

First Sunday of Lent



Dear Friends: This past Monday, we heard the shocking news that Pope Benedict XVI announced his resignation from the papacy and the chair of St. Peter. I first heard the news very early in the morning. I had awakened at about 4:30 a.m. and couldn't seem to fall back to sleep, so I turned on the TV and returned my head to the pillow and listened as I faded in and out of consciousness. At some point, I heard the news anchor announce a special bulletin that the pope was resigning. It's funny how that lifted me out of a state of quasi-slumber. It was completely unexpected. It seemed so untimely. I was only just beginning to appreciate the Holy Father's thought more fully.

Over the past few weeks, I have been sporadically reading one of the volumes of Pope Benedict XVI's work, Jesus of Nazareth. Even though I have been aware of the Holy Father's intellect and masterful writing skill, I have never fully appreciated his brilliance until I started reading this work. It is a profound reflection on the identity of Jesus as portrayed in the Scriptures. His writing is filled with a depth and nuance that is incredibly insightful. I have to admit that I am seeing the life of Jesus in a new way as a result of this treasury of reflections.

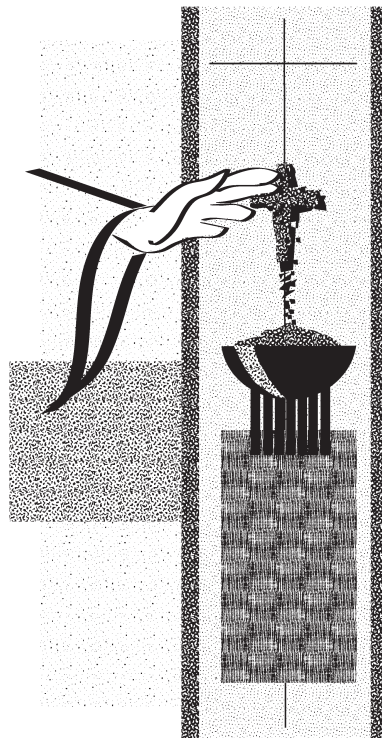
Pope Benedict's homilies, speeches and talks betray a man gifted with a profound relationship with the Lord. He also possesses a clear understanding of the Church. He writes with a cogency that is unrivaled. It is obvious why he held his position in the Roman Curia prior to becoming Successor to Peter. In my estimation, some of his works may become theological classics.

Pope Benedict XVI has impressed some as being cold, rigorous, or out of touch. If anything, the past few years have shown otherwise. His writings portray a gentle, reflective man. I was privileged to be able to see Pope Benedict in person on two occasions during pilgrimages to Rome. During both, I saw a kind man who was passionate about the Church.

Some say that it is this passion for the Church that led him to resign. They muse that his act is an act of great humility in acknowledging that he no longer has the health to continue to shepherd the Church. Ultimately, it is his care for the Church that compelled him to resign. Certainly, it requires great humility to relinquish such an office.

His act is an extreme rarity in the history of the Church, but also in our contemporary world. Nevertheless, the thing that we can expect is that the Church will continue to thrive and the Holy Spirit will continue to act in providing for us a shepherd to guide us in the years ahead. We pray for the Cardinals who will be given the task to select a new pope, and we pray for Pope Benedict XVI that he will know God's abundant blessings in the days ahead.

The Gospel this weekend presents us with Jesus facing temptations in the desert in preparation for his ministry. We see that this was an occasion for Christ to solidify his purpose and fortify himself as he embarked upon the task



The same LORD
is LORD of all.
Everyone who
calls upon the
name of the
LORD
will be saved.

**THIS SEASON
IS
THE
FIRST OF LENT**

You who dwell
in the shelter
of the Most High,
no evil shall befall you,
for to his angels he has
given command about
you that they guard you
in all your ways.

Pastor
Fr. Paul Hesse
Parochial Vicar
Fr. Joseph Thang Nguyen

Permanent Deacons
Salvador (Sal) Alvarado
Manuel Marroquin

Parish Secretary/Bookkeeper
Lisa Catchings

Parish Office Assistant
Wilma Toledo

Music Minister
Michael Conley | 991-0995

Music Accompanist
Charles Branning

Youth Mass Band Leader
Mick Boudreau

Director of Religious Education
Sr. Barbara Netek, IWBS

*Director of Adult Faith Formation
and Director of RCIA*
Sr. Annette Wagner, IWBS | 993-0299

Director of Youth Ministry
Robert Streight | 452-4513

Health Ministry
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Kathy Clark

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Leigh Anne Gibbon

Maintenance
Ernie Peña

Housekeeping
Yolanda Ruiz, Virginia Medrano

Bulletin/Website Editor
Reagan Johnson

Office phone: (361) 993-4053
Office email: lcatchings@stpiusxcc.org

5620 Gollihar Road
Corpus Christi, TX 78412

parish website
www.stpiusxcc.org

that the Father had given him. In these temptations, he shuns all false pretenses and resists worldly pursuits of power. The Gospel challenges us to recapture the true nature of our lives. It is not in power, wealth, or self-satisfaction that we find meaning in life. We were made for God and nothing less than God will fulfill our hearts. If there is anything that Pope Benedict's retirement can teach us, it is that we must learn to divest ourselves of self so that God can increase within us. God bless!

Lenten Fasting and Abstinence

Just a reminder that Good Friday is both a day of Fast and Abstinence. Also, all the Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence, meaning that we are to refrain from eating meat. Fasting is obligatory for all who have completed their 18th year and who have not reached their 60th year. Fasting allows a person to eat only one full-sized meal and two lighter snacks, that added together, do not equal one full meal. Abstinence from meat is obligatory for all who have reached their 14th year.



CRS Rice Bowl is a Lenten faith formation program that helps us to live in solidarity with the poor and vulnerable around the world. We **pray** to reflect on what type of person we are called to be. We **fast** to remove the things that get between us and God, and to remember those without enough to eat. We **give** to honor Jesus' call to serve those in need.

Growing Food in Burkina Faso

In the small West African nation of Burkina Faso, 80% of the population are farmers. Frequent droughts make it difficult to produce enough food for the entire year. Often, farmers can only grow enough to feed their families for seven months. The rest of the year is called "the hungry season." This week, we pray for families in Burkina Faso and give to CRS Rice Bowl to help small – scale farmers.

Men's Club Reminder

The next meeting of the Men's Club is scheduled for this coming Tuesday, February 19, starting at 6:30 with dinner and meeting at 7PM. Dues are due at this time. All men of the parish are invited to join the club.

Rectory Office Hours:
Monday-Friday, 9:00AM-5:00PM

Schedule of Services

Masses: *First Friday: 5:30PM - Anointing of the Sick*
First Saturday: 8:15AM Vigil at 5:30PM.
Sunday: 8AM, 10AM, 12PM, 5:30PM (Youth Mass)
(Babysitting at 10AM and 12 noon Sunday Masses - Ages 6mo-5yrs - in Parish Hall Nursery)
Weekdays: Monday through Friday 8:15AM,
Wednesday & Friday 5:30PM
Holy Days: 7AM, 12PM & 6:30PM (Vigil 5:30PM)

Confessions: Saturdays - 4-5PM and 6:30-7:30PM
Marriages: By appointment only and notice six months in advance.
Weddings take place on weekdays any time and
on Saturdays no later than 3:00PM
Baptismal Instruction: Pre-register through the office.
Anointing of the Sick: On request and at the 5:30PM Mass on First Fridays

ENTER INTO THE HOLY SEASON OF LENT

Welcome new Parishioners!

Please welcome our new parishioners: Jesse and Melissa Gil, Dr. Jennifer L. Heil, Luis Hernandez and Veronica Leon & children, Manuel and Elizabeth Barrera & children, Horacio and Tania Solis & children. We invite them to become an active part of our growing faith community!

Acts of Charity

This weekend we have the Black Bag collection! The monies from the Black Bag Collection are used by the Acts of Charity Committee to assist those in need. By giving to this collection we participate in the Corporal Works of Mercy given by Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew. (Matthew 25:34-40) We thank you for your participation in this collection.

Stations of the Cross

The Stations of the Cross is a very ancient and moving Lenten tradition. We encourage you to make this a regular part of your Lenten Journey. Stations of the Cross take place every Friday of Lent at 7:00 p.m. It is especially good to teach your children this special devotion. Come join us! It only lasts approximately 1/2 hour.

Lenten Masses at 6:30 a.m. Weekdays

It has been a long-standing tradition at St. Pius X to have Masses at 6:30 a.m. on weekdays during the Lenten Season. Come join us and make this a part of your Lenten observance!

Choir Lenten Fish Fry

The Lenten Fish Fry sponsored by the Adult Choir has begun and will take place every Friday during Lent from 4:30pm – 7:00pm. The cost is \$8.00 per plate and includes Tilapia, french fries, coleslaw, hushpuppies and tea or water. For \$1.00 more you can substitute a baked potato for the french fries or enjoy just a baked potato with all the fixings for \$4.50. Come enjoy a delicious Lenten dinner!

Ladies Get Together

Friendship Circle members will get together this coming Wednesday, February 20, in the Parish Hall at 11:30AM for lunch and social time.

You are invited to bring socks to be sent to the merchant seamen who come into our Port on tankers and freighters. See you soon!

Comings and Goings

The Week at a Glance



Sunday, February 17

2nd Collection: BLACK BAG

Irish Festival ticket sale

8:00-10:00AM – RCIA – CC#2

9:00AM – 2:00PM -BLOOD DRIVE

10:00AM – Scouts at Mass – CH & PH

10:00AM-12:00PM – Finance Seminar – CC#1

1:30PM – Baptisms - CH

Monday, February 18

3:00PM – Ballet class - PH

5:00-6:30PM – Confirmation class – YC

7:00-9:00PM – Church History – CC#2

7:00PM – Scouts – Cafeteria

8:00PM – Night Angels – CC#1

Tuesday, February 19

6:00-8:00AM – Men's Journey – CC#1&2

10:00AM- Journey – CC#2

12:30-3:00PM – MAP – CC#1

2:00-4:00PM – Church History – CC#2

6:30PM – Men's Club Meeting - PH

7:00-8:15PM – RCIA Team meeting – CC#2

Wednesday, February 20

7-8:00AM – Joyful Pillars – CC#2

9:00AM-12:00PM – MAP – CC#1

9:30AM – Staff Meeting – R

9:30AM – Schola – C/R

11:30AM – Friendship Circle - PH

3:30PM – Children's Choir – C/R

4:30PM – Youth Choir – C/R

6:30PM – CCD - CC#1&2 & Cafeteria

8:00PM – Youth Band practice -CH

Thursday, February 21

1:30PM – Bridge – CC#1&2

6:00PM – Bell Choir – C/R

7:00PM – Adoration – CH

7:30PM – Adult Choir – C/R

Friday, February 22

9:00-11:00AM – Women of Faith – CC#2

2:30PM – Children's Stations of the Cross – CH

4:00-7:00PM – Fish Fry - PH

7:00PM – Stations of the Cross - CH

Sunday, February 24

8:00-10:00AM – RCIA – CC#2

10:00AM – 12:00PM – Finance Seminar – CC#1

4:00-5:30PM – Boy Scouts class – CC#2

Youth Corner



6th-8th Graders

This Wednesday - Jesus came into the world through the way of the family. The Holy Family is an example to every human family to learn about love and charity. As Catholics, we are called to defend the dignity of the family. We hope to see you at EDGE at the SPX Youth Center at 6:30 pm to sit "Around the Table."



9th-12th Graders

This Week - Every few months it seems that a new scientific theory is released to have disproven God. This night dispels the myths that many people have about the relationship between science and faith, and addresses atheism and doubt. Come out to Life Teen at the SPX Youth Center at 6:30 pm and don't forget to bring your friends.

Next Week - Pope Benedict XVI has decided that at the end of February, he will be resigning due to health reasons. In the same way that he shows his humility, we have the choice to follow the path of humility or pride. St. Peter and Judas are the examples of each of these paths. What path do you walk? We hope to see you at Life Teen at the SPX Youth Center at 6:30 pm. Don't forget to invite a friend!

Steubenville Basketball Fundraiser

Come and support the St. Pius X Bluejays Girls and Boys Basketball teams at the Basketball Court at 4:00 pm (Girls) and 4:45 pm (Boys). While you are there, come by the window at the SPX Youth Center and get a snack or drink while you enjoy the games. All proceeds will go towards our trip to Steubenville Florida!

Steubenville Parent Meeting

On Thursday, February 21 at 6:30 pm at the SPX Youth Center there will be a Parent Meeting for all parents whose children will be attending Steubenville Florida. Important information will be given at this meeting, and we ask that parents make it a point to be at this meeting.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT (CMSE) CLASSES

All classes are in CC#1, 6:30 pm

Schedule for re-certification classes:

March 12 April 9 May 14

Please check your cards for expiration date and update if your card is expired.

Altar Servers



Feb. 22 – Stations of the Cross 7:00 p.m.

Gareth Purnell
Gabriel Purnell
Colby Purnell

Sun. 10:00 a.m.
Lali Rodriguez
MC Joshua Harney
Jordyn Harney
Joe Aidan Harney

Feb. 23 & 24

Sat. 5:30 p.m.
MC Tessa Heines
Blaine Buchanan
Kraig Bray
Hannah Cazalas

Sun. 12:00 p.m.
MC Joseph Tarin
Quarter Morrison
Matthew Lutz
Riel Posada
Grace Morrison

Feb. 23-24

Sun. 8:00 a.m.
Christian Toren
Benjamin Toren
Joseph Toren
Justin Gomez

Sun. 5:30 p.m.
MC Matthew Quiroz
Acadia Tamez
Nathaniel Quiroz

Lectors

FEB	23	SAT	5:30	P.M.	David Brown
FEB	23	SAT	5:30	P.M.	Bud Colwell
FEB	24	SUN	8:00	A.M.	Alpha Patterson
FEB	24	SUN	8:00	A.M.	Angie Ramos
FEB	24	SUN	10:00	A.M.	Richard Arizmendi
FEB	24	SUN	10:00	A.M.	Theresa Arizmendi
FEB	24	SUN	12:00	NOON	Art Aubin
FEB	24	SUN	12:00	NOON	Tambra Milot
FEB	24	SUN	5:30	P.M.	Martha St. Romain
FEB	24	SUN	5:30	P.M.	Angela L. Soliz

Congratulations Cub Scouts

Congratulations to all the WEBELOS II Cub Scouts from St. Pius X Pack 157 for earning the prestigious Arrow of Light achievement and crossing-over into the parish's Boy Scout Troop on February 17th. The Arrow of Light is the highest scouting achievement that can be bestowed upon a Cub Scout before becoming a Boy Scout. It is earned by studying and performing a number of skills pertinent to citizenship, physical fitness, outdoors, engineering and many other skills. The Cub Scouts to be congratulated include: Luis Armstrong, Kraig Bray, Julian Boehm, Paxton Hanna, Ty Lechner, Nathaniel Quiroz, Christian Ramos, Jacob Rivera, Michael Speed and Jackson Steadman.

BBQ Dinner Our Lady Star of the Sea Church (3110 E. Causeway Blvd, Corpus Christi Beach), will be holding its annual BBQ Beef Dinner on Sunday, February 24, from 11AM to 3PM. Eat in or take out. Donation: \$7.00. There will be a Live Auction at 12 Noon and the Raffle Drawing at 3PM.

School News

By Principal Kathy Clark



By the time Ash Wednesday rolled around last week, the students and staff of St. Pius X Catholic School were prepared for Lent. For the older children, it was due to a Lenten Retreat given by Sr. Barbara Bluntzer. For the younger children, it was due to a Mardi Gras parade on Fat Tuesday, the day before!

New Orleans, Louisiana, is probably best known for its Mardi Gras parades and celebrations. But it didn't have much on our early childhood students who made shoe box floats and paraded them through the breezeways of the school and in and out of the classrooms. Each float was unique. Some were fancy and some were plain. Some of the children even wore masks and crazy hats as they paraded their floats. It was fun to watch them.

On Tuesday afternoon, Sr. Barbara provided a two-hour retreat for students in 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th grades. The children always enjoy her talks. She makes the season of Lent more meaningful for them.

On Friday, our 6th graders led our first Stations of the Cross at 2:30 p.m. in the church. They did a good job. The students were given Rice Bowls on Wednesday so that they could begin earning money to put in their bowls for the poor. The children are also collecting toiletry items and laundry detergent for the Mother Teresa Shelter during February and March.

Our Parochial Sports League basketball season began the week before last for students in 4th, 5th and 6th grades. They played against IWA Elementary. This past week's games were against St. James Episcopal School and Seashore Learning Center. We won some of the games and lost some of them. But they were exciting to watch. And best of all, the kids had fun. Their principal was especially proud of their good sportsmanship!

This week on Thursday morning, our 2nd graders will make their First Reconciliation. It will be a special time for them. This past Saturday, they attended a Reconciliation retreat that put the final touches on their preparation of this sacrament. We ask that you keep all of them in your prayers.

Pre-registration for the 2013-2014 school year is now open to the public. Last week our parishioners were allowed to pre-register. On Thursday, we opened our doors to the public. From the looks of it, I think we are going to have many filled classes for the 2013-2014 school year. If you are considering a Catholic education for your child(ren), come by and check out our school. You will like what you see.

Have a blessed week!

Blood Drive

A Blood Drive will be held today, Sunday, February 17 from 9AM to 2PM. Give from your heart! Give so that others may live!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



FIRST RECONCILIATION— Fifty-five children in our parish and school will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the next two weeks. We ask your prayers for these children. We pray that this will be the first of many times they receive this Sacrament of healing. May the healing power of this Sacrament be a gift they cherish throughout their lives. We also ask prayers for their parents--that they bring their children to this Sacrament and encourage the frequent reception of it.

PERFECT ATTENDANCE—with all of the confusion of Ash Wednesday and illness that is going around we still had perfect attendance in three classes. Congratulations!

Sacramental Prep Ib—Mrs. Frazier
Sacramental Prep IIa—Mr. & Mrs. Anzualda
Sacramental Prep IIb—Mr. & Mrs. Martinez

ST. PIUS X MEN'S RETREAT



Sponsored by The Men's Club
Saturday, April 13, 2013
Check-In/Breakfast 7:30-8:00 am
Retreat 8:00 am-3:00 pm, Social 3:00-4:00 pm
St. Pius X Youth Building

The theme of the retreat is St. Joseph as a role model for men as fathers, husbands and leaders. The one day retreat is free and open to ALL men of the parish 18 yrs and older.

Sign-up sheets are located at the entries of the church to secure your place. You may also RSVP by email to tagbro1@stx.rr.com.

Catholic Stewardship Appeal

Thank you to all who responded so generously to the 2013 Catholic Stewardship Appeal last weekend. Each year the success of the campaign depends on you. Once more this year, you have done a wonderful thing; your pledges and gifts have helped to assure that we will be able to continue our mission of building the faith community throughout the Diocese of Corpus Christi.

For those of you who were not here last weekend, or for other reasons have not yet made your pledge, please consider a pledge by picking up a pledge envelope in the vestibule of the church. You may return the completed form to the parish office or mail it directly to the Catholic Stewardship Office.

Mass Intentions



Sat. 2/16	8:15AM	Marcos Laurel, Sr. by Elva Z. Laurel
	5:30PM	Grace Gonzalez by Martha Saenz
Sun. 2/17	8:00AM	Sister Patrick Bruen by Maxine Sommers
	10:00AM	Leonard Hardigree by M. Hardigree
	12:00PM	JackLaFeber's Anniversary by Jeanne LaFeber
	5:30PM	For the Parishioners
Mon. 2/18	6:30AM	Augusta Gross, Anniversary by Chuck Gross
	8:15AM	Constance V. Saule, Anniv., by Anna Vrazel
Tue. 2/19	6:30AM	Frank Baish by Roseanne Conger
	8:15AM	Armida Villarreal, Anniv., by Gene Villarreal
Wed. 2/20	6:30AM	Giuse Nguyen Hunlien by Family
	8:15AM	Christopher Janosek by the Janosek Family
	5:30PM	Andrew S. Achee, Anniv., by Anna Vrazel
Thu. 2/21	6:30AM	Thung & Diem's Intentions
	8:15AM	Alberto Hinojosa by the Ramirez, Leal & Hinojosa families
Fri. 2/22	6:30AM	Maria Goretti by friends
	8:15AM	Jean McCullough by Evelyn Mansheim
	5:30PM	Joe Ramirez' Ints. by Esperanza Garcia
Sat. 2/23	8:15AM	Gio A Kim Nguyen by Lisa Nguyen
	5:30PM	Dora Almendarez by Boyd, Swoboda & Almendarez families
Sun. 2/24	8:00AM	Judge Noe C. Garza, Anniv. by Dora Garza
	10:00AM	Maria Arellano's Ints. by Elva Arellano
	12:00PM	For the Parishioners
	5:30PM	Dionicio Laurel, Anniv. by Elva Z. Laurel
	7:30PM	Repose of the soul of Maria by her family

Please Pray for our Sick & Shut-Ins:

Marcie Aguilar, Alicia & Luis Alvarado, Manuel Balbin, Madison Beckwith, Ann Bednorz, Don Birt, Sgt. 1st Class William Boone, Bill Brumback, Bob Byrd, Stella & Michael Campos, Ashley Carroll, Sherry Coveyou, Jason Cox, Shirley Curry, Florinda De La Garza, Mark DeGaish, Sandy DeGregorio, Minga DeLosSantos, Samantha Didear Deste, Liz Elovitz, Yolanda Escobar, Juan A. Flores, Bobby Floyd, Esperanza Garcia, Raymond Garcia, Jr., Terry Garza, Elida Gonzalez, Glenda Graham, Vickie Grainger, Maria Griffin, Charlotte & Tommy Groner, Jared Groner, Terry Groner, Coleen Habeeb, Marie Habeeb, Rose Marie Hand, Joe Hardeman, James Hartman, Corina Herndon, Cathy Hervey, Chris Holland, Graham Hughes, Lucas Jean-Baptiste Ramirez, Matteo Jean-Baptiste Ramirez, Elizabeth Johnson, Martha Kaler, Mary Kelly, Dorothy Krause, Arlene Leep, Ed Lewis, Alois Lup, Arlene Lup, Cynthia Lup, Dorothy Mathews, Michael McCloskey, Virginia Medrano, Robert Miller, Johnnye Lee Mokry, John Morgan, Dan Murray, Blanca Neipert, Anna Nicolas, Toufic Nicolas, Patricia Paris, Phil Perabo, Robert M. Pope, Ron Randolph, Raymond Richter, Marguerite Ross, Luis Salazar, Tim Salch, Janie San Miguel & children, Amber Saylor, Josephine Sheldon, Tina Shepherd, Msgr. Richard Shirley, Willie Mae Shirley, Mary Pat Slavik, Maxine Sommers, Adrian Sosa, Lydia Tey, Dolina Vela, Luz Villarreal, Melva Walet, Mary Lois Webster, Bea Wilson, Dolly Zihelli, Sarah Zuniga and all those who asked for and need our prayers.

Financial Report for week ending 2/10/2013

Operating Revenue:

Sunday Collection.....	\$ 24,133.05
Other Income.....	\$ 1,100.00
Memorials.....	\$ 100.00
Total Operating Revenue	\$ 25,333.05

Other Contributions:

Acts of Charity	\$ 45.00
Janosek Scholarship	\$ 25.00
Total Other Contributions	\$ 70.00

Total Contributions 2/10/2013..... \$ 25,403.05

Loan balance on Youth Bldg

as of February 8, 2013 \$ 934,937.08

Card Party February 28th

St. Pius X Altar and Rosary Society is having their Card Party and Luncheon on February 28th in the Parish Hall. Come and enjoy fellowship, good food, fun, games, and door prizes. Bring your own playing cards or whatever games you wish to play. Ask your friends to come along to join in the fun! Games begin at 10 a.m. Tickets are available from any Altar Society member and the cost is only \$8. Come for the luncheon even if your schedule does not permit you to participate in the card party. We will begin serving at 11:30 a.m. For additional information, contact Emily Dickinson at 446-2401 or the church office: 993-4053.

Travel Possibility

For those who have never been to St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana.. but would like to go visit for a few days in April—now's your chance. Or even if you HAVE been there and would like to return, be thinking about the opportunity of spending some days there in mid-April. More specific dates will be announced soon. St. Mary's is a place of pilgrimage, a place to relax and enjoy the peaceful environment at the motherhouse of the Sisters of Providence. Think about it, and look for more information soon.



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