

# CATHOLIC TEACHING AND RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

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Domestic Violence: Our Neighbors, Our Responsibility

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Diocese of Arlington and Catholic Charities Arlington



# CATHOLIC TEACHING

CLEAR

CONCISE

COMPREHENSIVE

COMPASSIONATE

# TALKING POINTS

1. General definition of Domestic Violence
2. Catholic Teaching on Domestic Violence
3. Catholic Response to Domestic Violence



# DEFINITION: DOMESTIC ABUSE

- ❖ Centers for Disease Control defines it and states it is a **PREVENTABLE CONDITION**.
- ❖ Domestic abuse is any kind of behavior that a person uses **TO CONTROL AN INTIMATE PARTNER THROUGH FEAR AND INTIMIDATION**.
- ❖ It includes **PHYSICAL, SEXUAL, STALKING, AND PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE**.

# PREVALENCE: DOMESTIC ABUSE

- ❖ 1 in 4 women reported suffering **severe physical violence** by an intimate partner, 1 in 7 men reported the same. (CDC, 2010)
- ❖ Nearly half of women (48.4%) and half of men (48.8%) reported experiencing **psychological aggression** by an intimate. (CDC, 2010)
- ❖ When a mother cohabits with a boyfriend who is not the father of her children, the abuse rate **increases to ten times higher for physical abuse** and **twenty times higher for sexual abuse**. (Fagan, 2014)
- ❖ **The National DV One-Day Count Study** provides state and county information on calls to the National Domestic Violence

# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: WHAT ARE THE RISK FACTORS?

- Poor parenting as a child
- Being physical disciplined as a child
- Low academic achievement
- Having few friends and being isolated from other people
- Emotional dependence and insecurity
- Aggressive or delinquent behavior as a youth
- Low income –unemployment – economic stress
- Heavy alcohol and drug use
- Depression – anger and hostility – antisocial personality traits – borderline personality traits
- Belief in strict gender roles (e.g., male dominance and aggression in relationships)
- Being a victim of physical or psychological abuse (consistently one of the strongest predictors of perpetration)
- Prior history of being physically abusive
- Perpetrating psychological aggression
- Marital conflict–fights, tension, and other struggles, unhealthy family relationships and interactions
- Marital instability–divorces or separations
- Dominance and control of the relationship by one partner over the other

Source: <http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/intimatepartnerviolence/riskprotectivefactors.htm>

# POINTS TO REMEMBER

- ❖ Many people experience safe, loving relationships.
- ❖ Men are not the enemy: Most men do not abuse women, especially physically.
- ❖ Women are not the enemy: Most women do not abuse, especially psychologically.
- ❖ Many parents



# CATHOLIC TEACHING PRIMER ON HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

*Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.*



# CATHOLIC TEACHING

- ❖ We have years of Judeo-Christian teachings on how to treat each other.
- ❖ Jot down one Catholic teaching that you believe supports our belief that there is no place for abuse and violence in a marriage or dating relationship.

# CATHOLIC TEACHING: DOMESTIC ABUSE

- Commandments
- Marriage Vow
- Canon 1153
- 1992: USCCB's Pastoral Statement: *When I Call For Help*
- 2002: USCCB reissued *When I Call for Help*
- 2016: USCCB's Secretariat's Chairman Bishop Malone's Blog on AL and DV
  
- Pope Francis's *Joy of Love (AL)* – *Synod on the Family*
- Ordinary's Teaching: Archbishops Wuerl blog, Cupich's homily
  
- Tell us more at [info@catholicsforfamilypeace.org](mailto:info@catholicsforfamilypeace.org)

# THE TWO GREATEST COMMANDMENTS

❖ Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.

*This is the first and greatest commandment.*

❖ Love your neighbor as yourself.

*On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.*

# THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

1. I, the Lord, am your God. You shall not have other gods besides me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord God in vain
3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day
4. Honor your father and your mother
5. You shall not kill
6. You shall not commit adultery
7. You shall not steal
8. You shall not bear false witness
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods

# CATHOLIC TEACHING: MARRIAGE VOW

Option #1. *I (name) take you (name) to be my wife/husband. I promise to be faithful to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, to love you and to honor you all the days of my life.*

Option #2. *I (name) take you (name) for my lawful wife/husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish until death do us part.*



# CATHOLIC TEACHING: MARRIAGE AND DOMESTIC ABUSE AND VIOLENCE

Husband and Wife Relationship –

Mutual submission; Theology of the Body

See Dr. John Grabowski's talk at Catholics For Family Peace – Education – Symposium Presentations

[http://www.catholicsforfamilypeace.org/uploads/9/7/5/4/9754767/church\\_teaching\\_on\\_marriage\\_and\\_domestic\\_violence.pdf](http://www.catholicsforfamilypeace.org/uploads/9/7/5/4/9754767/church_teaching_on_marriage_and_domestic_violence.pdf)



# CATHOLIC TEACHING: CANON LAW 1153

“If either of the spouses causes grave mental or physical danger to the other spouse or to the offspring or otherwise renders common life too difficult, **that spouse gives the other a legitimate cause for leaving**, either by decree of the local ordinary or even on his or her own authority if there is danger in delay” (Code of Canon Law 1153). In other words, if a spouse is abusive to the other spouse and the children and staying means there is danger of harm, they are encouraged to leave and separate themselves.”



# CATHOLIC TEACHING: USCCB'S PASTORAL STATEMENT (1992, 2002)



- English and Spanish
- Booklets (plus online)
- Resource Cards
- NDVH 1-800-799-7233 or
- 1-800-787-3224 (TTY)
- Power Point Presentation

[www.usccb.org/domestic-violence](http://www.usccb.org/domestic-violence)



# WHEN I CALL FOR HELP: MAJOR TOPICS

## Introduction

### An Overview of Domestic Violence

- Why Men Batter
- Why Women Stay

### The Church Responds to Domestic Violence

#### Scripture and Church Teachings

- First Responders: Priests, Deacons, and Lay Minister

### What You Can Do to Help

- For Abused Women – 5 points
- For Men Who Abuse – 4 points
- For Pastors and Pastoral Staff – 13 points

### When I Call for Help: A Prayer

### Resources

### Notes

The National Domestic Violence Hotline at 800-799-SAFE (7233) or 800-787-3224 (TTY)

# WHEN I CALL FOR HELP: KEY POINTS

“The person being assaulted needs to know that acting to end the abuse does not violate the marriage promises.” p. 1

“As bishops, we condemn the use of the Bible to support abusive behavior in any form. A correct reading of Scripture leads people to an understanding of the equal dignity of men and women and to relationships based on mutuality and love.”  
p. 6

# WHEN I CALL FOR HELP: KEY POINTS

“Finally, we emphasize that no person is expected to stay in an abusive marriage.” p. 7

# WHEN I CALL FOR HELP: KEY POINTS

“Intervention by church ministers has three goals, in the following order:

- (1) Safety for the victim and children;
- (2) Accountability for the abuser; and
- (3) Restoration of the relationship (if possible), or

# WHEN I CALL FOR HELP: KEY POINTS

“We also encourage church ministers to see themselves as “first responders” who

Listen to and believe the victim’s story,

Help her to assess the danger to herself and her children, and

Refer her to counseling and other specialized services.” p. 8

# WHEN I CALL FOR HELP: KEY POINTS

“REMEMBER: Some battered women run a high risk of being killed when they leave their abuser or seek help from the legal system. It is important to be honest with women about the risks involved. If a woman decides to leave, she needs to have a safety plan, including the names and phone numbers of shelters and programs. Some victims may choose to stay at this time because it seems safer. Ultimately, abused women must make their own decisions about staying or leaving.” (p.5)

# STUDY QUESTIONS: WHEN I CALL FOR HELP

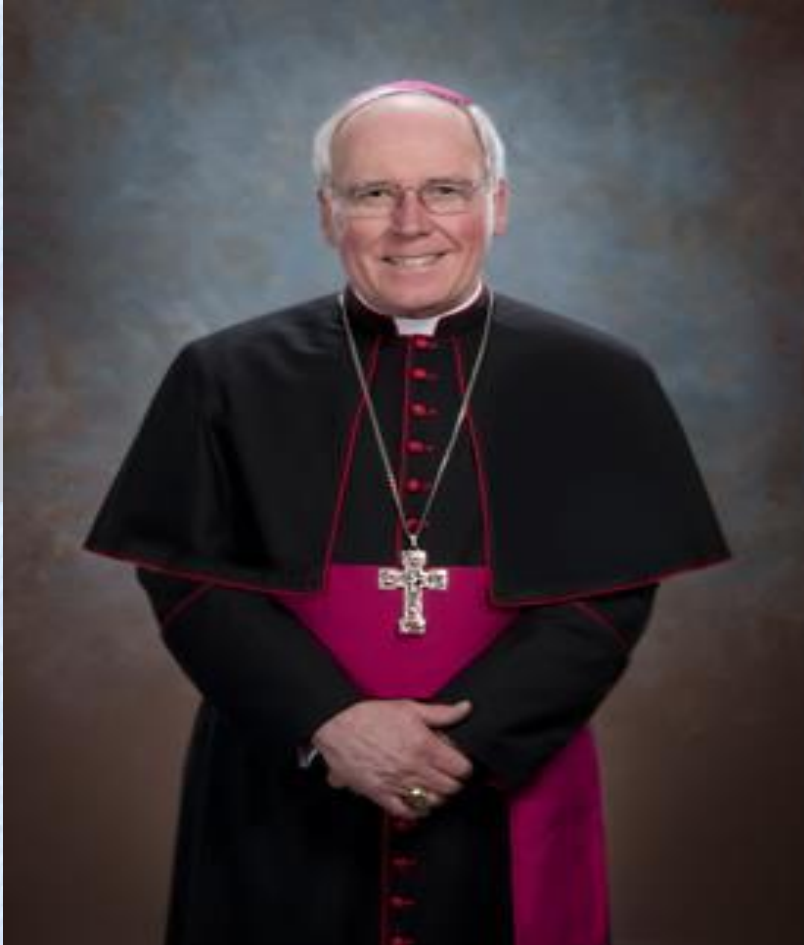
BY DR. LAURI PRZYBYSZ, CATHOLICS FOR FAMILY PEACE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH INITIATIVE

1. How does the teaching of the Catholic Church guide our response to someone experiencing domestic violence?
2. Before reading the Pastoral letter, what had you heard of the Church's teachings on the subject of domestic abuse?
3. Abusers often misuse Scriptures to excuse their behavior. What story from the Scriptures helps you understand what you need to do in response to domestic violence?

For the complete list see

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

# CATHOLIC TEACHING ON DOMESTIC ABUSE



“What lies at the heart of domestic violence? While there are many ways to answer that question, drawing on various fields of study, Pope Francis invites us to go to the roots of the problem. His incisive commentary on what he calls “throwaway culture” is one way of describing the environment in which domestic violence flourishes.”

Most Reverend Richard J. Malone, Bishop of Buffalo  
Chairman Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life  
and Youth



# CHURCH TEACHING: WHEN I CALL FOR HELP

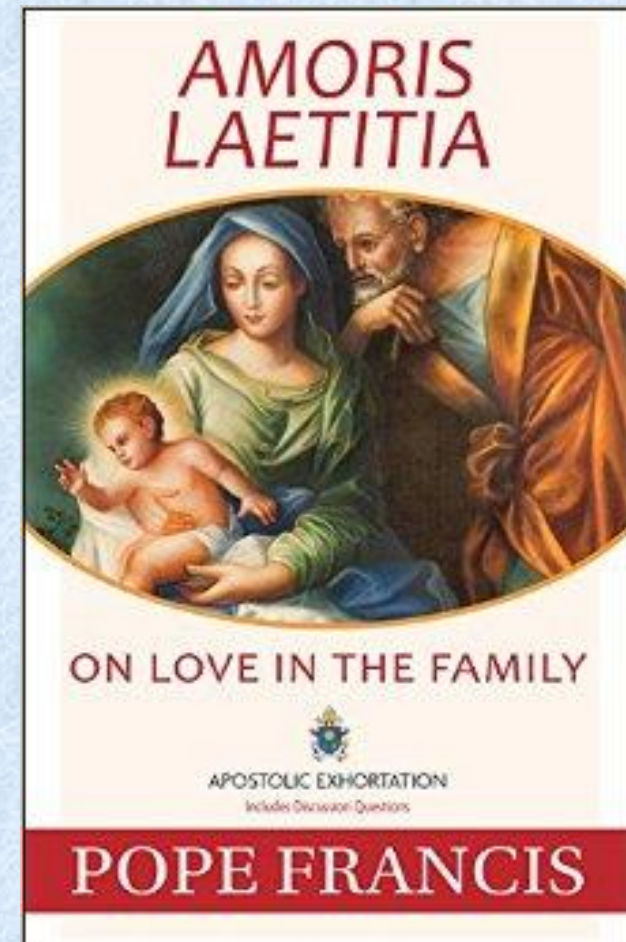
- ✓ CLEAR
- ✓ CONCISE
- ✓ COMPREHENSIVE
- ✓ COMPASSIONATE

# CATHOLIC TEACHING: JOY OF LOVE (2016)

Catholics For Family Peace's Education –  
Symposium Presentations

Domestic abuse and violence in Amoris  
Laetitia & implications for addressing DV in  
sacrament prep and catechesis

[http://www.catholicsforfamilypeace.org/uploads/9/7/5/4/9754767/meola\\_przybysz\\_ppt\\_dv\\_talk.pdf](http://www.catholicsforfamilypeace.org/uploads/9/7/5/4/9754767/meola_przybysz_ppt_dv_talk.pdf)



# CATHOLIC TEACHING: DOMESTIC ABUSE



“It is by loving that the God—who-is-Love is proclaimed to the world: not by the power of convincing, never by imposing the truth, no less by growing fixated on some religious or moral obligation. God is proclaimed through the encounter between persons, with care for their history and their journey.”

Archbishop Blase J. Cupich, Chicago

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YDJN W0uel-8>

# CATHOLIC TEACHING: DV POINTS OF CONCERN

- Morning Offering: “offer sufferings of the day”
- Our Father: Forgiveness (forgive us as we forgive others)
- Command to Forgive (different than reconciliation)
- Honor thy father and mother. How to love an abusive parent.
- Marriage Covenant

# CATHOLIC TEACHING REVIEW: DOMESTIC ABUSE

- ✓ Commandments
- ✓ Marriage Vow
- ✓ Canon Law 1153
- ✓ 1992: USCCB's Pastoral Statement: *When I Call For Help*  
2016: USCCB's Secretariat – Bishop Malone's Blog on AL and DV
- ✓ Pope Francis's *Joy of Love (AL)* – *Synod on the Family*
- ✓ Ordinary's Teaching: Archbishops Wuerl blog, Cupich's homily
- ✓ Tell us more at [info@catholicsforfamilypeace.org](mailto:info@catholicsforfamilypeace.org)

# CATHOLIC RESPONSES: DOMESTIC ABUSE

- Responses: Family and Individuals
- Responses: Catholic Church - Diocesan, Archdiocesan, Parishes
- Responses: Catholic Organizations
- Jot down one Catholic response that you know addresses domestic violence.

# CATHOLIC RESPONSES: DOMESTIC ABUSE

- Family and Individual Responses

Family helped each other – safety, healing, hope

Friends helped each other – safety, healing, hope

People donate to organizations that help others

# CATHOLIC RESPONSES: DOMESTIC ABUSE

## Diocesan, Archdiocesan, Parish Responses (sample)

**Before 1992 - ????**

**1992** - Pastoral Statement: Much clergy training on issue- what has lasted?

1996 – present: Archdiocese of Chicago, Hope Family Services, Domestic Violence Program

2006 – present: Archdiocese of Washington, Clergy Training Program

2009 – present: St. Rita Ministry, Holy Family Church

**2010 – present: Catholics For Family Peace Education and Research Initiative**

2014 – Diocese of Paterson – DV Response Policy

???? – Tell us more at [info@catholicsforfamilypeace.org](mailto:info@catholicsforfamilypeace.org)



# CATHOLIC RESPONSES: DOMESTIC ABUSE

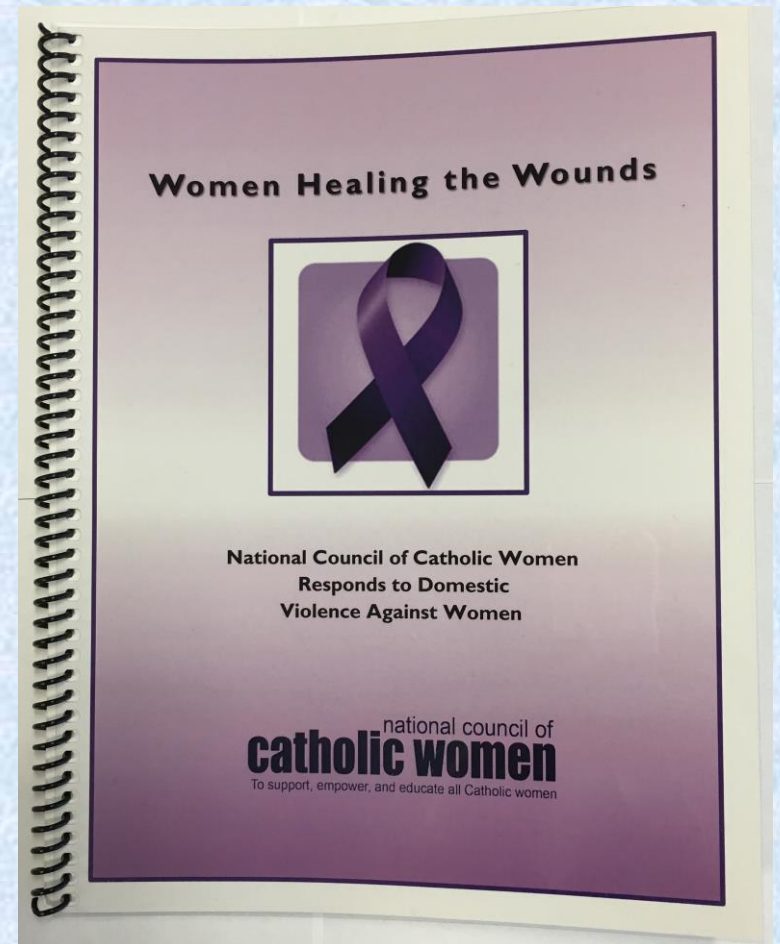
- Responses: Catholic Organizations
  - Catholic Schools
  - Religious Orders
    - Child care, parent education, adult education (ESOL)
  - Local Catholic Charities; Catholic Charities USA
  - St. Vincent de Paul and other national organizations
  - Tell us at [info@catholicsforfamilypeace.org](mailto:info@catholicsforfamilypeace.org)

# CATHOLIC RESPONSE: CATHOLIC ORGANIZATIONS

National Council of Catholic Women

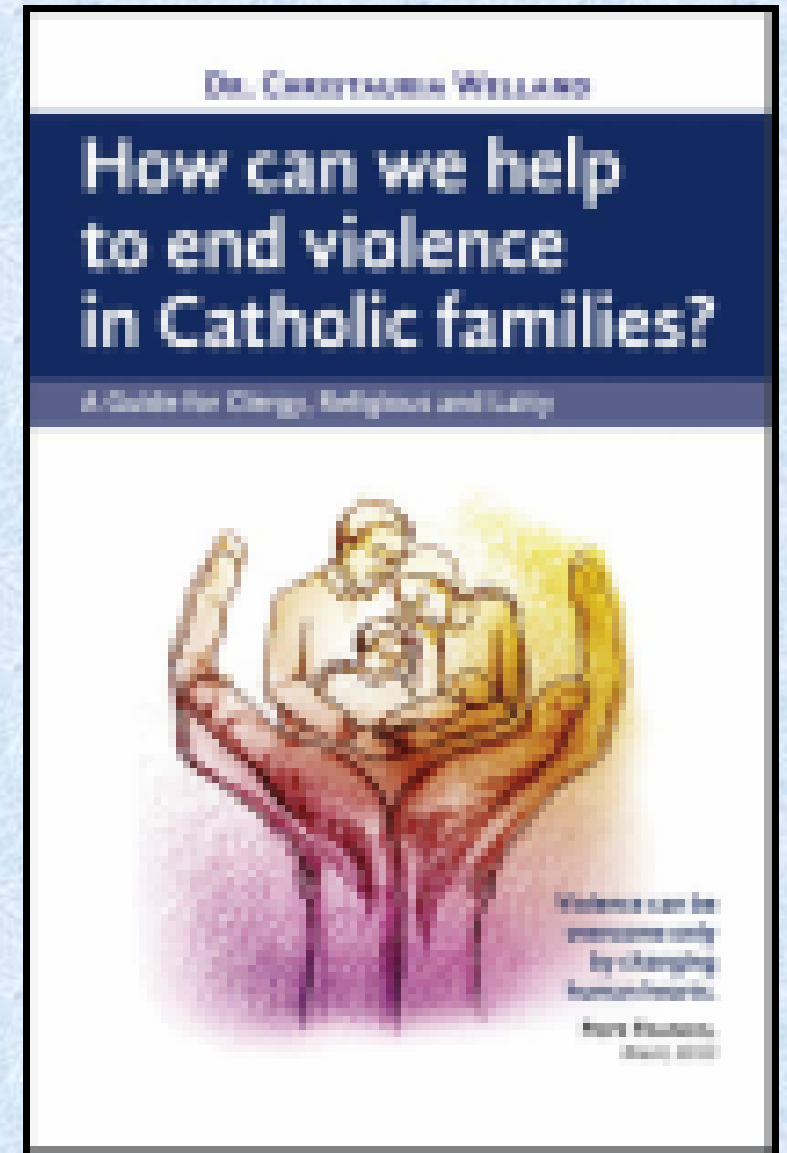
Established by US Bishops in 1920

Addresses domestic abuse



• **How Can We Help to End Violence in Catholic Families: A Guide for Clergy, Religious and Laity**

- 100-page illustrated booklet
- Dr. Christauria Welland, author
- Imprimatur from the Diocese of San Diego, CA, USA
- Available in 6 languages
- Synod attendees
- USCCB Bishops' Gathering November 2016 attendees
- **Free downloadable copies**



# CATHOLIC RESPONSES: DOMESTIC ABUSE

- Catholics Experiencing Domestic Abuse Resources (CEDAR)
- Our aim is to create an environment within the Catholic community in which domestic abuse is understood and recognised as unacceptable and where appropriate parish responses are available.
- [www.cedar.uk.net/](http://www.cedar.uk.net/)



- Promote Prayer
- Provide Clergy & Pastoral Education
- Showcase Local Resources and Programs
- Consult
- Share & Conduct Research

National Catholic School of Social Service, Consortium for Catholic Social Te



Collaborated in planning of first, national Catholic Symposium on domestic abuse.

Held at CUA

July 2016

350 people from 55 dioceses

Presentations at [www.catholicsforfamilypeace.org](http://www.catholicsforfamilypeace.org)



Fruits of Symposium as on  
11/2016

2 national webinars

4 radio interviews

8 clergy training days

10 newspaper articles  
Much more, tell us!

Presentations at [www.catholicsforfamilypeace.org](http://www.catholicsforfamilypeace.org)



1400 viewers

Domestic Violence  
Awareness  
Month Resource Toolkit  
(2016)

Prayers of Faithful

Novena to Holy Spirit

Stories of Saints

Develop Virtues

Day of Prayer





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INVITED TO  
JOIN US IN  
DAILY  
PRAYER**

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QUESTIONS?

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