

# 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.

**ST. THERESA'S FAMILY IS OUR FAMILY**  
**"ST. THERESA STRONG"**



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*Rev. Msgr. Thomas Derivan, Pastor*

*Rev. Joseph Ligory, Parochial Vicar*  
*Rev. Edmundo Gomez, Retired,*  
*Rev. Robert Imbelli, Weekend Associate*  
*Salesian Fathers, Weekend Associates*

*Mrs. Josephine Fanelli, Principal*  
*Mrs. Marie McCarrick, Dir. of Religious Education*  
*Nadia Papayani, Dir. of Music*

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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: 718-792-8434

## CHURCH OF ST. THERESA, BRONX

### FROM THE DESK OF FATHER DERIVAN

Everyone has his or her favorite saints. Perhaps your favorite saint is one whom your family has prayed to over many years. Perhaps it is the saint whose name you bear, from Baptism or from Confirmation. Perhaps your favorite saint is someone you read about years ago, someone to whom you have stayed close particularly when life is hard. Today in the gospel we hear of a saint who could very well become our favorite. If you want a saint who is like all of us, a person who shared our ups and downs, our moments of deep faith and our moments when we fall, then you will not find a better “saintly friend” than the fisherman of Galilee, the head of the apostles, the man who proclaimed to Jesus, “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God,” and then said on another day, “I do not even know who this Jesus is,” the man who was both repentant sinner and first Pope, namely St. Peter. How much we can learn from him! How much we can learn from this gospel passage about him today!

Today’s gospel tells us three things about Peter—and three lessons which he teaches us. First, he listened. Second, he repented. Third, he followed the Lord Jesus Christ. First, he listened. Here is this burly fisherman, the man who knew his business, the man who knew when the fishing was good and when it was not. And that day, it was not. And here is this Jesus, calling out to Peter, “Go out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch.” And Peter did and he caught a great catch of fish. The miracle was not the catch of fish; the miracle was that Peter listened, even when his common sense told him that there was to be no great fishing that day. Peter listened, he trusted, he obeyed. And he teaches us the first lesson—that we too must listen to Jesus. We will not have Him calling us on the shore of the lake. But He will speak to us—He does speak to us in prayer, in our quiet reflections, and sometimes through the words of others. We may be facing a problem and we do not know what to do. And then He speaks to us in our prayer. He invites us to listen and to obey. And if we do, we will have more than a catch of fish—we will have an abundance of His grace, the bounty of His love.

Then the gospel tells us that Peter knelt down in the boat and said one of the most beautiful sentences of the Scripture, “Depart from me, O Lord, for I am a sinful man.” Peter told the truth. He acknowledged that He was just a poor sinner and He is shamed to be in the presence of the Holy Son of God. Of course, Peter did not want Jesus to depart from him. But Peter felt he was too bad, too unworthy to be the presence of Christ. How the Lord must have smiled at Peter! Only someone who knows he is a sinner can be on the way to become a saint. Only someone who looks at himself and sees both the good and the bad, only that person is ready to follow the Lord Jesus Christ.

And that is the third thing the gospel tells us about St. Peter today. He brought his boat to the shore; he left everything and followed Jesus. He left everything—and so too must we, not in the sense of giving up our family or our home. That is something only asked of a few. But we must give up everything in the sense that we put Jesus Christ and Him alone at the center of our lives. As someone put it, Jesus must be our everything. He must permeate our lives. He must fill our every day. He must fill our homes, our jobs, our leisure time, our thoughts, our actions, our love. That is following Him. Of course, that is not easy. It was not easy for Peter. He would fall, as He did on that terrible day when Jesus was arrested and Peter fled in fear. He would even deny His Lord, as Jesus said he would, but he would weep bitterly in repentance. But Peter would follow Jesus and he would let Jesus do the leading. There is a beautiful story told of Peter. When he was Pope, great persecution came to Rome. And Peter fled down the road called the Appian Way. And as he fled, he saw the Lord Jesus, who had come down from heaven, walking in the opposite direction, going into the city of Rome. Peter called out in Latin, “*Quo Vadis, Domine?*” “Lord, where are you going?” And Jesus told him that he was going to Rome to strengthen His people and to be crucified again. Peter repented and turned around. He went back to Rome, knowing that he would be put to death, following Jesus even to the Cross, and then asking the soldiers who crucified him to turn his cross upside down because he was unworthy to die in the same way as his Lord.

That is Peter—Peter who listened, Peter who repented, Peter who followed. Is there any doubt that St. Peter should be one of our favorite saints? He is so much like us. He is all of us. May we all learn from our first Pope. May he help us to come close to Jesus even as he did. And may he give us the strength to do what he learned to do, to hear the call of Jesus, “Come and follow me.”

Father Thomas B. Derivan



### FEBRUARY 10 ST. SCHOLASTICA (480-543)

St. Scholastica, twin sister of St. Benedict, consecrated her life to God from her earliest youth. After her brother went to Monte Cassino, where he established his famous monastery, she took up her abode in the neighborhood at Plombariola, where she founded and governed a monastery of nuns, about five miles from that of St. Benedict, who, it appears, also directed his sister and her nuns.

She visited her brother once a year, and as she was not allowed to enter his monastery, he went in company with some of his brethren to meet her at a house some distance away. These visits were spent in conferring together on spiritual matters.

On one occasion they had passed the time as usual in prayer and pious conversation and in the evening they sat down to take their reflection. St. Scholastica begged her brother to remain until the next day. St. Benedict refused to spend the night outside his monastery. She had recourse to prayer and a furious thunderstorm burst so that neither St. Benedict nor any of his companions could return home. They spent the night in spiritual conferences. The next morning they parted to meet no more on earth. Three days later St. Scholastica died, and her holy brother beheld her soul in a vision as it ascended into heaven. He sent his brethren to bring her body to his monastery and laid it in the tomb he had prepared for himself. She died about the year 543, and St. Benedict followed her soon after.

St. Scholastica is the patron of cloistered nuns. Her feast day is February 10th.

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT

Several weeks ago I presented the Pastoral Report for our parish. The Pastoral Report is the report sent to the Cardinal’s Office every year by the pastor of every church. It is called, in Latin, “status animarum,” which means “the state of souls,” Obviously that refers to the spiritual aspects of the parish which are always most important. We are not a business. We are not even just another “nonprofit” organization. We are the Church and we exist for the sacraments and the spiritual welfare of our people, particularly our children. I hope you read the Pastoral Report which was presented in this bulletin on the first Sunday of January, the Feast of the Epiphany. It shows that we are doing what we are supposed to do, celebrating the sacraments, praising Our Lord particularly at Mass and helping our young people to grow in faith. I was proud to send it on your behalf to the Cardinal and proud to present it to you.

Likewise today I am proud to present to you the Financial Report for our parish, which I, likewise sent to the Cardinal’s Office. Our fiscal year runs from September 1, 2020 through August 31, 2021. I think it is important for you to see how your support is helping our parish to be, as our motto says, “St. Theresa Strong.” Without your generous help, nothing that we do would be possible. You deserve a great deal of credit for your support of our church. It shows your love for the Lord Himself and your love for the Catholic Church. Let me especially thank you for your faithful use of the Sunday envelopes, either in person at Mass or through online giving, which many parishioners have chosen to do during this pandemic time.

We are proud to say that, despite all the financial hardships that so many of you are facing, “the state of the parish” is strong. Simply put, we are able to pay our bills! We are by no means a “rich parish,” at least not financially. But in another sense, we are rich—rich in faith, rich in your love for your parish, rich in your concern and help given to one another. That is true “richness” in the eyes of God.

Let me also thank you for your generous help in our special collections: supporting our Seminary; assisting the missions of the Church through the Mission Appeal; helping victims of the disaster in Haiti and in New Orleans and assisting our St. Vincent de Paul Society and other charities. I thank all of you who have participated in the Cardinal’s Annual Appeal which will soon begin again for this year. Thank you for your help to all of them. May the Lord continue to bless you for your generosity and for your love for our parish. God bless you for all you do to keep “St. Theresa Strong.”

Father Thomas B. Derivan

ST. THERESA PARISH—REPORT ON FINANCES,

September 2020-August 2021

RECEIPTS

Sunday Collections	\$287,591
Christmas, Easter, Holy Days	30,940
Votive Candle Offerings	25,526
Poor Box, Books, Catholic NY	5,415
Net Parish Fundraisers	29,173
Investment Interest & Earnings	5,483
Religious Education Program	13,499
Rental Income (Convent)	<u>226,564</u>

TOTAL RECEIPTS \$624,191

EXPENSES

Rectory Living Expenses	\$49,810
Clergy Salaries & Benefits	122,508
Lay Salaries & Benefits	152,312
Religious Education Program	13,161
Altar & Liturgy Supplies	13,172
Utilities	63,432
Printing & Office Expense	64,083
Property & Liability Insurance	31,833
Archdiocesan Assessment & Regional School Tax	44,232
Building Maintenance & Repairs	<u>59,370</u>

TOTAL EXPENSES \$613,913

SURPLUS \$10,278\*

\*To be used for building repair in new fiscal year

**MESSAGE OF OUR HOLY FATHER POPE FRANCIS FOR THIS SUNDAY**

In today's Gospel passage, Luke's narrative (cf. Lk 5:1-11) offers us the call of Saint Peter. His name — as we know — was Simon, and he was a fisherman. On the shore of the Lake of Galilee, Jesus sees him as he is arranging his nets, along with other fishermen. He finds him exhausted and discouraged, because that night they had caught nothing. And Jesus surprises him with an unexpected gesture: He gets into his boat and asks him to put out a short distance from the land because He wants to speak to the people from there — there were many people. So Jesus sits down in Simon's boat and teaches the crowd gathered along the shore. But His words reopen even Simon's heart to trust. Then, with another surprising 'move', Jesus says to him: "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."

Simon responds with an objection: "Master, we have toiled all night and took nothing!". And, as an expert fisherman, he could have added: 'If we didn't catch anything during the night, we aren't going to catch anything during the day'. However, inspired by Jesus' presence and enlightened by His Word, he says: "But at your word I will let down the nets." It is the response of faith, which we too are called to give; it is the attitude of willingness that the Lord asks of all his disciples, especially those who are tasked with responsibilities in the Church. And Peter's trustful obedience creates a prodigious result: "When they had done this, they brought in a great catch."

It is a miraculous catch, a sign of the power of Jesus' word: when we place ourselves generously in his service, he accomplishes great things in us. This is what he does in each of us: he asks us to welcome him on the boat of our life, in order to set out anew with him and to sail a new sea, one which proves to be full of surprises. His call to go out into the open sea of the humanity of our time, in order to be witnesses to goodness and mercy, gives new meaning to our existence, which is often at risk of collapsing upon itself. At times we may be surprised and uncertain before the call that the divine Master addresses to us, and we may be tempted to reject it due to our inadequacy. Peter too, after this incredible catch, said to Jesus: "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." This humble prayer is beautiful: 'Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord'. But he says it on his knees before the One whom by this point he recognizes as 'Lord'. And Jesus encourages him by saying: "Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men"; because God — if we trust in Him — frees us from our sin and opens a new horizon before us: to cooperate in his mission.

The greatest miracle that Jesus accomplished for Simon and the other tired and discouraged fishermen is not so much the net full of fish, as having helped them not to fall victim to disappointment and discouragement in the face of failure. He prepared them to become proclaimers of and witnesses to his word and the Kingdom of God. And the disciples' response was immediate and unreserved: "When they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him." May the Blessed Virgin, model of prompt adherence to God's will, help us to feel the allure of the Lord's call, and make us willing to cooperate with him to spread his word of salvation everywhere.

Angelus Message, February 10, 2019



**FEBRUARY 8**  
**ST. JOSEPHINE BAKHITA**  
**(1869-1947)**

St. Josephine Bakhita was born in 1869 in Darfur, Sudan. As a child, she was kidnapped while working in the fields with her family and sold into slavery. When her kidnappers asked for her name, she was too scared to tell them, so they called her "Bakhita," meaning "fortunate" in Arabic.

The early parts of Bakhita's life were not so fortunate. She was tortured by many of her owners, branded, beaten, and cut. Although she did not know about Christ or Christianity, Bakhita suffered valiantly. She wrote that even then, she marveled at the world and the being who created it. "Seeing the sun, the moon and the stars, I said to myself: Who could be the Master of these beautiful things? And I felt a great desire to see him, to know him and to pay him homage."

Bakhita was sold five times before she was purchased by Callisto Legnani, the Italian consul in the capital of Sudan. After a few years, he sent her to Italy to work as a nanny for his colleague August Michieli. Michieli had Bakhita accompany his daughter to a school run by Canossian sisters in Venice.

There Bakhita learned more about the Church, and was baptized with the name Josephine Margaret. When Michieli tried to take Josephine and his daughter back to Sudan, Josephine refused. The courts eventually ruled that Josephine was a free woman and could stay in Italy, because slavery was not recognized in Italy, and had been illegal in Sudan since before Josephine was born.

In 1893, Josephine entered the Canossian order. After she made her profession, she went to northern Italy to live in a community and teach others about God's love.

St. Josephine was known for her gentleness and her holiness. She once said that if she "were to meet the slave-traders who kidnapped me and even those who tortured me, I would kneel and kiss their hands, for if that did not happen, I would not be a Christian and Religious today."

St. Josephine died on February 8, 1947. She was beatified in 1992 and canonized by Pope John Paul II in 2000. She was the first Sudanese saint, and the patron saint of the country.

**PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND:**

Next weekend, at our Masses on Saturday evening and Sunday, we will have a second collection for the "Peter's Pence" Collection. This is the name that is given to the collection to assist our Holy Father Pope Francis in his charitable work throughout the world, particularly helping victims of war, oppression and disaster. Please be generous in your support and as always we are most

## FEAST OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

By Father Matthew Mauriello

Between February 11 and July 16, 1858, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared eighteen times to fourteen-year-old Bernadette Soubirous in that small town located in the foothills of the Pyrenee mountains of southern France.

Her attention was drawn to the noise of rustling bushes near the Grotto of Massabielle, from the French *vieille masse* meaning ancient mass. Then Bernadette saw a beautiful young girl of sixteen or seventeen. She described this girl as "dressed in a white robe, girded at the waist with a blue ribbon. She wore upon her head a white veil which gave just a glimpse of hair. Her feet were bare but covered by the last folds of her robe and a yellow rose was upon each of them. She held on her right arm a rosary of white beads with a chain of gold shining like the two roses on her feet."

Bernadette knelt and began to pray the rosary. At the end of the five decades the woman smiled and disappeared. The young visionary returned and on February 18 Our Lady began her message telling young Bernadette, "I do not promise to make you happy in this life but in the next." On February 24, Mary asked for penance and prayer for the conversion of sinners and the following day, she instructed Bernadette to dig the ground near the grotto. From that a spring came forth which to this day is used for the bath by pilgrims to Lourdes.

At the apparition of March 2, Bernadette was instructed by Our Lady to "tell the priests that people should come here in procession and that a chapel should be built on the site." On the Feast of the Annunciation, March 25, the Blessed Virgin told Bernadette in the dialect of Lourdes, "I am the Immaculate Conception." This dogma had been defined by Pope Pius IX just a few years earlier on December 8, 1854.

The Basilica at Lourdes was consecrated in 1876 and the faithful, countless in number, flock in pious pilgrimage to the holy grotto. It is there that their faith and devotion are aroused and they recommit themselves to conform their lives to the Christian message. There, as well, miraculous favors are granted and healings, both physical and spiritual, have taken place. The liturgical feast of Our Lady of Lourdes was established for February 11.

### Our Lady of Lourdes, Health of the Sick, pray for us.

#### Prayer to Our Lady of Lourdes

O ever-Immaculate Virgin, Mother of Mercy,  
health of the Sick, Refuge of Sinners, Comforter of the Afflicted,  
you know my wants, my troubles, my sufferings;  
look with mercy on me.

By appearing in the Grotto of Lourdes,  
you were pleased to make it a privileged sanctuary,  
from which you dispense your favors;  
and already many sufferers have obtained the cure of their infirmities,  
both spiritual and corporal.

I come, therefore, with complete confidence to implore your maternal intercession.  
Obtain, O loving Mother, the grant of my requests.

Through gratitude for your favors, I will endeavor to imitate your virtues,  
that I may one day share your glory, and bless you in eternity. Amen



### World Day of the Sick—February 11

This Friday, February 11, has been designated by Pope Francis as the World Day of the Sick. It is an observance for the faithful to pray for those suffering from illness and to see the face of Christ in the faces of the sick. This is an observance that is celebrated on February 11th and has been celebrated since the early 1990's. It is a special day to pray for all who are sick and for the people who care for them.

This day was instituted by Pope St. John Paul II on May 13, 1992. He chose February 11th for this day because it is the memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes. This is significant because many visitors and pilgrims visiting Lourdes, France have reported that they have been healed at the Marian Sanctuary through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

### “POP UP” VACCINATION AND COVID TESTING THIS SUNDAY

We have arranged with Bronx Catholic Charities to have a “Pop Up” Clinic in front of church today from 8AM to 6PM. Other churches have provided this in recent weeks. This service is provided in conjunction with NYC Department of Health and Human Services and we are happy to host it for members of our parish and for all members of our community.

#### The following services will be available:

- **Pfizer Covid Vaccination shots (first and second) for those ages 12 and up**
- **Pfizer Covid booster shots**
- **J&J Covid Vaccination shot and booster**
- **Rapid Test an PCR Covid Tests**



There is no cost for these services. If this is your second vaccination shot or booster, please bring your vaccination card. Also please bring identification. We are grateful to Fr. Eric Cruz, director of Bronx Catholic Charities, for arranging this “Pop Up” clinic. We encourage you, at Cardinal’s Dolan urging, to receive the vaccine if you have not yet done so. Please continue to take all necessary precautions to stay safe.

## SEE GOD WITH THE EYES OF FAITH

In St. Paul's famous phrase about faith, hope and charity, it is clear that faith and hope are lesser virtues. But that is only because Paul is looking to the eternal kingdom where experience will replace faith, since we will see God face-to-face and possession will replace hope. Charity, love of the Lord, will not be replaced but intensified so that is why Paul speaks so highly of love. Here on earth, however, faithfulness is of great importance. Because we cannot see God except in the eye of faith, faithfulness is vital. Psalm 46 begins with a call for the faithful to put all their trust in the Lord and to know He is our strength and our salvation.

*God is our refuge and our strength, an ever-present help in distress. Thus we do not fear, though earth be shaken and mountains quake to depths of the sea; Though its waters rage and foam and mountains totter at its surging. (Ps. 46: 2-4)*

And the Psalm closes with these words that assure us He will Be our protector, if we put unyielding faith in Him: *"Be still and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, exalted on the earth."* (Ps. 46:11) Being still is the key. How often do we allow ourselves to reflect, to reconnect with the Lord? We are all busy. But busywork without intention is not always going to allow for the time and focus to deepen our faith and our faith life. The question then becomes how can you have more faith? A personal way that needs no other interactions is to dedicate ourselves to our prayer life. Our prayer can be that of the man in the gospel who said: "I believe, Lord, help my unbelief." build time into your day to dedicate to prayer. If possible, go to daily Mass, if not every weekday, but some days when you can. Prayer, both prayer at Mass and our own personal prayer, strengthens our love of our faith and our love of Our Lord. It is a virtuous circle; our faith grows because we trust God more; our trust grows because we have more faith. We can say, "O Lord I trust in You; I place my faith in You. Help me be more faithful to You and what You wish for me."

(From Franciscan Mission Associates)

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW AUXILIARY BISHOPS



Our Holy Father Pope Francis has appointed two priests as auxiliary bishops to assist Cardinal Dolan. They are Bishop-elect John Bonnici and Bishop-elect Joseph Espailat.

Bishop-elect John Bonnici currently serves as the pastor of Saints John and Paul/Saint Augustine Parish in Larchmont, Westchester County and previously was pastor of St. Columba, Chester, NY and St. Philip Neri in The Bronx. He also served as Director of the Pro-Life office of the Archdiocese. We have a special connection with Bishop-elect Bonnici because, while he served as pastor of both St. Columba's Church and St. Philip Neri Church, he was assisted by our own dear Father Charles Szivos. Bishop-elect Bonnici preached the homily at Father Charles' funeral here in our church.

Bishop-elect Joseph Espailat currently serves as pastor of Saint Anthony of Padua Parish in The Bronx and formerly was Director of Youth Ministry for the Archdiocese. He is also director of the Hispanic Charismatic Apostolate. We congratulate our two new bishops and we pray that the Lord will continue to guide them as they serve the people of our Archdiocese. Their ordination to the episcopacy is scheduled for March 1, 2022 in Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Manhattan

# MASS INTENTIONS

## SATURDAY FEBRUARY 5, 2022

5:00PM Frank Ferrantino

## SUNDAY FEBRUARY 6, 2022

7:30AM Parishioners of St. Theresa

9:00AM Josephine Sgori

10:30AM Sergio A. Ocasio Roman

12:15PM Sal Greco & Catherine Donovan

1:30PM Elba, Ulises Agripina

5:00PM Isla Borgia

## MONDAY FEBRUARY 7, 2022

8:00AM Antonio Cipollone

9:00AM Richard L. Freda

## TUESDAY FEBRUARY 8, 2022

8:00AM John DiStefano

9:00AM John Liuzzo

## WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 9, 2022

8:00AM Margaret Lutostanski (Healing)

9:00AM Carla Carone

## THURSDAY FEBRUARY 10, 2022

8:00AM Miguel Tirado

9:00AM Nicoletta Ferrara

12NOON Angelica Adamas

## FRIDAY FEBRUARY 11, 2022

8:00AM Giovanni & Pasqua DelVecchio

9:00AM Angelo & Carmela Cavaliere

## SATURDAY FEBRUARY 12, 2022

8:00AM Nora Donovan (Living)

9:00AM Benedetta & Filadelfio Marino

5:00PM Sal & Maria Zottola

## SUNDAY FEBRUARY 13, 2022

7:30AM Giovanni & Marie Catene Chillemi

9:00AM Marie Sansalone

10:30AM Antonio Cipollone

12:15PM Philip Orlando

1:30PM Parishioners of St. Theresa Parish

5:00PM Pat Golino



Joseph B., Nancy Cardone, Paul C., Thomas Egan, Louise Esposito, Josephine Graziano, Maryann Maiorana, Msgr. John Meehan, Joan Orlando, Margie Primiani, Frances Riccio, Toni Spahr, Nicholas Vasti, Benny Primiani, Antoinette Primiani, Lisa Primiani, Fr. Thomas Lynch

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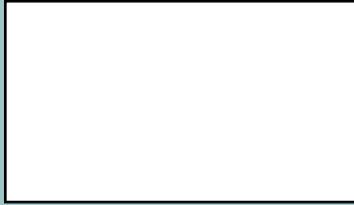
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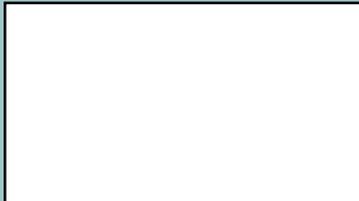
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