

September 2021

Ozanam

News



We are
not
alone...



Around the
Conferences

International
News

Digital Champions



Council of Scotland

Sr Maria Robb, DC

National Spiritual Adviser

Daniel Collins

National President Trustee

James Heneaghan

National Treasurer Trustee

Richard Steinbach

Vice-President / Trustee

St Andrews & Edinburgh

Elizabeth Herlihy

Trustee Aberdeen

John Joyce

Trustee Dunkeld

Pat Snee

Trustee Galloway

Joe Maguire

Trustee Glasgow

Pat Carr

Trustee Motherwell

Joe Hendry

Trustee Paisley

Kate Kelley

Twinning & Projects Officer

Patricia McCartney

Social Justice Coordinator

Contents

Message from National President	3
Around the Conferences	4-6
International	7
Twinning	8
Spirituality	9
- Obituaries	
Social Justice	10
- Digital Champions	
Youth News	11
Motherwell Letter	12

2022

10
MARCH

**Next submission deadline is
Thursday 10th March 2022!**

The Ozanam News relies on your contributions. Send articles and images (jpg or png format only, no PDFs) to:

communication@ssvpscotland.com

Please provide full caption details for photos. We are unable to accept paper submissions. Articles should be written by email or attached as a Word document.

Publishing Policy

1. The objective is to publish a new Ozanam News, which will be issued three times per year, May, September and November. To facilitate this, a publications committee has been formed and a member of the National Council has been made responsible for its operation. The publications committee will normally meet two months before going to the printer. As at present, the actual putting together of the magazine will be the responsibility of the National Office staff, who will select the printer and liaise and coordinate with all preproduction functions. 2. In accordance with National Council requirements, the intention will be not to feature 'editorial' pieces. Any material deemed to detract from the Society's broader aims will be approved by the National Council prior to publication. Hopefully these arrangements will help the new Ozanam News develop into a more humorous, educational and spiritual publication which will concentrate on bringing the Society, its Members and Associates closer together. With this Togetherness in mind, National Council Agenda business could well become a regular feature in the magazine. In the main, letters for publication will normally be from twinning parties- regarded as reports. Other letters will be accepted for publication with an added footnote or returned for discussion by the respective council and/or president if thought to be more appropriate.





Letter from National President Danny Collins

president@ssvpscotland.com



We are not alone.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

There are likely to be individual members, local Conferences, Groups and Councils in Scotland who have felt isolated, particularly since the beginning of the worldwide pandemic.

I consider it important to remind our members that we are not alone and to encourage them to communicate with other members within the SSVP, for reassurance and to seek assistance, available on request.

The SSVP is present in 150 countries, has 800,000 members in 47,000 Conferences, and 1.5 million volunteers and collaborators. Every day, it helps over 30 million people the world over.

International Territorial

Structures: SSVP Scotland is included in Europe 1 Zone 1 along with England & Wales, Ireland, and Luxembourg (France)

Worldwide Family: There is regular communication and collaboration with our international Brothers and Sisters. This relationship is essential and serves as a constant reminder that we are an integral part of an international community.

Forward – Together: To ensure the long-term future of the SSVP it is crucial that members within the Society from International

to National to Diocesan to local Conferences level, continue to communicate with one another. It is equally important for members to step forward and show a willingness to serve beyond the role of an active member and be prepared to accept the opportunity to fulfil the various roles necessary to secure the organisational structures which have developed and served us well since our foundation.

We pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance as we make these decisions for the good of our Society.

Let us know

In conclusion may I appeal to those SSVP members who may be concerned about the long- term future of the Society to please contact your local Conference/Group or Diocesan Council Presidents to seek guidance, advice, and support available.

Danny Collins

National President

Acknowledgement from National Treasurer, James Heneaghan

"I would like to offer my sincere gratitude for the hard work which supported the completion of the Audit 2021. In such a challenging year, Diocesan Members should feel very proud of this achievement. The process demonstrated successful communication between Conference, Diocesan Council, National Council and National Office. COVID has led us to new communication methods with fellow Vincentians which help us continue to support the lonely, the poor and the needy. It is my hope that we can build on this in the future."



Around the Conferences

St Andrews & Edinburgh

Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh are re-starting their Annual Archdiocesan Mass. This will take place at the historic Church of St. Patrick's, Cowgate, Edinburgh. The Mass will be Celebrated on Saturday, 20/11/2021 at 11am.

Diocesan President Richard Steinbach said: *"This is the Church where we had planned to celebrate the 175th Anniversary of the Society coming to Scotland last year. The Mass will be Celebrated by His Grace, Archbishop Cushley. I would also ask that Conference Presidents ask their own Parish Priest to concelebrate this joyous occasion. There will, as always, be a buffet after Mass."*

Our new Spiritual Advisor is Fr. Basil Clark, of Our Lady of Loretto & St. Michael, Musselburgh. This will be

a great opportunity for Members to come along, to meet Fr. Basil, reacquaint themselves with old friends, while taking the opportunity to make some new ones."

The Archdiocese will be trying to start a new recruitment campaign, as we have all suffered during this



terrible pandemic, losing Members and Conferences at an alarming rate. This is something we need to address, and hopefully, turn around.

Decisions have been taken to dispose of the two older caravans at Seton



Sands, and keep the two newer ones, as losses couldn't be sustained over the last two years. Costs still had to be paid upfront, despite not being able to use them, and this had a huge impact on finances.

St Columba's Oban

St Columba's Oban helped local families by the purchase of supermarket vouchers. The headteacher of the local school identified struggling families who may not otherwise have come to the forefront. This enabled the children to have meals throughout the Christmas holiday period.

Treasurer Kathleen said: *"We also purchased small gifts for the residents of our local care home. These were delivered to the staff for distribution as due to COVID we were unable to attend. These were well received and really cheered the residents up as they were struggling from the isolation of not having visitors."*



Dunkeld

St James and St Matthew's, Kinross and Auchtermuchty: *"Being unable to carry out proper visits many of the initial contacts had to take place outdoors with social distancing and kept short. Often, we arranged for delivery of groceries directly to the homes and followed up with brief outdoor visits. Another simple way we have kept in contact is by sending a card to those parishioners who were ill, wishing them well and including them in our prayers. A number have indicated that during these times of isolation this was very much appreciated."*



Argyll and the Isles

Paisley

Afternoon tea goes mobile at St Laurence's, Greenock.

When restrictions took effect, the SSVP pensioners group were devastated to lose their monthly Saturday afternoon tea session in the church hall. This has been running for 3 years and brings isolated elderly parishioners together for company, cakes, bingo and a sing song. To prevent attendees losing out,

Conference members realised that if they couldn't come to afternoon tea, then afternoon tea would come to them! Cakes and sandwiches were beautifully boxed and delivered to doorsteps, bringing a smile to many faces. One lady said, *"This has just made my day."* Another commented *"It's so nice to know that someone has thought about me and taken time to come with this lovely surprise."*

The deliveries took some time as the socially

distanced chat was as much part of the purpose of the visit as the cakes. All the Conference members who participated said they had really enjoyed the chance to catch up with their regulars.

President Joe Bonnar said, *"We felt it was important that we kept in touch with our elderly and isolated parishioners to let them know that even in the midst of this pandemic, SSVP hadn't forgotten them."*



Motherwell

The Furniture project in Wishaw is thriving due to the installation of a new Management Team, consisting of Pat Carr, Diocesan President, with James Mc Cluskey and Mary Brawley both Project Managers.

These changes were instigated approximately 18 months ago and have been very successful. They have also recruited a dedicated team consisting of volunteers, both office bound and field personnel.

They currently have 5 Drivers, 2

Drivers/Assistants and 9 Office Volunteers who give their time freely to enable the Unit to perform efficiently. Unfortunately, due to COVID, we have lost some volunteers.

President Pat Carr commented: *"Due to successful applications for Funding, we have been able to upgrade our vehicles and make substantial improvements to our unit. We had hoped to organise an open day for local and surrounding Diocesan members but due to COVID*

19 these plans were postponed. We are hoping to reschedule this soon."

The Unit is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday from 11.00am till 3.00pm and can be contacted on following details -
Landline: 01698 375291
Mobile No: 07483363888,
Email: svdpfurniture@outlook.com



Around the Conferences: *Glasgow*

SSVP Scotland relies on the talents of its members to ensure it operates efficiently. Behind the scenes, there are many good people working hard to make sure that help reaches to those in need swiftly. We've had an insight into the role of Treasurer with a chat to Amelia Buckley who has been appointed Treasurer for Glasgow Archdiocese.



1 What does the role of Diocesan Treasurer involve?

Preparing the cash book and reconciling accounts monthly with bank statements. Checking Conferences are keeping up to date with their dues.

2 What are you most looking forward to in this role?

Working together with the Archdiocesan Council members and making sure accounts are kept in balance.

3 How has Covid affected your role?

With smaller numbers of people attending Mass the income for SSVP is reduced and this could affect the Archdiocesan income being less than usual.

4 What are the biggest challenges for SSVP Scotland in the months ahead??

With Covid it has been extremely difficult with being unable to go to bank and not having face to face interaction with the rest of the Council.

5 Tell us about your career so far

I have worked for a Housing Association for the past 31 years as Finance Officer.

6 What do you like to do in your spare time?

I enjoy quizzes and I have played the piano for the last 60 years, so I enjoy music.

7 If you could have dinner with any Vincentian from the past, who would it be and what would you ask them?

I would like to have dinner with Blessed Frederic Ozanam and thank him and his fellow students for setting up The Society of St Vincent De Paul and committing themselves to carry on the mission of helping people.

8 What are your hopes for the future for SSVP Scotland?

I would hope that there would be more young people joining the Society but you don't see many young people at church today with the commitment I had. My father was an SSVP member and I wanted to do what he did; that was 48 years ago.



'Flourish'ing Together



The Archdiocese is blessed to have such an effective information resource and means of communication as the Flourish Newspaper continues to be. They have always been a friend of the Vincentian family and have carried our news and events to their readership. In these days of online presence, it is good to still have the option of a Catholic paper to bring news, views and photographs to the faithful.



Our fellow member, Renato Lima de Oliveira, the sixteenth SSVF President General, has already begun drafting the 2022 Circular Letter (dedicated to Auguste Le Taillandier), which will be published on 31st January 2022. Suggestions can be submitted by email (cgi.circularletter@gmail.com) until 30 November 2021.



“The Circular Letter is a one-off opportunity for the President General to directly address Vincentians around the world, prompting them to reflect on

various current topics during the meetings held by Conferences and Councils. I do hope to receive many suggestions, ideas and comments, which can indeed enhance the content of the document.”, expressed President Renato Lima.

The Letter has become a tradition for Presidents General: the first one was written by the fellow member, Emmanuel Joseph Bailly de Surcy, the first President General, in 1841.

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On August 22nd, on the 24th anniversary of Antoine-Frederic Ozanam’s beatification, the Metropolitan Council of São Paulo (Brazil) organised a morning formation session with the SSVF’s 16th President General, brother Renato Lima de Oliveira.

The meeting brought together leaders who hold Vincentian office at the 14 Central Councils of the region, as well as board members of the local Metropolitan Council.

The Holy Mass was celebrated by Father Tito Marega, provincial of the Religious of St. Vincent de Paul (RSV). In his homily, he gave several teachings to the Vincentians, especially in times of pandemic, emphasizing home visits and the charitable work undertaken by the Conference, where members deepen their faith, prayer and community life. *“The Vincentian Conference is essential, as it represents the memory of the poor within each parish,”* commented the priest.

The mass was followed by the talk *“Vincentian attitudes adapted to our times”*, given by President



Lima de Oliveira, where he brought up the issue of certain inappropriate behaviours in our Society, especially among leaders, and proposed a change of course. It was, as he said, a *“collective soul-searching”*, focused on improving the Vincentian work.

“Certain attitudes and procedures have been detrimental to our Society, and such approaches should be avoided and frowned upon. As leaders, our role is to adopt servant leadership, in accordance with the Vincentian tradition and the Rule. As Ozanam said, “leaders must be genuinely holy, imbued with qualities for those around us to look up to”, said President Renato.



Twinning News

Kate Kelley National Twinning Officer  twinning@ssvpscotland.com

Greetings Kate,

My name is Sheila Maureen Lohrentz .I am the president of Holy Redeemer Conference in Quigney , East London in South Africa.

Our Conference consists of 7 active members. In the past we had our meetings twice a month and every Tuesday we served hot meals to the needy in our area close to our church which is situated in Quigney. We also distribute clothes, shoes and blankets during feeding time.

Last year 2020, we as the Conference bought food and made parcels to deliver to the needy in our community. We also put some money into envelopes and contacted our beneficiaries to collect and sign as evidence that they received the money. We serve 100-150 people (adults

and children) weekly every Tuesday.

COVID 19 has really impacted us all but we continue to strive to serve the needy people in our area. Currently we re-opened the soup kitchen under COVID 19 constricts. We serve soup and bread to the underprivileged and the homeless every Tuesday.

On behalf of myself, Conference and the parishioners of Holy Redeemer, I would like to thank you for your donations that support our Conference.

Thank you.

Sheila Lohrentz

St Jude's Conference

St Jude's Conference in South Africa have sent a report of their work during the past year.

It shows a very active Conference who are providing food and warmth to many local people in need.

They have participated in feeding projects in many neighborhoods, delivered food parcels to schools, provided food and blankets to the unemployed during COVID and organised a weekly soup kitchen.

They are twinned with St Coval's Conference Pollock.





Spirituality

Sr Maria Robb DC, Spiritual Director

one of my favourite pictures of St Vincent. I find myself asking....

Who is the other person in the picture? Is it Christ? Who is giving the bread and who is receiving it?



In many ways this picture sums up our Vincentian charism and service. Each time we make

a visit or support a person or family, we meet Christ. Sometimes it's the confused Christ we meet, or the lonely Christ, the suffering Christ, the worried Christ, sometimes the gracious and grateful Christ. Christ may make himself known in many different ways, but in each person, we are called to serve, Christ is there in them waiting to welcome us.

How often do I acknowledge that it is Christ I am serving, that it is Christ I am visiting, sitting with, listening to?

If like me, you're probably home from it all and reflecting on the day when you take time to acknowledge where you met Christ. Sometimes our service can be difficult. Not everyone rejoices when they have to acknowledge they need help and often as the helpers we get their anger. St Vincent advised a young Sister that, 'The more ugly, the more dirty (those you serve), the more you must love them.' My grannie's phrase was, 'There, but for the grace of God, go I'. How true!

I'm sure many of you have seen this picture before. It's

The most consoling aspect of our service is found in this picture when we reflect on, 'Who is giving the bread and who is receiving it?' How many times in SSVP work have we felt energised by those we've served? How many times have we left a visit holding something in our hearts that they have said or done?

I may have spent two years in Seminary 'learning' about being a Daughter of Charity, but it was the broken children I was sent to serve who 'made' me a Daughter of Charity. They fed me bread I didn't even know existed.

We celebrate the Feast of St Vincent on 27th September, but each time we go out as Vincentians we go out as St Vincent did, to meet Christ and to receive from Christ the bread he knows we need. What a gift! Take time to reflect on your last SSVP visit. Which face of Christ did you meet? What bread did you take to this Christ? What bread did you receive from Christ?

The final word of encouragement comes from St Vincent who prepares a young Sr Jeanne for service:

"You will find out that Charity is a heavy burden to carry, heavier than the kettle of soup and the full basket. But you will keep your gentleness and your smile. It is not enough to give soup and bread. This the rich can do. You are the servant of the poor, always smiling and good-humoured. They are your masters, terribly sensitive and exacting master you will see and the uglier and the dirtier they will be, the more unjust and insulting, the more love you must give them. It is only for your love alone that the poor will forgive you the bread you give to them."

After 17 years' service Jim Gibson retired in March 2021. As the only full-time administration member of staff, Jim's name was well known by many members.

Jim was pleased to receive messages of appreciation

from the National Council and from those who he had worked closely with over the years.

Members and staff wish Jim well for a long, healthy and enjoyable retirement.



Obituaries - May they Rest In Peace

Moira Tierney, former member, Sacred Heart, Grangemouth

John McAleese, active member, St Dominic, Bishopbriggs

Gerard Cullen, former President/active member, St James, Renfrew

John Montgomery, active member, St Mary Whifflet

Mary Theresa Cook, active member, St Andrew and St Theresa, Livingston

Jacqui Cameron, Diocesan Caravan Convenor/active member, St Patrick, Shieldmuir

Theresa Nugent, former member, St John Ogilvie, Blantyre

John McDevitt, active President, St Teresa, Newarthill

Hugh Rogers, President and former National Twinning Officer, Sacred Heart, Grangemouth

John Connor, President, St Joseph, Cumbernauld

John McKendry, President and Motherwell Diocesan Vice President, St Patrick, Coatbridge

Margaret Craig, former member, St Patrick's Coatbridge

Eugene McMahon, former President, St Mary, Irvine

Sarah Green, President, St Alexander, Denny

Elizabeth Keeley, active member, St Alexander, Denny

Robert Bell, former President, Immaculate Conception, Dundee

Edward Cleary, former President, St Peter and Paul, Dundee

Anne Marie Neil, President, St Sophia, Galston

Joan Quinn, active member, St Gabriel, Merrylee

James Gallagher, former member, St Ninian, Knightswood



A fond Farewell to Jim Gibson



Social Justice News

Patricia McCartney, Social Justice Co-ordinator

✉ socialjustice@ssvpscotland.com 🐦 @SocJustSSVPScot

Digital Champions

and families by SSVP and our newly trained volunteer "Digital Champions". 207 iPad and 200 MiFi devices were successfully distributed and training was provided to help

The Scottish Government's initiative 'Connecting Digitally' was brought to life for many older people

the new owners make the most of their ability to connect with others.

We have a snapshot of how the project was received from recipients at Our Lady Of Mount Carmel parish in Kilmarnock.

"Mary O'Rourke was our first recipient and was very patient with us! We have visited her three times and some of the activities that she has accomplished include: logging into Mass every day, taking photos of her family, accessing news updates and virtually attending a friend's cremation service via a link to the crematorium. She said, 'I am delighted and grateful to have this opportunity.'"



"Jim Mackin is pleased with his iPad. He accesses streamed Masses and intends to extend his on-line activities over the next few weeks as long as, in his own words, 'I remember to keep it charged!'"

"Janette McConnell is pleased with her iPad. She is delighted to be able to access streamed Masses and to connect with members of her family. If she has any problems, her young grandson, Ethan, is more than happy to help when he visits."



"Annette Mears was happy to be offered the opportunity to be a recipient in this initiative; she has family support and is managing well."

"Peter and Joan Herrall are delighted to have the opportunity to be involved in this initiative and to have access to streamed Masses. They have family who can help with any problems are looking forward to developing their digital skills."





Youth News

Pauline Bonnar,
Youth Development Co-Ordinator



youth@ssvpscotland.com



@youthSSVP



ssvp.youth.scotland



Youth SSVP Scotland

With Pope Francis guiding us with his words in Laudato Si and this being the year of the COP26 Conference, SSVP Youth had to get involved. Our Recycle-a -Gift Project has been well received and we're hearing of many great ideas being produced so far. Information posters have been sent to all Catholic schools in Scotland. Even those who don't currently have a Vinnies group are welcome to join in. They might enjoy it so much they'll decide to start one!

The idea is to take some household items that would otherwise be waste and make them into something useful. Great for the environment and connects with the ethos of the COP26 Conference.

However, we'd like you to go that one step further and make something which becomes a gift you can give at Christmas. This follows in the Spirit of St Vincent de Paul. Reaching out to others and showing we care is what we do at SSVP Scotland. This project combines love for our neighbour with compassion for the world that God created.

Take photos as you create and send them to us at youth@ssvpscotland.com. We'd love to hear about what you make, who you will give it to and why. We'll put together a montage of all your recycled gifts and share it to show how we're turning faith into action for a greener kinder Scotland.



"Reusing something instead of immediately discarding it can be an act of love which expresses our own dignity."

Pope Francis in Laudato Si

New Term: New Vinnies Group?

We are tentatively moving back to a little normality and hopefully restrictions within schools will ease further over the next few months. If you don't already have a Vinnies group, it would be a great time to think about starting one. If you're curious and would like to know more, please drop me an email and I'll send you a guidebook which explains everything you'll need to know. I can also connect you with a nearby school who already have a Vinnies so you can hear how their group operates. As well as this we have SSVP members in the local parishes who would be happy to help and perhaps come along and give a talk about SSVP and how it began.

You'll be coming together to pray, learn and most

importantly help others in your school and community. And last but not least, you get one of our lovely new badges, so others can know you are a Vincentian.



Motherwell Conference recognised for pandemic efforts.

Grant us also the grace to persevere when disappointed or distressed and never to claim that our work springs from ourselves alone, so that, united in prayer and action, we may be a visible sign of Christ and bear witness to His boundless love which reaches out to all and draws them to love one another in Him."

St Ninian's and St Cuthbert's humbly received thanks from the Lord-Lieutenant of Lanarkshire for their efforts to reach the poor, needy and isolated during the pandemic.

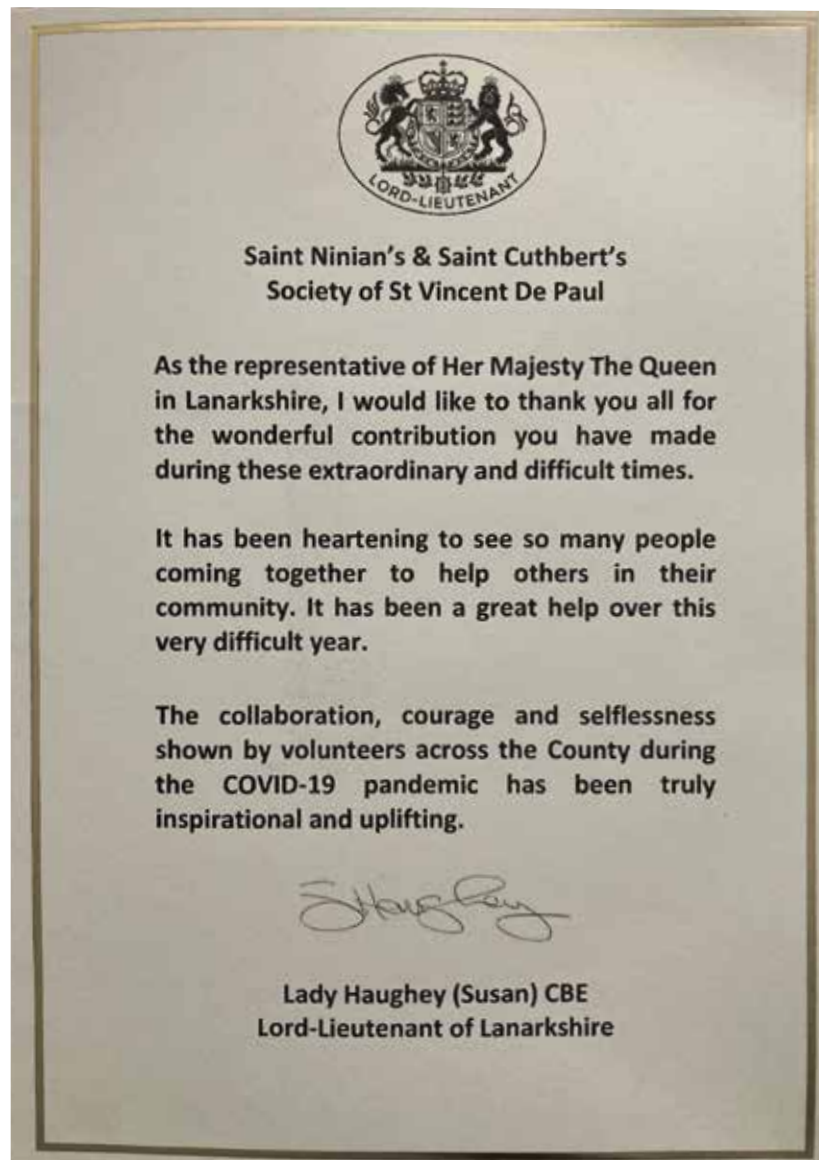
Treasurer James McCluskey reflected that:

"The words of one of the closing prayers which we say at our weekly meetings are extremely appropriate as we receive this recognition.

The Society, Conferences and parishioners are all joined in prayer and action. We are all called to be a visible sign of Christ and bear witness to His boundless love.

As a Society, Conference and parish, this is who we are and what we do.

Without the help from parishioners, none of the work of



SSVP; locally, nationally or internationally, would be possible.

Our witness to this never goes unseen, unnoticed, unrecognised or unrewarded.

Thank you to all who have presented us with this opportunity to serve."



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