

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

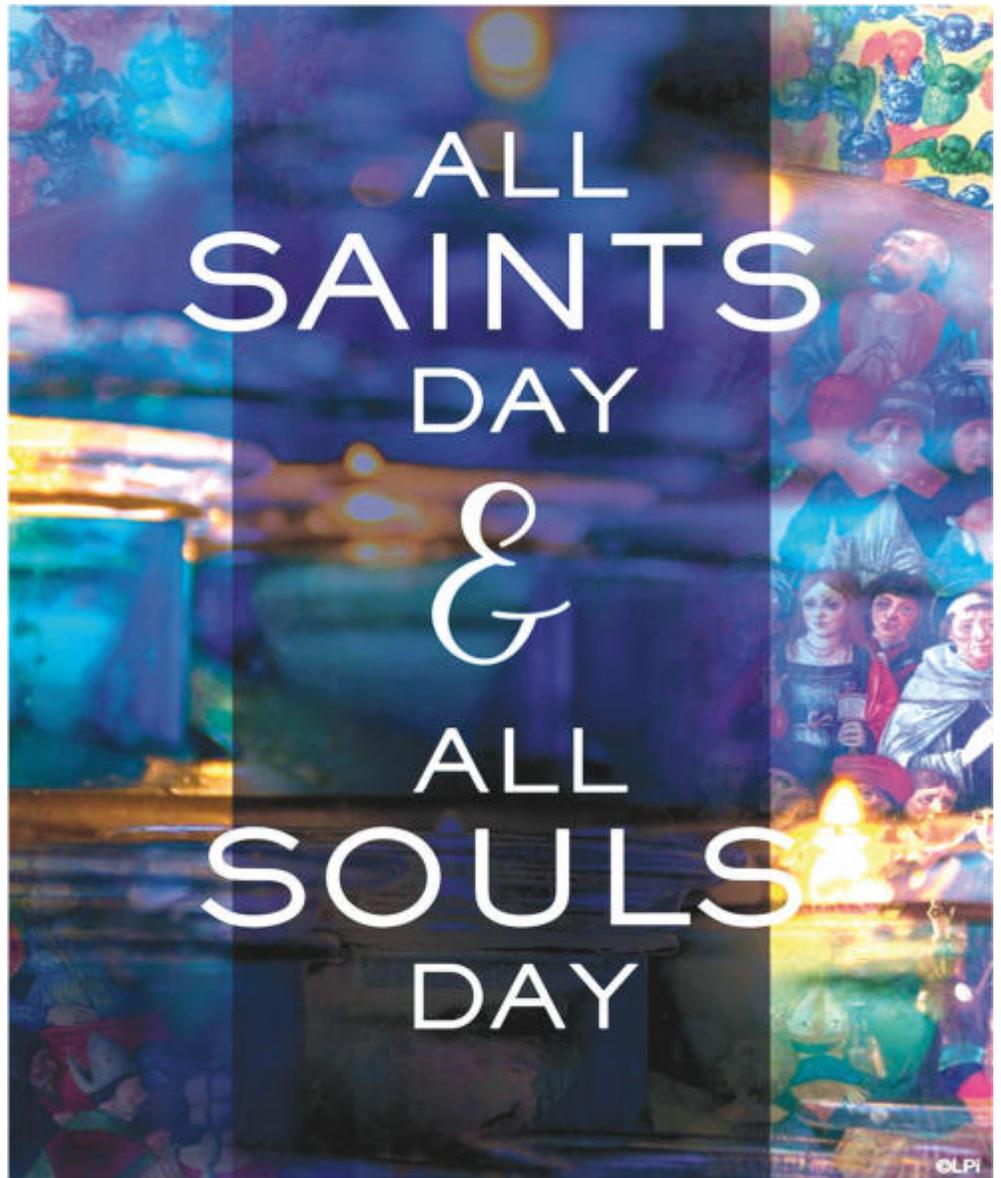
BAPTISMS

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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CHURCH OF ST. THERESA, BRONX

FROM THE DESK OF FATHER DERIVAN

November has been called “the month of saints.” And fittingly so. On Monday we begin the month of November with All Saints Day, honoring all of God’s holy ones in heaven, the canonized saints like St. Peter and St. Elizabeth and all the rest, but also the many uncanonized saints, people who have died who were close to us and whom Pope Francis calls “the saints next door.” Then on Tuesday we celebrate All Souls Day, praying for the souls in purgatory, remembering that our prayers help them to go to heaven where they are saints too. November is the month of saints in another sense because it contains the feastdays of many wonderful saints, St. Frances Xavier Cabrini (Mother Cabrini), an Italian immigrant sister who came here to serve the sick and the poor; St Cecilia, patroness of music; St. Martin de Porres, one of the first canonized saints of the Americas, a poor man of mixed races who gave glory to God by his service of God’s people, particularly the poor. Yes, indeed, November is the month of saints and it is good for us to think about our own special saint, St. Theresa during this month and especially to think about something she wrote, a simple sentence, but a sentence that summarizes her whole life and her message to each one of us, “I want to be a saint.”

“I want to be a saint.” When we hear that, we probably say to ourselves, “That certainly does not mean me. I don’t think I am saintly material. I have my faults, my failures, my sins. I have my faith, but sometimes I have a lack of faith. St. Theresa wanted to be a saint and she is. But she must not have meant that message for me.” During this November, let us ask the Lord’s help to remove that thinking from our minds and let us allow St. Theresa to help us to find out how to be saints.

“I want to be a saint,” Theresa said. At first she thought that meant that she would become a martyr, someone who died for Jesus. But that was not to be. Then she did what she always did. She turned to God’s Word in the Bible. And she happened to open up to the words of St. Paul where Paul tells us that not everyone can be a martyr, not everyone can be an apostle, a teacher, a missionary. Then she went on and came to these words of St. Paul, “Earnestly desire the *more perfect gifts*. And I show you a still more excellent way” And St. Paul explains how all gifts, even the most perfect, are nothing without Love...that love is the more excellent way that leads surely to God.” She said that those words gave her the key to her vocation. I understood that Love embraces all vocations, that Love is everything, that it embraces all times and all places...in a word, that it is eternal!” This brought her great joy. She said, “O Jesus, my Love, at last I have found my vocation, my vocation is Love!... Yes, I have found my place in the Church, and it is you, O my God, who have given me this place...in the heart of the Church, I will be Love!... Thus I shall be all things: thus my dream shall be realized!”

“My vocation is Love.” That is what St. Theresa discovered and that is exactly what the gospel says today. Do we want to be saints? Then we must follow the vocation of love, following the two Great Commandments that the Lord gives us, to love God above all things and to love our neighbor as ourselves.” Our Lord makes things simple. Important things are always simple. Our problem is that we make things too complicated. We get caught up in too many things. Our Lord want us to focus on the simple thing, the two great commandments of love. He wants us to remember that we cannot change all the sin and hatred and bitterness of the world. But we can insert as such love and goodness into our part of the world as we possibly can. And in God’s eyes that is what really matters.

How do we become saints? We become saints by loving God completely and loving our neighbor, every person, as ourselves. I mentioned St. Martin de Porres earlier. He was far from a distinguished person. His father did not even acknowledge him as his child. Martin considered himself just a simple man and he was. He simply served God and others and the others included the sick, the suffering, the poor, and even the animals who came to his monastery door in Lima, Peru. He did everything with love. He focused on love of God and neighbor. That was his life. To use St. Theresa’s words, his vocation was love.

St. Martin and St. Theresa and all the saints are our helpers in heaven. We could call them our “heavenly cheerleaders.” they cheer us on, helping us on our way to one day be saints like them and with them. That should be our focus every day. Every day is our opportunity to love God and others more and more. Every day is our opportunity to live our vocation to love. Every day hopefully the Lord can say to us, even as He said to the scribe in the gospel, “You are not far from the Kingdom of God.”

Father Thomas B. Derivan



NOVEMBER 3 SAINT MARTIN DE PORRES Religious († 1639)

Martin was born in Lima, Peru, in 1579, the son of a Spanish official and a freed black Panamanian slave. His father refused to acknowledge him at first, but Martin had recourse to his heavenly Father. He joined the Dominican Third Order and, at sixteen, was taken as a servant at the Convent of the Rosary. He lacked the education required to take vows, but the superior could see Martin’s gifts and asked him to enter as a lay brother. Some years passed before Martin accepted.

As a boy, Martin had apprenticed with a surgeon. He knew the healing arts. But once Martin began his work in the infirmary, extraordinary things were reported. A priest said that his gangrenous tumor had disappeared; a seminarian who was to have his infected fingers amputated found them suddenly whole. Others reported that Martin appeared miraculously at their bedsides and cured them.

All his life, Martin looked to those who were forgotten. He built a home of orphans, a hospital for poor children, and even a shelter for stray dogs and cats in his sister’s backyard. When a debt came due for the priory and no money was to be found, Martin put himself forward: “I am only a poor mulatto, and I’m the property of the order. Sell me.”

When Martin died, all of Lima came to honor the poor black man. He is a patron of peace between races.

Compassionate Father, through the intercession of Saint Martin de Porres, purify my heart of all racial prejudice.

NOVEMBER—THE MONTH OF SAINTS

This week we begin November. The month of November begins with All Saints Day (Nov. 1). Appropriately November has been called the month of saints when we answer the Lord's call that He wants us to be saints with Him in heaven.

During this month in our bulletin each week we will present the stories of the most recent Americans who are being considered for canonization.

Today we honor: **Blessed Brother James Miller F.S.C. (De La Salle Christian Brother)**

Brother James Miller, F.S.C. was born in Stevens Point, Wisconsin and grew up in Custer, Wisconsin. He joined the Christian Brothers during his freshman year of high school and received a master's degree in Spanish from Saint Mary's University of Minnesota in Winona, Minnesota.

In 1969, Brother James was sent to Bluefields, Nicaragua, where he taught in both elementary and high schools. He taught in St. Paul, Minnesota before returning to teach in Central America, first working in Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua, where he helped build an industrial arts/vocational complex.

Then he was sent to Guatemala where he taught English, religion and Guatemalan art to secondary students. Aware of the oppression of the indigenous peoples of Guatemala and of their need to be trained both in job skills and leadership skills, Brother James helped to begin an experimental farm where indigenous students learned agricultural methods and improvements. More importantly, Br. James prepared native leaders for rural areas who would work for collective development in their villages.

On February 13, 1982 Br. James was shot and killed by four masked gunmen while mending a wall outside the Casa Indigena Huehueteca where he worked. Some suspected that his killing was in retaliation for the work of the Christian Brothers to prevent Indian boys from being conscripted into the military. Brother James had dedicated himself to providing job and leadership skills to Indian people to help ease the oppression of Guatemalan Indians.

A brother-friend of Brother James said this of him: "Brother James (Santiago) took young people from the hills that had no chance and gave them a combination of hope and life...I hope that others (like you and I) will rise up to take the young by the hand and lead them to freedom."

On December 7, 2019, Br. James Miller, FSC, was the first De La Salle Christian Brothers from the United States to be beatified.

THE YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH



As you know, our Holy Father Pope Francis has declared a special "Year of St. Joseph" from December 2020 to December 2021, to ask for the intercession of St. Joseph to guide our families as we try to respond to God's will as faithfully as he did. The Pope gave us a prayer for this Year of Joseph. It is a beautiful prayer for you to recite with your family to St. Joseph, patron of families:

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.



THIRTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS:



This Monday, November 1, is the Solemnity of All Saints as we honor all of God's holy ones in heaven, both those who are canonized saints and also those whom Pope Francis calls "the saints next door," namely good and holy people, parents and grandparents and so many others, who have led good, faith-filled lives and who are now with the Lord in heaven. We pray that all of them will help us on our way to heaven too.

All Saints Day is usually a holyday of obligation. But this year because it falls on a Monday, the United States Bishops have determined that it is **not** a holyday of obligation. However we encourage you to come to Mass on Monday to honor all the saints. We will have our regular morning Masses at 8:00AM and 9:00AM and a special evening Mass at 7:00PM.

HALLOWEEN, ALL SAINTS DAY, ALL SOULS DAY: A TRIPLE CELEBRATION—A PARENTS' VIEWPOINT

For parents of children in today's world of commercial or scary Halloween characters it is even more important to know the history of the Catholic/Christian tradition of Halloween (All Hallows' Eve), as you establish your home traditions and set the values on which your family decisions are based.

We know that it is educationally important to be able to explain to children where a tradition/decision comes from in building family practices and expectations, which is why it is foundational to faith development for your children to know that Halloween is part of our Catholic faith tradition. Dressing up for Halloween comes from the French, Jack-O-Lanterns come from the Irish tradition (originally turnips), and begging for treats comes from the English tradition of going door to door begging for "soul cakes", promising to pray for a family's loved ones.

The missing link that you as parents are called to create and honor is the connection between All Saint's and All Soul's Day with Halloween. All Saint's Day is a Holy Day of Obligation and part of the three days known as the "Days of the Dead". The Latin American tradition of celebrating the Day of the Dead (el Día de los Muertos) also has become popular in the United States. This holiday on Nov. 1 and Nov. 2 is a time of prayer and remembrance of friends and family members who have died. All Saint's Day and All Souls Day give your family the opportunity to pray for and remember the deceased members of your family. It is a great opportunity to share memories and stories of their lives and how much they have shaped you as parents. It is also an opportunity to talk about the heroes of the Catholic Church. In this day and age of comic superheroes and Disney movie character costumes we have the chance to talk about real heroes that have changed the world for the better by how they lived their lives: St. Kateri Tekakwitha, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, St. Vincent de Paul, St. Martin de Porres, St. Maximilian Kolbe, to name a few. One of the "treats" for the Days of the Dead, could be a book on the lives of the saints, holy cards to honor their patron saints or a saint of inspiration in their lives, or a book about a saint and the difference his or her actions made in this world.

The traditional Halloween celebrations do not need to be shied away from, but balanced in the context of our faith and the events that surround us. Attending Mass as a family or as part of a school Mass, or the opportunities for saint's parties, filled with crafts and service activities are a great beginning to blending the commercial and the faith-filled observance of these Catholic Church days of tradition and obligation. Fall festival parties or Harvest Festivals are all possible options and alternatives. The key to this celebration is that we work to tie together the understanding of where Halloween has its origin and beginning and how it starts the celebration of real world superheroes of the Church and the people we aspire to be in this complex world.

This short prayer helps us remember the saints and souls and ties together these three fall events:

Father, All-Powerful and Ever-Living God, we rejoice in the holy men and women of every time and place May their prayers bring us your forgiveness and love. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen

(From National Catholic Educational Association News)

NOVEMBER 2—ALL SOULS DAY



Monday is All Saints Day when we honor all who are in heaven. Tuesday is All Souls Day when we pray for those who are not yet in heaven, the souls in purgatory. The Scripture tells us in the Book of Macchabees, "It is a good and wholesome thing to pray for the dead that they be released from their sins." That is precisely what we do on All Souls Day—we pray for all the faithful departed, those we have known and the many souls who have no one to pray for them. But we do not do this only on All Souls Day. The whole month of November is the "month of souls" as we pray for all the faithful departed. And furthermore every day we pray for the faithful departed at every Mass, as we say: "Remember also our brothers and sisters who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection and all who have died in your mercy. Welcome them into the light of your face." We remember the souls in purgatory, good people who have led good lives but who were not completely ready for heaven. Your prayers will help them to reach heaven. One day they will thank you for "praying them home."

"Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. And may their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen."

CONFESSIONS are heard every Saturday from 4:00PM to 5:00PM or by appointment in the Rectory.



MESSAGE OF OUR HOLY FATHER POPE FRANCIS FOR THIS SUNDAY

At the heart of this Sunday's Gospel passage (cf. Mk 12:28b-34), there is the commandment of love: love of God and love of neighbor. A scribe asks Jesus: "Which commandment is the first of all?" (v. 28). He responds by quoting the profession of faith with which every Israelite opens and closes his day, and begins with the words "Hear O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord" (Deut 6:4). In this manner Israel safeguards its faith in the fundamental reality of its whole creed: only one Lord exists and that Lord is 'ours' in the sense that he is bound to us by an indissoluble pact; he loved us, loves us, and will love us for ever. It is from this source, this love of God, that the twofold commandment comes to us: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.... You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Mk 12:30-31).

In choosing these two Words addressed by God to his people and by putting them together, Jesus taught once and for all that love for God and love for neighbor are inseparable; moreover, they sustain one another. Even if set in a sequence, they are two sides of a single coin: experienced together they are a believer's strength! To love God is to live from him and for him, for what he is and for what he does. Our God is unmitigated giving; he is unlimited forgiveness; he is a relationship that promotes and fosters. Therefore, to love God means to invest our energies each day to be his assistants in the unmitigated service of our neighbor, in trying to forgive without limitations, and in cultivating relationships of communion and fraternity.

Mark the Evangelist does not bother to specify who the neighbor is, because a neighbor is a person whom I meet on the journey, in my days. It is not a matter of pre-selecting my neighbor: this is not Christian. To think my neighbor is the one I have chosen ahead of time: no, this is not Christian, it is pagan; but it is about having eyes to see and a heart to want what is good for him or her. If we practice seeing with Jesus' gaze, we will always be listening and be close to those in need. Of course our neighbor's needs require effective responses, but even beforehand they require sharing. With one look we can say that the hungry need not just a bowl of soup, but also a smile, to be listened to and also a prayer, perhaps said together. Today's Gospel passage invites us all to be projected not only toward the needs of our poorest brothers and sisters, but above all to be attentive to their need for fraternal closeness, for a meaning to life, and for tenderness. This challenges our Christian communities: it means avoiding the risk of being communities that have many initiatives but few relationships; the risk of being community 'service stations' but with little company, in the full and Christian sense of this term.

God, who is love, created us to love and so that we can love others while remaining united with him. It would be misleading to claim to love our neighbor without loving God; and it would also be deceptive to claim to love God without loving our neighbor. The two dimensions of love, for God and for neighbor, in their unity characterize the disciple of Christ. May the Virgin Mary help us to welcome and bear witness in everyday life to this lesson.

Angelus Message, November 4, 2018

PRO-LIFE MEDITATIONS ON THE MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY

By Fr. Frank Pavone, National Director, Priests for Life



October is the month of the Holy Rosary. The rosary is a devotion strongly embraced by the pro-life movement. This is so for good reasons, because in the Hail Mary we praise a mother, and we worship the fruit of her womb. Our salvation began because a mother said yes to the life within her! In the rosary we also say, "Pray for US sinners." We know that sin that is in the world, but we start by repenting of the sin within us. That is the best way to rebuild the Culture of Life.

Today, as we conclude the month of October, we reflect on the Glorious Mysteries

The Resurrection

Christ is Risen! By his Resurrection, He has destroyed the power of death, and therefore the power of abortion. The outcome of the battle for Life has already been decided: Life is victorious! Let us pray that all pro-lifers will spread this victory to every segment of our society.

The Ascension

By ascending to the Father's throne, Christ takes our human nature, given to us in the womb, to the heights of heaven. He shows us that human beings are made to be raised to heaven, not thrown in the garbage. Let us pray that the world may learn this truth and reject abortion.

The Descent of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the Advocate: He pleads our cause, for we cannot save ourselves. We pray that He will make us advocates for the babies, who cannot speak or write or vote or protest or even pray.

The Assumption

The Blessed Virgin Mary was taken body and soul into heaven because she is the Mother of God. Mother and child are united. The Assumption reminds us that they belong together. We pray that society will see that it cannot love women while killing their children, and cannot save children without helping their mothers. We pray that people will be touched by the pro-life question, "Why can't we love them both?"

The Coronation

Mary is the Queen of the Universe. The Church teaches that she is the greatest creature, second only to God Himself. The Church defends the dignity of women. We pray that people will understand that to be pro-life means to be pro-woman, and that to be pro-woman demands that we be pro-life.

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CARE & PREPARE: END OF LIFE EDUCATION A workshop sponsored by the Sisters of Life at St. Frances de Chantal Church

As legislation permitting physician-assisted suicide looms, it is more important than ever to be educated on the Church's end-of-life teachings and equipped with the necessary tools to care for yourself and others at this increasingly vulnerable time.

This workshop will discuss practical steps for navigating end of life decisions for yourself and for you loved ones. This free and informative workshop will give you the tools to access quality care, protect your loved ones and understand Church teachings on end of life.

St. Frances de Chantal Church is located at 190 Hollywood Avenue in Throggs Neck.

ST. RAYMOND'S CEMETERY

ALL SOULS DAY CEMETERY MASS ... St. Raymond's Cemetery will have the Annual Mass for All Souls Day on Tuesday, November 2 at the St. Francis Crypts in the new cemetery. The Mass will be tri-lingual and will commence at 11:00AM. Please wear a mask if you are not fully vaccinated.



ALL SOULS ENVELOPES are in your envelope packets and also in the vestibule of the church. Our beloved deceased are remembered throughout the month of November.

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY OCTOBER 30, 2021

5:00PM Anne O'Reilly

SUNDAY OCTOBER 31, 2021

7:30AM Parishioners of St. Theresa

9:00AM Giuseppe DiBartolo

10:30AM Phyllis Vitucci

12:15PM Hector Rosario

1:30PM Gerardo & Alberto Gomez

5:00PM Joseph Louis Poidomani

MONDAY NOVEMBER 1, 2021

8:00AM Maria Assunta Reda

9:00AM Irene O'Connor

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 2, 2021

8:00AM Michael Wolovich

9:00AM Poidomani, Catalano & Grimaldi Families

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 3, 2021

8:00AM Christos Pauleros

9:00AM Katherine Dessereau

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 4, 2021

8:00AM Peter Kelliher

9:00AM Giuseppe Salerno

12NOON Mary Pantano

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 5, 2021

8:00AM Angel Rivera

9:00AM Frieda Sirabella

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 6, 2021

8:00AM Olimpia Rinaldi

9:00PM Sergio A. Ocasio Roman

5:00PM Gaetano Mattera

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 7, 2021

7:30AM Parishioners of St. Theresa

9:00AM Marie Sansalone

10:30AM Michele Muccio

12:15PM Patricia Musano

1:30PM Rosalba Gomez

5:00PM Diane Martino



Nancy Cardone, Thomas Egan, Louise Esposito, Josephine Graziano, Maryann Maiorana, Lisa Murphy, Joan Orlando, Margie Primiani, Antoinette Primiani, Lisa Primiani, Benny Primiani, Frances Riccio, Denise Siracusa, Toni Spahr, Nicholas Vasti, ,



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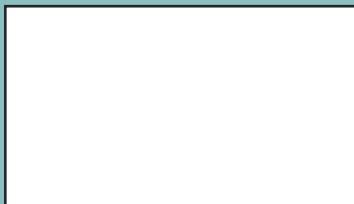
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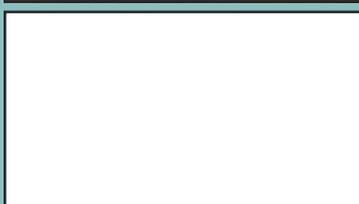
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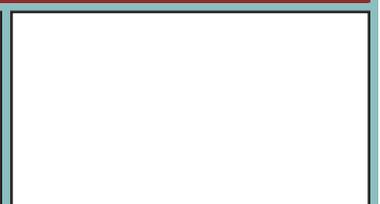
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