John Paul II it swung back to another long-standing focus: the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God.

I think they both fit together. Read again today's Gospel. It continues the infancy story from Luke with the shepherds' visit to the manger, their understanding the message, and then going out to proclaim to others what the angels had told them. Meanwhile, Mary reflected on all these things in her heart.

All good moms want peace in their families. Who's in Mary's family ... Joseph and Jesus and that's it? From ancient times in the Church, Mary has had the title *Θεοτοκε*, God-bearer, or Mother of God (because Jesus is God). Now jump from the birth of Christ ahead to the cross. In John's Gospel, at the foot of the cross are standing two people – Mary and the “beloved disciple.” Jesus gives her to him as his mother, and he to her as her son. Who is the “beloved disciple?” Over the years he has very handily been identified as the Apostle John himself.

Today, scholars help us identify that the omission of a particular name in favor of a more mysterious title was intentional and inspired. Who is the beloved disciple? You are; I am! And especially in communion with our “brother” Jesus – all children of one and the same Heavenly Father – Mary is given to us as our mother as well. And what does every good mother want? . . . Let's do our part in 2023 to make peace more of a reality in our “family” than it was in 2022.

20+C+M+B+23

Next weekend we celebrate another truth about Jesus that comes to us from the infancy story in Matthew. Epiphany always makes me wonder how billions of Christians have come to discover the Lord. What's your story? Is it one of dramatic personal encounter (ala St. Paul); is it one of cultural expectation (ala many of us through family, parish, school, etc.); is it one of personal search (ala the Magi)?

There are many valid encounter storylines about people with Emmanuel. Our scriptures and tradition assure us that they are often full of irony and surprise. The Magi were mysterious foreigners and Gentiles who used pagan, forbidden means (reading the stars) to search for a (most surprising) king. They responded well in their quest. Yet the people who were better prepared with the wisdom of scripture and history ... missed the point!

At the beginning of 2023, how are you and I doing at “getting the point?” We have a great foundation for faith prepared for us. It points us in the right direction; it warmly invites us to journey to meet Him. If you are reading this, it probably means you have come to this “house of bread” (beth-lehem). Did you find Him? Did you get the point of it all? The beginning of a new year is a good time to make a resolution to spend 2023 prayerfully ready to see Emmanuel in every surprising way He comes to us ... and to grow closer to Him each and every day.

And you don't have to do this alone. Pope Francis' message today is that Covid, and war, and the economy, etc., remind us how we are connected with everyone! He suggests that we need to emerge from the recent dark times . . . changed.

One way the Catholic community and St. Ambrose Parish can help those seeking fundamental changes in their faith-lives is through the RCIA process. Christian Initiation through any needed combination of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and First Holy Communion combats loneliness and isolation by bonding us to Christ and one another. Consider this for yourself if it applies, or to recommend it for someone else. Here at St. Ambrose, inquiry about and participation in the RCIA process has no cost, no obligation, and no strings attached.

Continued on following page

Contact Fr. Tim or myself anytime for more info. My number is 313-822-2814 ext. 2. Make a resolution to do this soon. It could change your life!

20+C+M+B+23

Next Saturday at the 1:30 p.m. Epiphany Liturgy, Bishop Don Hanchon will be here to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation with our 9th Grade candidates. Come join us and pray for them that the Holy Spirit will always be close to give them peace and help them more and more throughout their lives “get the point” of living as a wise and beloved disciple of the Lord.

20+C+M+B+23

The day after Epiphany, Monday the 9th is the feast of the Baptism of the Lord – sometimes referred to as the second in a series of “epiphanies” revealing the true nature of Jesus. (The other is the Wedding Feast at Cana.) It transitions us out of the Christmas season and into the first stretch of Ordinary Time (back to green vestments) in the Church Year.

20+C+M+B+23

As we begin a new calendar year, and as you grow in awareness of the impending tax season, it might be a good time to see if your financial support of the parish could stand any adjustment. Have you been keeping track of inflation? Is a COLA called for in your church contributions? Just asking.

20+C+M+B+23

Finally, if you made any “new year” resolutions back in November at the beginning of Advent, now is a perfect time to do a checkup on how they’re going. Restart? Change? Create new ones? It’s never too late; it’s never too early . . . in God’s good time, it’s always the right time!

Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku!
Chuck Dropiewski

Ghirelli Rosaries

Six different custom designed rosaries were made by hand in Italy expressly for St. Ambrose Parish. The bead collection ranges from hard woods to various semi-precious stones.

The crucifix is modeled from the Ark Plaza sculpture and the center piece depicts the First and Second Coming of Christ from our sanctuary. The “Pater” bead is taken from a details in our stained glass windows. Not just a beautiful work of craftsmanship, but a useful aid in prayer, a real legacy piece. To order, please visit our website, use the QR code below, or visit the parish office.



The Beehive

is the parish weekly bulletin of the St. Ambrose Catholic Community Detroit/Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan

Priest in Solidum: Rev. Timothy R. Pelc

Pastoral Minister: Charles Dropiewski

Religious Education: Kelly Anne Woolums

Minister of Music: Louise Veltri

Office Manager: Peggy O'Connor

Secretary: Mary Urbanski

Sacramental Celebrations

Masses: On the Lord's Day –

Saturday Vigil - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday - 8:30 & 11:15 a.m.

Baptism: Arrangements for both adults and infants to be made by contacting the rectory.

Penance: As announced and by appointment.

Marriage: Couples should contact the rectory office a minimum of six months in advance of the proposed date to make arrangements.

Funeral: Normally celebrated within one week after the deceased's passing.

Directory

Parish Office: 15020 Hampton

Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan 48230

Tel: (313) 822-2814 **Fax:** (313) 822-9838

Email address: stambrose@comcast.net

Religious Education: (313) 332-5633

Pastoral Ministry: (313) 332-5631

Ark Scheduling: (313) 822-2814

Parish Website: stambrosechurch.net



Van Gogh

in America!

Tour an historic exhibition of the Dutch post-impressionist painter at the Detroit Institute of Arts on the closing day of the show, Sunday, January 22, 2023!

Our round-trip deluxe motor coach transportation to the DIA departs from St. Ambrose at 1 p.m. and will return around 5 p.m.!

The Detroit exhibition, which celebrates the 100th anniversary of the DIA's status as the first public museum in the United States to purchase a painting by Vincent van Gogh, displays 74 authentic Van Gogh works from around the world. Detroit is the exhibit's only venue.

Please purchase your tickets through the parish office or on our website at stambrosechurch.net or by using this QR code!



Liturgy Schedule

Monday, January 2

Sts. Basil the Great &

Gregory Nazianzen, bishops & doctors

Tuesday, January 3

The Most Holy Name of Jesus

11:00 a.m. – Funeral – Vincent LoCicero

Wednesday, January 4

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, religious

Thursday, January 5

St. John Neumann, bishop

7:00 p.m. – Mass – Marilyn Lundy

Friday, January 6

St. Andre Bessette, religious

12:00 – Mass - Dr. Robert Rownd

Saturday, January 7

St. Raymond of Penyafort, priest

1:30 p.m. - Confirmation Liturgy

4:00 p.m. – Mass – For All People

Sunday, January 8

The Epiphany of our Lord

8:30 – Mass – For All People

11:15 – Mass – For All People



Join us on Facebook
facebook.com/stambroseparish

Scriptures for the Christmas Season

January 2

1 Jn 2: 22-28

Ps 98: 1-4

Jn 1: 19-28

January 3

1 Jn 2: 29-3: 6

Ps 98: 1, 3c-4, 5-6

Jn 1: 29-34

January 4

1 Jn 3: 7-10

Ps 98: 1, 7-9

Jn 1: 35-42

January 5

1 Jn 3: 11-21

Ps 100: 1b-5

Jn 1: 43-51

January 6

1 Jn 5: 5-13

Ps 147: 12-15, 19-20

Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3: 23-28

January 7

1 Jn 5: 14-21

Ps 149: 1-6a, 9b

Jn 2: 1-11

January 8

Is 60: 1-6

Ps 72: 1-2, 7-8, 10-13

Eph 3: 2-3a, 5-6

Mt 2: 1-12

Solemnity of Mary December 31st - January 1st

Reference # in our Breaking Bread Hymnal or on your iphone using the QR code.

Entrance: Angels We Have Heard On High #84

Psalm 96: Today Is Born Our Savior #73

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia!

Preparatory: It Came Upon the Midnight Clear #98

Communion: O Little Town of Bethlehem #89

Recessional: Joy to the World #82



Currently Wayne County shows a **MEDIUM** level of Covid risk. As a result, St. Ambrose Parish is still strongly recommending the wearing of masks in church.

To participate electronically, go to: facebook.com/stambroseparish or better yet, to YouTube at www.youtube.com/channel/UCbymBGIQxUF6UqPct5xFg

Your Envelope Speaks ... the Inside Story

To operate, each week our parish requires a *minimum* of..... \$10,100.00

On Sunday, December 18, 2022

in envelopes we received \$4,210.00

in the loose collection..... \$5,835.00

in electronic donations..... \$3,412.00

for a total of \$13,457.00

Over budget for the week..... \$3,357.00

Number of envelopes mailed 621

Number of envelopes used 51



Join us on YouTube

www.youtube.com/channel/UCbymBGIQxUF6UqPct5xFg

Our Sick

Please pray for those who are seriously ill or who are hospitalized: Pat Blake, Donald Miriani, Bonnie McKenna, Matthew Elias, Mary Martin, George Bucec, Emilie Kasper, Anna Noto Billings, Eileen O'Brien, Liz Linne, Donna Barnes, Charmaine Kaptur, Frank Gregory, Alex Billiu, Jackie Walkowski, Maria Simcina, Brian Tague, Sharif Hannan, Shirley Whelan, Anne Purvis, Jeanene Maples, Kevin O'Connor, Albina Checki, Judy Sivanov, Matthew Brown, Lily Faith, Patty Freund, Karen Jordan, Janis Ramsey, Colette Gilewicz, Al LaHood, Valerie Hudson, Norma Chinchilla and those suffering and hospitalized worldwide with COVID.

Our Dead

Charles Anthony Joseph, age 73, passed on December 20, 2022, and his funeral Mass was offered here on December 27th.

Charles was born on March 23, 1949, in Detroit, to George and Marie Joseph. Chuck was the oldest of the eleven children, growing up in a tight-knit family on Alter Road with all his cousins, aunts and uncles living in the same neighborhood as his family.

Charles attended St. Ambrose High School, where he was the Varsity Football Captain. It was after high school that Chuck would meet his future bride, Carol Duhaime. Although Chuck and Carol attended the same schools, it was at Carol's job at the local bank that they were introduced. On June 22, 1973, they married at St. Isaac Jogues Catholic Church in St. Clair Shores, a year to the date after they first got engaged. Together, Chuck and Carol would raise three beloved children: Scott, Lila, and Anthony.

Chuck was the proud owner of Chesterfield Wood Products, and for many years before retiring worked in the construction industry.

In addition to his wife and children, he is survived by grandchildren, Julia Joseph, Anna Joseph, Faith Scheckelhoff, and Nolan Scheckelhoff;

Charles is preceded in passing by his parents George and Marie Joseph, and siblings George and Lila.



Welcome to St. Ambrose!

*St. Ambrose Parish continues to grow,
not only in spirit, but also in numbers.*

*On behalf of our parish community,
now beginning its 106th year of existence,
we warmly welcome all those who have
newly registered with us this past year.*

Michael Mocer on Norton Ct. in the Woods
Emily Hughes on Huntington in the Woods
Stephanie Snyder on Beaconsfield in the Park
Chris and Sue Cavanagh in St. Clair Shores
Ryan Gunderson on Middlesex in the Park
Jeanette McLean on Chalfonte in the Farms
Ed and Eileen Kerfoot on Middlesex in the Park
John Jachman and Elizabeth Berg on Kenwood in the Farms
Mike and Jan Maras on Pond Dr in Clinton Twp, MI
Micah Miner on Washtenaw in Harper Woods
Sharon Rupp on Canyon in Detroit
Mike Trudel on Anita in the Woods
Mackenzie Johnson on Beaconsfield in the Park
Tanya Langenderfer on Ridgemont in Harper Woods
Lisa Rheume on Middlesex in the Park
Danielle DeBets on Myron in Livonia
Kaylee Oliveri on Hayes in Eastpointe
Roselie Bellance Possellius on Bedford in the Park
Sammy Barbour on Lakepointe in the Park
Joan Dembek in Greenacres, FL
Kelly Saros on Balfour in the Park
Rodney Almeria on Lochmoor in Harper Woods
Andrew and Emma Kuehl on Mapleton in the Farms
Elizabeth Lenhard on Minerva in Royal Oak
Vernon and Jozefa Roy on Maryland in the Park
Paul Pomaski on Somerset in the Park
Alex Walworth & Cara Tatarelli on Fairholme in the Woods
Dan and Martha Manning on Lakepointe in the Park

*Even if you are just a member of our on-line worshipping
community, you can become a member of St. Ambrose
Parish by registering your household. Call 313-822-
2814 or email stambrose@comcast.net.*

A STEWARDSHIP PRAYER for the New Year

Good and gracious God,
a new year of grace is upon us,
giving us impressions
of crisp beginnings
new goals, a fresh sense of hope.

Though we cling to our own
expectations
for the year ahead,
we know you alone
are the sovereign of our future,
Lord of our lives, and the source
of whatever good we may do.

We thank you, O Lord,
for the gift of the days and weeks
you have entrusted to us.

Teach us to be good stewards
of our time ahead,
that we go about our days
keeping you
at the center of our lives.
In the midst of our daily pursuits
and activities,
focus our eyes
on the needs of others;
help us respond with compassion
to the poor;
and open our hearts
to a suffering world.

We ask for a year of peace,
a year that brings an end
to hatred and strife,
and a year where we find
a deeper joy
that can only be found in you.

We ask this
through Christ your Son
who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit,
One God, forever and ever.
Amen.

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