

# CHRIST IS RISEN!! INDEED HE IS RISEN!!

## Paschal Message of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman

*You have stretched out Your hands, O Savior,  
and united what before had been divided;  
and by clothing Yourself in a winding sheet  
You have saved even those held captive  
by the tomb, who cry:  
"None is holy but You, O Lord."  
- Holy Saturday Kanon, Ode III*

HOLY PASCHA 2004

To the Reverend Clergy and Faithful  
of the Diocese of New England

Dearly beloved:

Christ is risen! Indeed He is risen!



I greet each and every one of you with the greeting which has been joyously exchanged since the angel at the empty tomb told the disciples that the Lord Jesus had been raised from the dead. Their amazement and wonder turned into pure and unadulterated joy as the magnitude of the moment began

to dawn on them. So, also, we are filled this day with the same joy.

As the verse above taken from the Holy Saturday Kanon reminds us, the Lord Jesus Christ voluntarily went to crucifixion so that He might unite that which had been divided. And what was divided? All of creation – paradise had been reduced to darkness, sin and death.

But no more. Where darkness, sin and death had

reigned, they have been overthrown by light, forgiveness and life. The One who cannot be contained by the heavens allowed Himself to be contained by the tomb, in order to free those held captive by the tomb. We are those captives who have been freed on this great and glorious Day.

It is very popular at this moment in history to speak of the "Passion of the Christ." The Church, and every person baptized into her, knows that Passion. But we must never forget that the Lord Jesus Christ, before His voluntary Passion, walked this earth, performing miracles, teaching and preaching salvation.

We must also never forget that the Passion led to the Resurrection. The two cannot be separated, whether in history or in our spiritual lives. The quiet, ascetic "passion" of Great Lent must be fulfilled in our entrance into and celebration of the Lord's, and hence, our very own, Resurrection. Our Lenten efforts and repentance must be fulfilled in the spiritual reality of Resurrection, or the efforts we have made are but dietary restric-

MESSAGE TO 2

## NEW WEBSITE NEW ADDRESS

The website for the Diocese of New England has a new layout, new features and a new address:

[www.dneoca.org](http://www.dneoca.org)

Check out the site to see all the new content. An up-to-date calendar of diocesan events, official announcements, archives of *Orthodox New England*, parish and Church links, all sorts of things are available. Bookmark the site and visit often!



**O.N.E. (ORTHODOX NEW ENGLAND)**

Diocese of New England, Orthodox Church in America  
Published monthly except for July-August

*His Beatitude, Metropolitan HERMAN, Administrator*  
*The Very Reverend John J. Dresko, Editor*

**Advertising:** This publication will accept advertisements. However, we reserve the right to refuse any advertising that we find unacceptable for a publication of this type. **Rate:** \$50.00 per quarter page, \$100.00 per half page, \$175.00 per full page.

**Subscription:** Distributed free of charge to diocesan members. \$10.00 per year or any part thereof for others. Subscription outside of U.S.: \$15.00 (U.S. Currency).

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**Hardware:** This issue was composed on an Apple Power Macintosh G5 with 1.5 gb RAM, a Umax Astra 3450 scanner, and a Hewlett-Packard LaserJet 5MP laser printer. **Software:** Microsoft Word X & PageMaker 6.52. Reproduction done at GT Graphics, Forestville, CT.

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**Please mail donations and subscription requests to: V. Rev. John Dresko, 95 Butternut Lane, Southington, CT 06489.**

**ON THE DOCKET**

A listing of upcoming events in the Diocese.  
Please forward any dates you wish to be included to the Editor.

April 4, 2004  
*Connecticut Deanery Bridegroom Matins, 4:00 P.M.*  
*Holy Transfiguration Church, New Haven, CT*

April 11, 2004  
*HOLY PASCHA*

May 4, 2004  
*Connecticut Deanery Meeting, 7:00 P.M.*  
*Ss. Peter and Paul Church, Meriden, CT*

May 7-8, 2004  
*Consecration Services*  
*St. Alexis of Wilkes-Barre Mission, Clinton, CT*  
*His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman*  
*His Beatitude, Metropolitan Theodosius*  
*His Grace, Bishop Nikon*

May 12, 2004  
*Diocesan Council Meeting, 6:30 P.M.*  
*Holy Trinity Church, New Britain, CT*

May 16, 2004  
*"The Early Church's View of Scripture,"*  
*Fr. John Behr*  
*Holy Trinity Church, Springfield, VT*

June 6, 2004  
*Celebration of the 25th Anniversary of Holy Priesthood*  
*Archpriest John Dresko*  
*Holy Trinity Church, New Britain, CT, 9:00 A.M.*  
*His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman*  
*His Beatitude, Metropolitan Theodosius*  
*His Grace, Bishop Nikon*

**MESSAGE FROM 1**

tions and a misguided obedience to numerous "dos" and "don'ts."

May the risen Son of God shine brightly in the hearts of all true believers. May the glory of the Resurrection be a reality in the life of anyone who claims to be a follower of Christ.

Christ is risen! Indeed He is risen!

Yours in the risen Christ,



†HERMAN  
Archbishop of Washington  
Metropolitan of All America and Canada  
Locum tenens of the Diocese of New England

# Around the Parishes

## Hartford, Connecticut

January is a time for elections and installations and we had both at All Saints Church in Hartford.

Elected, and installed with the blessing and approval of His Beatitude the Most Blessed Metropolitan Herman, as officers of the Church Council were: Michael Stenko, president; Dr. Chet Andrzejewski, first vice president; Christopher Evans, second vice president; Susan Ranstead, recording secretary; Mark Ranstead, financial secretary; and Tom Denisky, treasurer. Trustees are Cathy Vargas, Andrea Lichatz, Nicholas Medynski, Joan Holobinko, George Pawlush and Olga Mucha. Auditors are Linda Kolios and Michael Danchak. Past president is John Holobinko.

Officers installed for our Altar Sisterhood were Olga Powlishen, president; Olga Malick, vice president; Olga Reduker, recording secretary; and Linda Kolios, treasurer. Our sisterhood continues to spearhead our weekly food drive for the needy, as well as being involved in other projects.

## OUR DIOCESE

PEOPLE  
PLACES  
EVENTS

Our Meatfare dinner proved to be an enjoyable afternoon as our resident professional chef, Chris Evans, led a kitchen staff in the preparation of the meal. Many thanks to all who participated.

- submitted by Fr. William DuBovik

## Meriden, Connecticut

We have been busy at Ss. Peter & Paul in Meriden since winter began. On February 15<sup>th</sup>, our Deacon Sergius Halvorsen was ordained into the Holy Priesthood by Bishop Nikon. Joining Bishop Nikon were Father Vladimir Aleandro, Father William Mills, Father Alexander Rentel, and Deacon Mark Docu along with Father Timothy Lowe. It was a very moving moment as Bishop Nikon raised Father Sergius' phelonion, exclaiming "Axios!" and then placed it on Father Sergius' worthy shoulders. After Liturgy, we honored Father Sergius with a banquet at a local restaurant. May God grant Father Sergius Many Years!

December was also a joyous time for Father Sergius and Matushka Dina with the birth of their daughter Mary Elizabeth. Brothers Thomas and Timothy are very excited and very protective of their new sister. Mary Eliza-



*Newly-ordained Fr. Sergius Halvorsen, holding his newly-born daughter, Mary Elizabeth, with His Grace, Bishop Nikon, and concelebrating clergy in Meriden, February 15, 2004.*

beth was baptized on Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup>.

We held our Annual Parish meeting on January 25<sup>th</sup>. We discussed a number of topics related to the health and well being of our Parish and elected our Council and Trustees. Congratulations to President - Alexia Tassmer, Vice President - John Herbert, Treasurer - Irene Zavednak, Secretary - Father Sergius Halvorsen, and Trustees - Helen Barone, John Barone, Linda Craig, Donna Leonowich, Sarah Massaro, Timothy Tassmer, Ellen Uliase, Valerie Wigglesworth, and Margaret Zahariadis. Officers were installed on Sunday, February 1st after Divine Liturgy.

We are planning many events for the upcoming year. Come and join us; you're guaranteed to have a fine time.

- submitted by John S. Nighyew

## New Haven, Connecticut

Thoughts of Spring brought Daffodils to mind. Our "Daffodil Lady", Anastasia Avgerinos, came to the forefront to chair the annual Daffodils for Cancer Foundation sales for our parish.

Early February we held our annual meeting and elected the following officers: President, Daniel Crosby Esq.; Vice-President Dmitry Kilmenko; Secretary John Fillyaw; Treasurer Judy Ross and Financial Secretary Susan Papademetris. Congratulations to all the new members. Our thanks to outgoing officers Michael Tvardzik, Michael Poloukhine, Xenios Papademetris and Gary

# Pit Bulls, Pascha, & Pretty Faces

by Fr. Stephen Siniari

*Three questions*, a short story by Lev Nikolayevich Tolstoy.

"It once occurred to a certain king that if he always knew the right time to begin everything, if he always knew the right people to listen to, and whom to avoid, and above all, if he always knew what was the most important thing to do, he would never fail in anything he might undertake."

Time, people, and above all, task, how could he fail?

The ghetto gets hot with summer anticipation once Easter's over. Boys play halfies curb to curb in cobble narrow streets. Jokers lounge on greasy steps beside mustard ugly corner stores and make noises like a mob atop broken down bleachers. Girls dress tight and stroll by. Guys yelling, "Let me holla' at chu'..." ...critique the piercing, parade, and new tattoo. "Let me peek your sneakers." The girls slow down and laugh.

Rooftops come alive with shoot new weed. Every lot turns currency green. Porches full of pit bulls. Babies wail. Mothers cry out to their children. Their voices echo in vain down decrepit city blocks. Diptychs in brick, RIP memorials tag the scattered buildings left standing with spray paint portraits looking grander than life. And names, endless names, with dates too pitiful to even calculate, wasted, beautiful young lives, now nothing more than fading urban graffiti.

Freak eighty-four degrees in April. The screens in every house reverberate with their own special rhythm. Speakers are loud, but they're cheap. Somebody's cooking in tin. The smoke is acrid. It vanishes and chokes. Creeps me out, passing the desecrated temple again, dank and dark inside, mildewed piles, strewn crumpled vestments, tabernacles brutalized, doors gaping, iconostasis smashed, Typicons torn to sheds... Under the rubble two young pilgrims brought me the abandoned

Antimension, who could have left them? Inside, a single shaft of sunlight pierces the ruptured cupola. Holy Resurrection is still one long week away. I bow my head amid the sadness and strain to hear the Paschal verses "come forth from the tomb like a bridegroom in procession." Placing them in our parish altar, I keep moving; you can only do what you can do.

My hands are full. My attention's rapt. A suitcase weighing me down on one side, and trying to find a place to grip an overly awkward car seat overflowing with diapers, straps, and formula, is taking up the hand I make the Cross with. And right here, I'd like to make the Cross. My shiny car with the out of state tags is parked on 5th Street, two blocks away. My pockets are full of prescription meds and I'm looking for Lucinda and her baby who got booted from the shelter for holding for Jabril, her baby's father, who was dealing *wet*, weed-infused, jet fuel laced, embalming fluid marijuana, him and James, a friend Jabril called *fam*.... Family, they call each other – *god and earth*, boys are

god, girls are earth...

I spot the address painted on a porch... The one with the lady smoking crack on a sat-out beach chair, the one next door to the pit bull synod.

"You da' priest?" says a guy with gold teeth on a kitchen chair with an accent from the islands. Ordinarily I avoid inner city personalities in broad straw hats.

My eyes are fixed on a barefoot kid trying to hold back a black and white pit straining his leash to get down the steps and introduce himself to me.

"Don't mind the dog," says the straw hat. "Come up. Why you put out 'dis baby and her mama?"

The Chapel was dark when I sat with Jabril. Every counselor had come and said he's out. Don't you dare let this one back until he's done his card. Failure to follow case plan for the third time in a row nets a thirty-day card. He's out for a month. It was Friday in the evening. He had eight days left on his card. I hated being Ombudsman. Gather all the facts,

**PIT BULLS TO 5**



**OCF REAL SPRING BREAK:** Fr. Marc Vranes (third from right in back) led a group of seven students from the University of Connecticut OCF to Project Mexico during spring break. They met up with a group from Penn State and spent the week building a new house on the grounds of St. Innocent Orphanage. (Photo: Juliana Dresko)

# FORCC Paschal Billboard Locations 2004

The following locations throughout Connecticut are where billboards with Paschal greetings from the Fellowship of Orthodox Churches in Connecticut can be seen:

## Ansonia

Clifton Avenue 600' S/O Pershing Dr. 3/29-4/25

## Bridgeport

Rt. 2 Barnum & Mill Hill Ave. F/E 4/1-5/1

U.S. 1 & Palisade Ave. and Boston Avenue. 4/1-5/1

North Main Street 4/1-5/1

## Hartford

New Park Avenue S/O Kane St. 3/15-4/15

148 Woodland St. N/O Sargeant St.  
near St. Francis Hospital 3/15-4/15

## Milford

Post Rd. 500' N/O Erna St. 3/29-4/25

## New Britain

Chestnut St. 250' E/O Columbus 3/29-4/25

## New Haven

Amity Road 50' S/O Fowler St. 3/29-4/25

Water Street on the property  
of Viacom Outdoor Advertising 3/29-4/25

## Norwich

Rt. 97 at the intersection of I-395 4/4-5/4

## Uncasville

Rt. 32 at the intersection of Othem Lane  
near *Mohegan Sun* 4/4-5/4

## Waterbury

Bank Street 100' S/O Liberty St. 3/29-4/25

## West Haven

Orange Avenue NEC Admiral St. 3/29-4/25

We are pleased that this is the second year that the two billboards posted in the Norwich area are donations offered by a non Orthodox person who admired our billboards. If you have questions about the billboards or are interested in more information, please contact Matushka Lydia Westerberg (203-387-3882).

# Scholarships Available

FORCC scholarship applications are available for students of FORCC member parishes only. One thousand dollar (\$1,000.00) scholarships (one boy and one girl) and \$500.00 scholarships will be awarded at our annual banquet in October.

We would like to remind students graduating this year, that the FORCC applications are now on our website ([www.forcc.org](http://www.forcc.org)).

Applications should be completed and forwarded to: Eva Vaniotis, 4100 Park Ave, #12, Bridgeport, CT 06604 by June 1, 2004.

- submitted by *Barbara Ann Dixon*

## PIT BULLS FROM 4

who, what, where, when, how, what if, and why, both sides, and you still just don't know.

I said, "Let me send you to our place at the Shore. I'll give you the six bucks."

"I have school on Monday, I can't go that far." was his reply. "I graduate in a week."

"Ruben said you could stay at his place. Here's a fifty dollar grocery gift certificate."

Jabril said no thanks. "There's plenty other ways if they won't let me back early."

When I told him God created him for good, he said he'd get back to that, eventually.

He had some money coming no one knew about. Sunday night he went with James to see a woman in a red Chevrolet about a deal. Saturday at the end of her shift she lit an eight-day candle and placed it on her suicide note on top of the toilet tank in the ladies room in the plant where she worked with James' mother.

Jabril was trying to grab the wheel that Sunday night when she crossed at high speed into the oncoming lanes.

PIT BULLS TO 8

## Patterns of Giving

by Ron Nicola

**P**atterns of giving in Orthodox parishes tend to be influenced by three key factors. The first one is custom and tradition. For many people, especially those who are Orthodox by birth, their approach to giving to the church is often influenced most by practices their families and their parishes have followed for years. For long-established parishes, systems of giving may have been in place for generations within the community. As much as parish councils talk about encouraging people to give more, the customs and traditions of the past work to perpetuate an ongoing mind-set. The faithful of the community become locked in to giving what they have always given, often without thinking much about the amount in relation to other considerations.

Second, giving is often influenced by parish needs. The parish council builds a budget for the coming year, publicizes the information to parishioners, and encourages the faithful to offer their "fair share" for the coming year. In this same vein, a parish building program or some other special parish project can inspire parish members to give a one-time donation or a multi-year pledge toward the advertised campaign. This kind of need-based giving is a very common guideline used by individuals to decide how much to offer at a specific point in time.

A third factor comes into play when giving is guided by faith, by Holy Scripture, and by the witness of the Holy Orthodox Church. Recognition by an individual that God has blessed them with everything they have results in an offering of thanksgiving for all of these precious gifts. Giving which stems from this third factor is what can motivate Orthodox Christians to give sacrificially and proportionally in relation to all the ways God has blessed them in their lives. This is also the basis upon which some give through the principles and practices commonly known as tithing. All three factors, custom and

tradition, parish need, and faith-based giving, are at work to varying degrees in parishes throughout North America.

**I**n many communities with long established parishes, a dues system of some sort was used in the early days of the community to guide member giving. Each adult member or each family was asked to give a specified amount to the church per year in order to be considered a member. This system, in one form or another, became entrenched in most parishes and is still used by some to this day. It is still referred to by some as the "member dues system," while other communities have evolved into referring to these annual offerings as "pledges." By whatever name, if the parish advertises a specific amount it expects each adult member or each family to give per year, this is usually all it receives. To give beyond this amount is often not even considered by families and individuals. If the parish has a special need, they may solicit additional donations for this purpose, but the basic amount expected from each parishioner becomes a matter of routine repetition from year to year.

Many Orthodox communities have tried to move beyond this traditional system of making an annual offering to the church based on an announced dues amount or a prescribed minimum pledge. In these cases, parishioners are asked to make their own decision about how much to give to the church each year. While this system can result in some movement toward a truly proportional or sacrificial gift, more often than not, individuals and families still give based on what they have always given and/or on what they feel the church needs. Even when parish leaders and stewardship committees produce programs that talk about the need to give based on how much we have been blessed by God, people tend to give not much beyond what they have always given. It becomes quite difficult to break these trends, so parishes

are forced to rely on yet another long-standing tradition when it comes to generating the funds needed to operate the parish and to underwrite identified parish projects. Fund-raising is the other mainstay of parish life that is so entrenched that we view it as a standard and accepted part of parish operations.

**T**he fact that member giving programs have not traditionally generated enough money to cover the cost of parish operations and special projects has led to reliance on fund-raisers to make up the difference. Communities have, over the years, proved to be very creative, resourceful, and imaginative when it comes to planning and implementing fund-raising projects. Everything from festivals, dinners, luncheons, dances, fashion shows, cotillions, and merchandise and food sales of all types have been used to raise money for the church. Script sales, rummage sales, bake sales, toy sales, and sales of just about anything people might buy have been tried at one time or another. In recent years, it has become quite common for parishes to utilize their facilities during the weekdays for day care centers and preschool programs. These not only generate significant revenue for churches, they also give parishes a positive presence in the surrounding community by providing a much needed service to families in the immediate vicinity of the church. There are even communities who own real estate that generates revenue in some fashion. Senior citizen housing and even businesses of one sort or

### PATTERNS TO 8

#### PUBLICATION DEADLINES

**June Issue**

**May 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Summer Issue**

**June 15<sup>th</sup>**

### PARISHES FROM 3

Prestash. Many Years!

Since the month of April is Volunteer Month," we would like to give special thanks to Elya and Larissa Korman who clean our church and keep it glistening all year. Also, to all those who volunteer at Holy Transfiguration (too numerous to mention by name). We appreciate their commitment and dedicated services. May God bless all of them with good health and happiness.

Our very dedicated prosphora bakers have been rising before the rooster crows these past 18 years. So, sincere thanks to our bakers, Lydia Bolash, Luba Dowling, Patricia Karlak, Peter Karlak and Father Michael Westerberg. Many Years!

- submitted by Barbara Ann Dixon

### Waterbury, Connecticut

The parish of the Nativity of the Holy Virgin Mary entered into Great Lent after the asking of mutual forgiveness, and a joyous Cheesefare dinner of piroghi and borscht. The dinner was a wonderful opportunity for fellowship, and the last of the dairy products for a while. The ladies of St. Martha's Society worked hard to make the piroghi for the dinner. The next evening we celebrated the Canon of St. Andrew of Crete, and a full week of services followed in the first week of Great lent.

Orthodoxy Sunday Vespers were hosted at our parish and Archpriest Steven Natsis and parishioners of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church (Waterbury) as well as clergy from the Connecticut Deanery accompanied by their parishioners celebrated the return of the icons to the Church.

Alexis Troubetzkoy journeyed from Toronto to tell us of the varied and important charitable work of IOCC. In only 10 years of existence, IOCC has delivered nearly a half Billion dollars in relief aid throughout the world. Many projects are aimed at providing the infrastructure to make a long term fix for a problem in an area, rather than merely bringing in food, clothing, and clean water.

A Lenten dinner hosted by St. Olga's Sisterhood, and chaired by Debbie Zaccagnino, and Anne Marie Boruch followed at the Parish Hall for the large gathering of believers.

On Wednesday March 3rd, a group of parishioners journeyed to Salisbury CT. (way up in the northwest corner) to celebrate the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts with our brothers and sisters in Christ at All Saints of North America Mission. We were all blessed to have the opportunity to venerate the icons of many of America's sanctified.

- submitted by Fr. Matthew Searfoorce



*On Sunday, February 29, 2004, the Sunday of Orthodoxy, Mr. Alexis Troubetzkoy, representative of International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), addressed the gathered faithful of Ss. Cyril and Methodius Church, Terryville, CT, regarding the on-going work of that pan-Orthodox charitable organization.*

*At the conclusion of Mr. Troubetzkoy's moving and inspiring remarks, Fr. John Hopko, Rector, and Mr. John Osuch, Parish Council President, presented Mr. Troubetzkoy with a donation of \$2000.00 for IOCC from the parish's Memorial Fund. This gift is being given to IOCC in memory of all the departed members of Ss. Cyril and Methodius Church since the time of the parish's founding in 1912. (L-R): John Osuch, Alexis Troubetzkoy, Fr. John Hopko.*

### Woodbury, Connecticut

During the month of February, construction has been underway on our new building site in Southbury. Excavation and site work has begun, and the foundation for the church building has been poured, soon to be followed by that of the community building. A small group of women gathered to discuss and plan the kitchen layout, in an effort to most easily accommodate our needs as a community. An extremely kind anonymous donor has offered a matching grant for \$100,000.00 which began on February 1<sup>st</sup>. Each dollar received after that date until the amount has been met will be doubled. This, coupled with our securing of a mortgage provides us with much of the needed financial aspects. It is with great joy, thanksgiving and amazement that we progress on this building project.

Our children worked hard to raise \$302.00 to contrib-



*Children from Christ the Savior Mission in Woodbury, CT, together with their pastor, Fr. Vladimir Aleandro, pose with their offerings to IOCC, collected during the month of February.*

## PARISHES FROM 7

ute to the IOCC towards children's lunch programs on their annual "Souper Bowl Sunday" collection. Their soup pots generously filled with donations, as did the boxes for the Woodbury Food Bank. In addition to the children's efforts, our community staffed the food bank during the month of February.

As the time of Great Lent began with Forgiveness Vespers, we gathered together not only to ask forgiveness of one another, but also to share each other's strength as we embark on this journey to renew our joy in Christ's Resurrection

*- submitted by Sarah Cole*

## PIT BULLS FROM 5

James cowered in the back. He was the only one who made it.

Monday morning everybody played *what if...* James, the Counselors, me, all the kids at the shelter...

The most important time is the only time we have.

There was no answer for the straw hat. Lucinda didn't say much. Her and the baby walked me to my car. She was very kind to me and thanked me for bringing her stuff. She had a pretty face. It was swollen from crying. I gave her an Icon card of the Theotokos weeping. She asked if we could pray. My hands were free. We made the Cross. How could we fail? It seemed most important above all now. She said, "Jesus, have mercy," before the wall with Jabril's name, newly painted, *fam... god and earth...*

(Reprinted with permission from *Jacob's Well*, Diocese of New York-New Jersey, Orthodox Church in America, Fall 2003 issue.)

## PATTERNS FROM 6

another on these parcels become major and ongoing stems of income for parishes. In addition to the financial assistance parishes realize from the myriad of fund-raising endeavors they sponsor, there is a certain amount of fellowship which comes along with the planning and implementation of these projects. Members of the parish enjoy working together to make these events successful. This offering of time and talents is part of a faithful Orthodox Christian's stewardship. After all, the giving of time, talents, and resources is what Christian stewardship means. *(to be continued next month)*

*(Ron Nicola is Chairman of the Antiochian Archdiocese Department of Stewardship. Reprinted from the February 2004 issue of The Word.)*

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