

Knights of Columbus



Perkiomen Valley Council #3633

<http://www.kofc3633.org/>

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OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



Volume 10

July - August 2009

No. 4

Grand Knight's Message

With one Fraternal Year behind me and one to go, I must first of all send all a note of thanks for the support and hard work done by so many to make this year a success. One of our principal joys was to witness the ordination and first mass of Fr. Jeffrey Rott this May. We are indeed proud that he is a brother Knight and know he will be a fantastic priest.

I will be summarizing separately in this newsletter some of the things I promised so this note will be shorter. Look for a summary of what we were able to achieve of the goals set forth last year. I will also be providing a summary of our membership demographics as well as membership status. I think these are both best handled as stand-alone articles rather than part of this message. Lastly, we are providing a summary of the survey sent out last year. Although it may seem to those who took the time to answer the questions that it has lain dormant, this is not the case as we have been trying to address the main issues through both the goals set forth and the programs we have begun.

Summer is upon us, school is out and vacations planned. It is my sincerest prayer that all have a wonderful and relaxing summer. Fill it with family activities as that is a blessing from our Creator and one we need to foster with great diligence. Our picnic is scheduled for August 16 at the Kirby Farm and everyone who attended in the past knows this is a very special day. Say a prayer for good weather. We have been fortunate in the past (except for the one year we returned to the grove at the Schwenksville Fair grounds) and want to keep the record going!

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Fr Jeffrey Rott- Mass at St Eleanor May 31, 2009



COUNCIL CALENDAR

GRAND KNIGHT:

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EDITOR:

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FINANCIAL SECRETARY

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(610) 489-7812
pennead@verizon.net

Please check the Council Web Site for up-to-date information www.kofc3633.org

<i>Business Meetings**</i>	<i>Officers meetings</i>	<i>Other Events</i>
Sunday- July 14th at 7:00 PM	Wednesday- July 22nd at 7:00 PM	Friday, August 7 th : Council Golf Outing
Sunday- August 12th at 7:00 PM	Wednesday- August 26th at 7:00 PM	Sunday August 16- 2 PM Council Picnic- Kirby Farm

**All meetings will now officially begin at 7:00 PM. Business meetings will be preceded by the rosary beginning at 6:30 PM for those who wish to attend

Grand Knight's Message continued:

Your officers are busy planning for the coming year activities and we look forward to continued growth of our Council and success in the programs we initiate. Just briefly, recall that the Golf Outing was rained-out and is rescheduled for August 7. The Memorial Mass and Communion Breakfast will be at St. Eleanor's on October 18 and plans are in the works and will be detailed in the next newsletter. Our Degree Team is up and running and we look forward to increased membership so we can keep them busy in the fall.

God bless you all for your service. Never forget: Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism are our corner posts.

GK Joe Bondi



Membership:

Congratulations to our newest Sir Knights, Michael Duvinski, Scott Shirley and Giuseppe Scillia who made their Fourth Degree on May 24.

Welcome New Members

Congratulations to our newest First Degree Knights who took their first degree at the Council's first Exemplification on May 17: Robert Buda, James Burns Jr., James Crawford, Michael Melroy, Bill Yacovelli. Welcome and we look forward to working with you.

50/50 Winner:

We had another 50/50 Winner! Lou Gentner won the Prize after the May General Meeting and took home \$54.50. Congratulations Lou.

Officers:

Although we elect officers for a two year period, it is necessary to confirm the service of each officer for the second year. On June 14, all officers agreed to continue to serve your Council. The slate is: GK Joe Bondi, DGK Dave Gullick, Chancellor Dick Heath, Warden Matt McCloskey, Advocate John Catanzaro, Recorder Bob Donaghy, Inside Guard Joe Stephey, Outside Guard Rich Keckley, Treasurer Ed Kaeser, Trustees- Reggie Hill, Tom Kinney and Pat Cahill. The Home Association Officers will be: President Ed Kaeser, VP Reggie Hill, Treasurer Rich Keckley and Recorder Bob Donaghy. Thank you for your service. Nominations for the next term will take place in March 2010.

Council Website:

Please take a look at the "Members Only" section (tab is located right above the feature picture on the home page. One needs to click on that and hit the Register button. Please have your membership card available as you will be asked for your member number, name, email address and create a password. Once you create the password and repeat typing it, hit the 'Register' button to complete the process. You will now be able to view the membership list, meeting minutes and more.

Field Agent's Message:

William G. Bush y, Sr. FICF, CSA
 P.O. Box 81 Frederick, PA. 19435
 610-754-0888
bbkofc@dejazzd.com
 Insurance calculator
<http://www.kofc.org/un/insurance/index.cfm>

Don't crack the nest egg

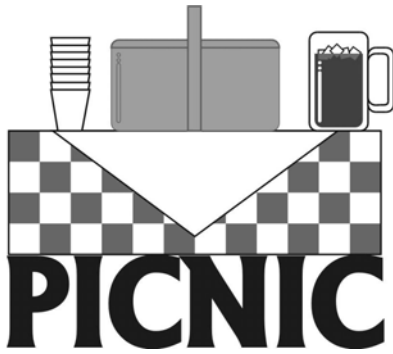
Are you busy building your retirement fund? Consider factors that could crack your nest egg wide open- perhaps even before you reach retirement age. One of the most costly: an extended stay in a nursing home. According to a 2006 Met Life survey, the national daily average rate for a semi-private room is \$183. Annually, that's a whopping \$67,795. Many people assume Medicare covers nursing home stays. It does, but only for the first 100 days in which you would require skilled care (among other limitations). Medicaid does offer assistance, but only to people of lower incomes, with coverage amounts varying by states. Long-term care insurance can pay for daily assistance. Long-term care insurance can help you offset the potentially staggering costs of nursing home stays. It can pay for a variety of services that you may need if you can't take care of yourself. This includes dressing, eating, bathing, and more. Medicare will not pay if you "plateau," or show no improvement. Nor if you require "custodial care." People may need this level of care at any age, due to a chronic disease, a long-term disability from an accident, or other reasons. Cost savings are a strong reason to consider long-term care at an early age. "Premiums are based upon age," says Knights of Columbus' Long-Term Care Specialist Paul Ochs. "A long-term care plan will never be cheaper for you than right now." It's never too early to start considering how to protect your nest egg from cracking under the costs of long-term care. Let's talk about the right types of long-term care insurance for your financial situation.

Fraternally, *Bill Bush y*

***COUNCIL NEWS***

**8th Annual
 Council Golf Outing
 Friday August 7th**

Rain, rain, go away. Come again another day! Due to the monsoon season in our area, it was necessary to reschedule our outing to Friday, August 7th. Same time, same place, same terrific event. This is the Council's primary fundraiser and so it's in everyone's interest for us to be successful. We still have room for golfers, but respond now. We are also in need of donated items to put in our auction. Contact PGK Bill Kirby at (610) 754-9151 or Don Barbuto at (610) 983-3262.



Council Family Picnic
August 16th 2PM
@ Kirby Farm

Council Picnic:

Set aside Sunday August 16th for our Council's annual Family Picnic to be held again at the Kirby Farm. This is a chance to get to know the Knights, their families, and our clergy in a comfortable social setting. Swim, check out the Alpacas, play horseshoes and just relax. There will be plenty of good food and drink for everyone and a tent to protect us from the afternoon sun. The cost is a nominal -\$5 per family plus a contribution to the array of food in the form of your favorite picnic dish. **Call Saunie at 610-754-6927** and let her know what you plan to bring so that we can coordinate the food. Some suggested items include: Macaroni Salad, Potato Salad, Pasta Dish (any variety), Baked Beans, Veggie tray and dip, Veggie salad, Coleslaw, Deviled eggs / pickled eggs, Salsa dip and tortilla chips, Fruit tray, Fruit bowl (a second fruit tray is okay), Cookies, Cupcakes, Dessert of any kind, Watermelon / cantaloupe, or Your Specialty. **THE KIRBY'S WILL PROVIDE:** Hot dogs (with and without sauerkraut) – hamburgers – chicken for those who don't eat red meat – Rolls - Sliced tomatoes/lettuce/onions – Potato Chips – Pretzels - Condiments – Soda/lemonade/iced tea – Wine – Beer

Kirby's Farm is at 3310 Neiffer Road. Call Saunie or Bill for directions at 610-754-6927

Graduation Award Winners

Our Council Awarded Certificates and a \$50.00 Prize to two Students at each of our Parish Schools. The prizes awarded were for Most Improved Athlete, and Fr. O'Neill Award, (for scholastic achievement).

The winners are:

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Most Improved Athlete</u>	<u>Fr. O'Neill Award</u>
St. Eleanor-	Erin Dierkes	Kirsti Sauermann
St. Mary -	Michael Haley	Haley Vernon
Bl. Teresa -	Jeffrey Chernesky	Joshua Bildstein

Altar Server Awards:

Our Council Awarded 38 graduating students, who served as Altar Servers, Certificates of Appreciation for their service to their parishes. The Certificates were awarded as follows: St. Eleanor - 21, St. Mary - 15, and Bl. Teresa - 2.

New Priest Assignments:

We want to give a fond Farewell to a friend to this Council, Msgr. Galyo, and to Father Garcia. We wish them well and thank them for their service to St. Eleanor's. We also welcome to St. Eleanor's newly ordained Father Jonathan Dalin and Msg. Foley.

St. Eleanor Funnel Cake Booth-

Thanks to all who helped with the staffing of the funnel cake booth at St Eleanor Community Faire June 10-12. This was a great opportunity for fraternalism and gave many of our newest Knights a chance to interact and get to know other brother Knights. Unfortunately several learned the hard way that oil at 375°F and skin are not very compatible.

Blessed Teresa Summer Festival:

Our fame has spread with regard to funnel cake expertise due to the many years at the Schwenksville Carnival and now at the St. Eleanor Faire. As a result, SK Charles George requested that we help man a funnel cake booth at the first BTC Summer Festival which will be August 20-22. St. Eleanor will donate the use of the fryers as well as funnel cake batter, oil and sugar. We need to provide manpower. I would hope the Knights from BTC will come out in force and we should be able to complete the staffing with other 'qualified' funnel cake chefs. Please call Joe Bondi (610 489-6394) or Charlie George (610 495-8889) if you can give us a few hours any of the nights. Festival will run from 6PM to 11 PM each night.

First Degree Team:

Only with the very hard work of the Team Leader, SK Dan Keefe and the other members, SK Don Barbuto, SK Joe Stephey, SK Scott Shirley, SK Bill Bushey, SK Jay Amore and Rich Keckley were we able to conduct a First Degree Exemplification on May 17th. This is no small task and they are to be congratulated for their very hard work and diligence to accomplish this. To the best of our knowledge and what we can glean from the records, this is the first time in about 25 years that Perkiomen Valley Council has had an active degree team.

Clothing:

With the help of A' la carte Designs (Brother Knight Tom Lukens and wife Carm), we are offering a variety of clothing with the Knights logo and Perkiomen Council 3633 at cost. We have a number of items including golf shirts, windbreakers and hats on display at the Council Home. These can either be purchased on site if your size is available or ordered from Tom. Take a look and wear the logo with pride. Who knows, someone may just ask you what the Knights are about and ask to sign up!

Blood Drives:

Congratulations to PGK Bill Kirby who received an award on June 25 from the American Red Cross for his efforts over the past several years to coordinate the blood drive at St. Mary's. He has made a difference. Way to go Bill.

Thanks to the following Brother Knights who helped make the blood drive at St. Eleanor on June 25 & 25 a success. Final count was 77 pints donated. The person who had coordinated the drive for the past several years, Larry DiPiano of St. Eleanor, asked for help. The parish Stewardship Coordinator suggested the Knights. Your GK was contacted and we agreed to help make the phone calls for this year's drive. Publicity was still handled by the previous coordinator. Due to the late entry, none of the publicity indicated the Knights were involved. However, thanks to the efforts of PGK Ed Kaeser, SK Ed Hinson, Ben Boldin, Chuck Kane, SK Bob Sciubba, SK Dick Heath, SK Joe Stephey, Louis Gentner, Bob Buda, Jim Crawford, Mike Melroy and Jim Burns, Jr. the two hundred person list was contacted and over 100 individuals signed on. We have been asked to coordinate the drive again in October. Thanks to all who made those late night phone calls and managed the scheduling on the Red Cross Web Site.

PGK Sam Augustine coordinated the blood drive at BTC earlier in the month and it appears that our Council is now fully immersed in this new work of charity.

Membership Survey Results:

As a result of our mail and e-mail survey conducted over the last portion of the fraternal year, here is a cross-section of responses from our brother Knights regarding their interests in the functioning of our Council. The following bulleted items should reflect your thoughts/feelings; pros and cons as to what we're doing well or where we could strive to improve.

- Increase spiritual/parish-oriented activities
- Diversify Council activities (i.e.: Increase family and community activities)
- Maintain and/or increase Pro-life involvement
- Inconvenient meeting location, day of week and time
- Stagnation of ideas/philosophies toward activities and charitable endeavors
- Conflicts encountered surrounding meeting attendance and activity participation (i.e.: family obligations, employment, health reasons and personal/priority issues)

Upon reviewing this valuable input, we have taken this to heart and have taken steps to think and choose "outside" our box and come up with some fresh ideas, different philosophies and more diversified activities/fund raisers.

We have added the Rosary to the beginning of our Council meetings (beginning at 6:30 PM every 2nd Sunday of the month). We now have taken on crab cake sales at selected times during the year in order to fund new undertakings. We've created a "Charitable Giving" committee to review various requests for consideration. The Perkiomen Valley Council now, or should I say again, is home to a First Degree Team (after a more than 25 year absence).

Additionally, we've been successful in membership recruitment; adding new brothers who are committed to furthering the principles of our founder, Fr. McGivney. Our hope is to continue to expand with this "renaissance" in broadening the horizons of our Council as we enter into the next fraternal year.

Our further hope is that all Brother Knights will join with each other to work together to make our Council stronger and more prolific than we could ever hope to imagine. Come share in the journey! Respectfully, **SK Joe Stephey, Membership Chairman**

Report on Council Demographics

Officially, as of this writing we have 175 members. During the fraternal year of 2008-2009, we initiated 8 new members and three advanced to the 4th degree. We also removed 10 from our membership who chose no longer to be part of the Knights. We regret this and accordingly are doing more prior to the First Degree to instruct candidates as to their responsibilities should they become a Knight as well as our responsibility to them.

To keep it simple, here is an arbitrary breakdown our membership:

	St. Eleanor	St Mary	Blessed Teresa	Other Parishes	Unknown Parish	Total
Total Members	83	39	17	9	27	175
Inactive Status (insurance only)	2	0	1	0	5	8 (4.5%)
First Degree only	10	6	6	0	8	30 (17%)
4 th Degree	24	14	1	4	7	50 (29%)
Age (under 30)	1	1	1	-	1	4 (2%)
Age (31-50)	30	12	10	5	11	68 (39%)
Age (51-70)	32	20	5	3	8	68 (39%)
Age (> 70)	16	6	-	1	15	37 (21%)
Years of Service (<15)	60	21	12	3	15	122 (70%)
Years of Service (>16 <25)	5	9	3	4	7	28 (16%)
Years of Service (>26 <40)	7	3	1	1	4	16 (9%)
Years of Service (>41)	7	5	-	1	9	22 (13%)
Out of State	-	-	-	-	7	7 (4%)

So what do these numbers tell us? First of all, with 17% never going beyond the first degree (5 of those have only recently taken their first degree), it suggests that a large percentage of those on our membership role show a limited interest in becoming a Knight as defined by the order, i.e. reaching the 3rd degree within a year of joining. On the other hand, we have over 29% who have received the honors of the 4th degree and that is quite commendable. Secondly, these numbers show that we are a relatively young council in terms of years of service with over 70% serving less than 15 years. The food for thought here is: how do we recruit younger men who will vitalize and sustain the Council and the Order? The challenge is not just for the officers, it is for all members who are passionate about the role the Knights has to play in our personal lives, the lives of our families and the Church. Think about this and ask a friend to consider joining. Contact the GK or SK Joe Stephey (610 489 1341), our membership chairman, for more information. Remember also that it is not how long one is a Knight, it is what he has accomplished as a Knight and what his contribution to the Council become his legacy. GK.

GOALS:

How did we do reaching goals set last year? Without a complete reiteration of each point by point, let me take each of the main topics and list what we have been able to achieve. Note however, your comments, criticisms and suggestions for further improvement are always welcome and please do not hesitate to send them to me at joseph.bondi@verizon.net.

Communications: The web site is fully functional and we have three spaces where information is constantly being updated (Upcoming Meetings, Council News and Upcoming Events). No excuse for anyone with a computer to say they do not know what is going on. A regular weekly spot now appears in St. Eleanor, St. Mary and Blessed Teresa Sunday Bulletins devoted to our Council. This is kept current and members at each of those three parishes should be aware of what is happening in their parishes. We have not accomplished a method to reach members not computer savvy and still need to do more in that regard.

Church: We have reactivated the quarterly Communion breakfasts with the pastors and had successful and fun get togethers with Fr. Sweeney, Fr. Brandt and Fr. McElroy. A representative priest or pastor has come to the Council to do the opening prayer and address the membership during this past year. We look forward to making this happen again as we move into this coming fraternal year. In addition, we have held prayer services at both St. Eleanor and St. Mary's and a special mass was celebrated for the Knights by Fr. Brandt prior to our breakfast with him. We participated in the first public mass for our newly ordained brother Knight Fr. Jeffery Rott and presented him with a traveling mass kit. We continue to be active with the Rose for Life and assist with the Respect Life Mother's Day flower sale, the distribution of voters guides and provided booklets to the RCIA class at St. Eleanor.

Membership: A lot of effort has been devoted to this committee and many individuals are responsible for successes we can list. We formed a three tiered membership committee to address Retention of members, design information and presentation materials to use for recruiting purposes and an active Admissions Committee responsible for contacting potential new members to better explain the Order, what the Order expects from each new Knight and what he should expect in turn from the Council. A membership drives were conducted at each parish and over thirty new names were received as potential candidates. Of these, eight were inducted into the

order and others discerning their level of interest. Thanks to our new First Degree Team, we conducted a First Degree Exemplification on April 19 at our Council and now have the ability to bring new members into the order without waiting for a degree to open. Three brother Knights received the honors of the Fourth Degree. We still require a group to contact members who are not active and just let them know they are not forgotten---can you help?

Fraternalism: We held a dinner for Knights and spouses before Christmas and another dinner in May. The family picnic is coming up August 16 and the Communion breakfast/Memorial Mass at St Eleanor's on October 18. We are still hoping to have another Christmas dinner affair.

Regrets: What we still need to do is establish some further activities for fathers and sons/daughters. There has been talk about this but no one has come forward to help organize this type of event. We have considered a bowling event, night at the Reading Phillies or some other creative fun night. These would all be great to do but require someone to help spearhead this. Don't curse the darkness for things we are not accomplishing but come forward to make them happen! GK.

The Stoning of Soraya M. **Reprint of Archbishop Charles Chaput**

'The Stoning': truth, drama and a film that really matters

Many Catholics will remember Steve McEveety for his work as producer on "The Passion of the Christ." Married, the father of four and serious about his Catholic faith, McEveety has a 30-year film career that began as a child actor and matured to include "Payback," "Immortal Beloved" and "Braveheart" as executive producer, and "We Were Soldiers" and other major Hollywood titles as producer.

He also co-founded Mpower Pictures, which in 2007 released the extraordinary portrait of a young man's conversion, "Bella." This year, McEveety and his Mpower colleagues bring "The Stoning of Soraya M." (thestoning.com) to limited screens across the country on June 26. Don't let the summer go by without somehow seeing this film. Superbly written, directed and photographed, with compelling lead performances by two astonishing actresses, "The Stoning" is the most moving screen story I've seen in years. Once you've watched it, you'll never forget it.

Based on real events, the movie is adapted from the book of the same name by the French-Iranian journalist Freidoune Sahebjam. In the aftermath of the Iranian revolution, a husband grows tired of his young wife, who has borne him two sons and two daughters. Under Islamic law, a man may have up to four wives—but he's also obligated to care and provide for each of them properly. Interested in a potential child bride and unable to afford the added expense of a second wife, the husband maneuvers his wife into tending house for a recent widower. Then he falsely accuses her of infidelity, after blackmailing other male village elders, including the mullah—the town's religious leader—into colluding in his lie.

The rest of "The Stoning" needs to be experienced to be fully understood. But it leaves an impact that will stay with viewers for days. An aunt of the wronged young wife recounts her niece's story to a passing journalist—Sahebjam (played by Jim Caveziel)—who smuggles it out of Iran and eventually publishes it. To this day, the Teheran regime denies that events like those reported by Sahebjam have ever happened. But multiple sources have confirmed that violence against women continues not only in Iran but in many countries around the world.

While "The Stoning" implicitly shows the deep differences between Christianity and Islam regarding the role of women, the film is not a critique of Islam. Quite the opposite: What happens to Soraya is an abuse of Islamic law fueled by revolutionary extremism, personal corruption and rural tradition. The film is clearly not for children; nor is the brutally graphic sequence of public "justice" near the story's end for the faint of heart. But as a work of truth and drama, "The Stoning" is simply an extraordinary piece of storytelling and motion picture craft.

During the years I served on the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, I came to see in a new and vivid way how unusual our nation really is. For all its flaws, the United States has a respect for religious freedom, equality under the law and the dignity of the individual that very few other societies can rival. We need to take pride in those qualities. We need to remember the moral and religious roots from which they come. We also need to protect those qualities and advance them without apology in our dialogue with other cultures.

"The Stoning of Soraya M." succeeds above all because it is a moving drama of abused innocence and eventual vindication. But it also reminds us of the soul-destroying power of a lie; how tempting and easy it can be to victimize the weak; how precious the truth is; and how vigilant over our own hearts each of us needs to remain if we want to be human—even when we claim to believe in God.

Parish News

St. Eleanor: (Parish Rep. Charles Saueremelch):

See above re: funnel cake and blood drives

St. Mary: (Parish Rep. PGK Matt McCloskey):

We conducted a blood drive at St. Mary's on Tuesday June 16 which resulted in 55 productive pints. I would have liked to have seen more but the Red Cross deemed it a success.

Blessed Teresa of Calcutta: (Parish Representative- PGK Sam Augustine): Blessed Teresa is having their annual golf outing on Aug. 18th. The event will be held at Linfield National. The cost is \$350 for a foursome or \$95 for an individual golfer. Shotgun start at 1:00 with dinner following. Call Sam at (267) 228-0917 if interested. BTC is also having their annual festival from Thursday Aug. 20th to Sat the 22nd.



July Birthdays:

John Antosh, PGK Ed Brennan, Joe Buckley, George Finnin, Terry Green, Joe Heayn, Joe LaSorda, Bob O'Donnell, Bob Paolucci, Manuel Pena, Mark Rodrigue, Chuck Saueremelch, Scott Tighe, David Weatherbee, William Yacovelli

August Birthdays:

Ed Clinton, Brian Dean, Dave Derfler, Henry DiPietro, Patrick Donaghy, Dick Heath, Jim Himsforth, John Kelemen, Michael Melroy, Dan Mitchell, Ed Motzer, Steve Raisner, Charles Touey, Frank Weiss

July & August K of C Anniversaries:

Matt McCloskey – 15 years

George Finnin – 50 years

Thank you for your service, Gentlemen!

*Anniversaries are recognized on the 5-year multiples.

Prayer Needs

Seminarians & Clergy: PGK Brother Charlie Schreiner

Deceased: Mary Schmidt, John Franks Sr.

Sick: Father Sweeney, Msgr. Foley, Lorraine DeMedio, Marla Pennypacker, Mean Massa, Matt Kirby, Josefa (Clinton) Smith, Nick Buffardi, Anna Heller, Barbara Tulio, Mike Melroy, Pete Kaeser, Tonya Kaeser, Ed Pires, Fr. Sweeney, Deacon Jim Burns, Richard C. Melroy, Don Kaeser, Peg Mason, Ed Clinton, Marsh Capaldi, Bill Martin, Barbara Hirtz, Mary Anne Petitto

Special Needs: Pope Benedict XVI, Peace in the World, Our Elected Officials, Our Pastors, Priests and Parochial Vicars, the Hungry and Homeless, those suffering depression

**K of C Perkiomen Council #3633
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