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HOPE

N e w s l e t t e r

REDISCOVERING BROTHERHOOD

The Holy Father's Call

WALKING TOGETHER

Feasts, Retreats and Journeys

HOLDING HIS HAND

Fathers in Our Hearts

CLOSE TO US

Reflections and Anecdotes

Cover by **COOL Youth**

Design by **Vanessa Newn**

Father, Abba, Apai, Apa, Bapak, 爸爸, Papa, Dad, Daddy...

Life can be a scary journey in the dark, without a hand to hold on to. Often in the unknown, we are ruled by fear and doubt rather than faith and trust.

Yet we are called to be childlike, to be God's children. He offers Himself as our Father, yours and mine through our path in life. He gives Himself as the steady rock for us to rely on, the fire in the burning bush and the pillar of flame to guide us, the gentle breeze to calm and refresh us. He extends His hand for us to grasp and to walk on the journey to Heaven with Him.

Similarly, we are called to be fathers to others in our care. Children in our families, people who look to us for leadership in the community or at work, and even self leadership, doing and sacrificing what we can for the higher good.

This June, we see the Father's heart working within our lives. We witness this through the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ, Father's Day Activities in Sunday School and anecdotes shared by our parishioners. We also experience His closeness in walking with us through the Regional Liturgy Commission Meeting, Confirmation Retreats and through Pope Francis, calling us to be brothers and sisters, serving each other selflessly in His Fatherhood. We know this because of our faith in His Fatherly Love.

"Don't be afraid, for **I am with you**. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand" (Isaiah 41:10 NLT)

The question is, do we follow Him gladly or do we shut ourselves behind walls? Do we choose to trust or give in to fear and rebellion? Do we hold fast or let go?

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"God? Are you there?"

"Yes, I'm right here."

"God, I feel lonely."

"You might feel lonely, but you're not alone."

"God, you won't leave me right?"

"Sweetheart, I've already told you, and put it in writing in my Word just to assure you. I will never leave you nor forsake you."

How often do we just need God's assurance, as our Good Father, that He is there, and that we are not alone?

Dr Michelle Bengtson



Message of the Holy Father Francis for the

World Meeting of Human Fraternity

The Vatican
10 June 2023



An author placed the following words on the lips of Francis of Assisi: “**The Lord is where his brothers are**” (E. Leclerc, *La Sapienza di un povero*). Indeed, the heavens above invite us to walk together, to rediscover each other as brothers and sisters and to believe in fraternity as the foundation of our pilgrimage.

To believe that the other is our brother or sister and to greet him or her as such is not meaningless. It is the most concrete thing each of us can do. Indeed, it means freeing myself from the poverty of believing that I am the only child in the world.

It means, at the same time, choosing to overcome the *mindset of*

partners or associates, who stay together only for the sake of personal advantage. It also means knowing how to go beyond the limits of blood or ethnic ties, which only recognise similarities and reject differences.

Here, I think of the parable of the Samaritan (cf. *Lk 10:25-37*), who stops with compassion before the Jewish man in need of help. Their cultures were at odds, their histories different, their regions hostile to each other; but for that man, the person in the street and his needs came first.

When people and societies choose fraternity, policies also change: The person once again takes precedence over profit and the home we all

inhabit over the environment to be exploited for one’s own interests. A just wage is paid for work, welcome becomes wealth, life becomes hope, justice opens up to reparation, and the memory of evil done is healed in the encounter between victims and perpetrators.

#NotAlone

WALKING TOGETHER



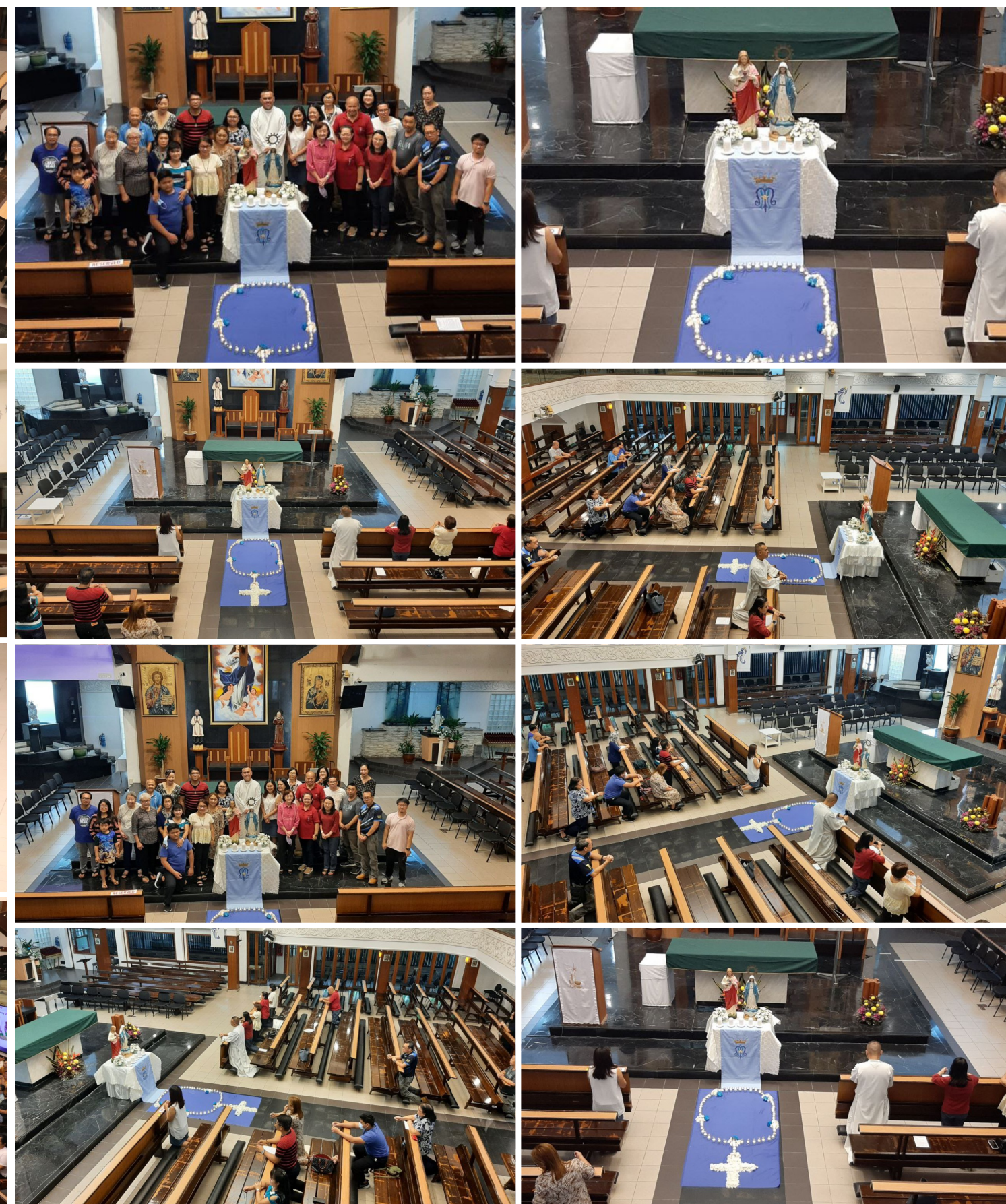
Episcopal Regional Liturgical Commission Meeting in Kuching
22-25 May 2023

Corpus Christi COOL
11 June 2023

WALKING TOGETHER



Fr Carlo's Talk COLA
8-9 June 2023



Annual Global Rosary Relay for Priest COLA
16 June 2023

Father's Day Letters from Sunday School

Dear Dad,
I love you when we spent our time together at home and playing games even tho you have many work to do at your job but I'm still loving you
You (dad) always buy me something that I love or not but I'm appreciated with your gift and (I don't want you to drunk again because I hated it!) Saranghae

Hope you are also ready to be fried chicken. My best memory is mami. My worst memory I forgot!!

~~Father's day~~
I love my father so much he buys me everything I want He give his heart to me. Thank you for taking care of me He makes my dream come true. You make me sad when you don't care about me. You hurt me when you care about something. Thank you!!

I call my father 爸爸.
my best memory of my father is when he gave me a remote control car for my birthday.
I was most disappointed in my father is when he broke my favourite chair.

Dear daddy, I always love you and always believe in you. When you got home from work. I was so happy and sometimes I miss you. When you away I always crying about you. So... I bless you to be healthy and always love your family and daughter. When you always angry me. But I still love you in my heart. When I was 8 years old and you me toys and a nintendo switch. I love you daddy.

1. Papa
2. ~~Everyday~~ When he I feel his love everyday
3. When he promised to watch movie with us but he didn't.

When he invited me to go fishing with him.
When I wanted to sleep downstairs with my dad he didn't want to.

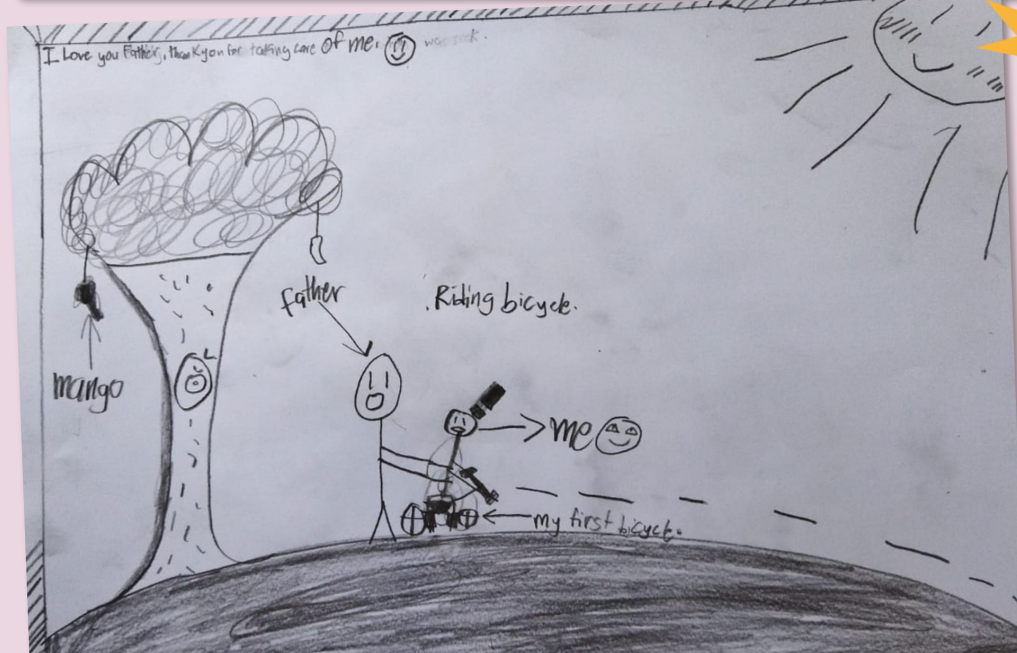
Hey Dad!
I can't think of that time I felt your love, cause it feels like everyday your love touches mine.

Hello Papa,
My best memory: My Father give me a small income to spend it on anything at the Imperial Mall at Miri.

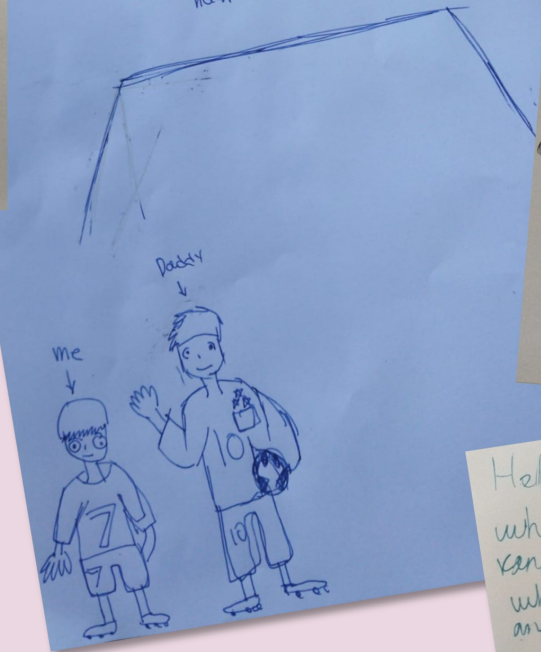
Happy Father Day
I call my dad is daddy.
My best memory with my daddy is having fun and buy for me anything. I love my daddy because he always take care of me until big.

Daddy aku lagi ingat masa d mli' ke aku baje bole. nyc hari itu ingat.. Tapi masa kila' mli' ba kedai aku enda sendjer netapeun ke utai empa daku ngnu aku hari aku pats engga sedih...

It's true that you scolded me sometimes. While I too get sad, I understand why you and mom scold me. Kids need to be disciplined, and so, the only way to discipline me and my two siblings is definitely scold. Your reasoning is valid, and I'm okay with your opinion.



1/ I call my father dad
2/ when he was buying me anime stuff
when I was win in my running contest
3/ when he go to miri without me, when he mad at me...



Hello dad my favorite memory which you is when you play me some random sunny song. hey I still remember when the shutease landed in the chair and you got mad at me lol

Love ya Dad

HOLDING HIS HAND



Sunday School Monthly Activities COOL

18 June 2023

HOLDING HIS HAND



Sunday School Monthly activities COOL

18 June 2023



The London Oratory / Immaculate Heart

20 May 2023



Source: <https://www.londonoratoryschola.com/>

As I was returning from work to my accommodations near South Kensington, I saw a London Oratory poster at the Underground Tube Station. Curiously checking out their website, I was surprised to find that this beautiful Catholic Church was just minutes away on foot, and there would be an Anticipated Mass on that Saturday!

The London Oratory is also called the Church of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, so I immediately felt the connection to our home parish. Apart from the awe-inspiring architecture (I took some photos!), the other two most memorable experiences for me however, were attending for the first time, the extraordinary form of the Mass (ad orientem) and listening to the heavenly service hymns sung by the

renowned London Oratory's Schola Cantorum choir!

Needless to say during the Holy Mass, I was transported by the angelic voices of the choir. Later I found out that the members were from the Oratory's Catholic school students, and I was more pleased to note the catholicity of races in the team. This world-famous choir has produced albums, toured the US and worked on movie soundtracks, the most well known of which was *The Lord of the Rings*. Here is their introductory video <https://youtu.be/mSUveWIVrpw>

Praise the Lord for this amazing hour of the Father's heavenly home, even faraway.

AH

As parishioners we had chances of entertaining and interacting with priests and sometimes things could be hilarious!

I recall how Rev. Fr. Peter Merring and late Fr. Anthony Wan, who came all the way from Miri, wanted to follow in the church van to COLA to attend our old friend, the late Michael Newn's funeral.

There were Fr. Peter Merring, late Fr. Anthony Wan, late John De Cruz, Joan Hiew, Peter P. the youth, and myself inside the transit van.

Now, where was the driver who was supposed to be there?

We suddenly realised there was no driver provided! So Fr. Wan offered to drive us there as he was very familiar with the Brunei roads.

At Sg. Liang there was a spot check point and Fr. Wan preferred someone to take over for a while. To our horror, we found that no one brought his/her Brunei driving license except me!

Me driving this van? Are you kidding, i never touched a van before!

The consensus of all was - who else would do it except you?! Ok, majority won!!

When i climbed up to the driver seat in my kebaya (Sisters you know how hard it was in a fitting attire. How would i know this was to happen!!), i found i couldn't move the gear at all!

So Peter the youth got beside me and gallantly helped to push the gears while i sweated nervously fiddling the driving wheel beside him!

All at the back heaved a sigh of relief when the van finally moved a few feet forward!

It crawled like a snail and the priests cheered me on: accelerate, don't be afraid!

I did and Fr. Peter started singing: Nearer My God to Thee!

I burst into laughter! Was my driving so scary!

Then we came to a slope and the gears did not cooperate with Peter for they were very tough and we could hardly get the van to climb uphill and Fr. Peter

changed his song to: Lord i'm coming Home!

I was too frightened to laugh any more but concentrated on the snail pace driving...

My oh my, i knew Fr. Peter was very humorous from the Homilies i heard but nothing as witty and as hilarious as this!

Then the two traffic police came into view as the van slid downhill and Fr. Peter stopped singing and became sober.

I had no idea how to roll down the window of the van and moved the wipers instead!

When finally Peter and i did find the right button the police were grinning at me, face to face, while i apologised hectically to them!

They did not even bother to check my driving licence but just waved me on with a big smile on their faces!

Fr. Peter took over as soon as they were out of sight!

He said: glad i am driving now! The whole van roared into laughter at these words!

Sorry Bro. Michael, we should be solemn and sad at your passing but am sure you would laugh at this unforeseen incident too if you saw it from where you were!

We thanked God for bringing us safely to COLA to pay our last respects to you!

At your 19th anniversary of passing on to the realm of God, we remember you, rest in peace dear Brother

— Adeline Ong

作為堂區教友，我們常有機會與神父們參於娛樂和互動，有時事情會變得很好笑！

我記得我們尊敬的彼得梅林神父和已故的安東尼王神父。他們從美里遠道而來的想搭教堂的麵包車去 COLA 參加我們的老朋友，已故的 Michael Newn 的葬禮。

麵包車裡有彼得梅林神父，已故的安東尼王神父、已故的 John De Cruz、Joan Hiew、青年 Peter P. 和我。

現在的情況是，已安排好的司機在哪裡？

我們突然意識到沒有提供司機！所以王神父主動提出開車送我們去斯市教堂，因為他對汶萊的道路非常熟悉。

在雙溪嶺有一個臨時檢查站。王神父希望有人接替他駕駛一下。令我們驚恐的是，我們發現除了我，沒有人帶著他/她的汶萊駕駛執照！

我開這輛麵包車？你們在開我的玩笑嗎，我以前從沒碰過麵包車！

所有人的共識是——除了妳還有誰可以做？！好吧，算你們人多不夠你們講！

當我穿著馬來西亞'加巴亞'裝爬上駕駛座時（姐妹們，你知道穿著合身的衣服上大車有多難。事先我怎麼知道會發生這種情況！），我發現我根本無法移動車擋！

於是Peter 這個年青人就跑到我座駛身邊坐，大方地幫忙推車擋，而我在他身邊緊張地擺弄著驅動輪，滿頭大汗！

當車終於向前移動了幾英尺時，所有在後面的人都鬆了一口氣！

它像蝸牛一樣爬行，神父們為我加油：加速，不要害怕！

我加速了，但是彼得神父卻開始唱這首聖歌：更接近我的主了！

我哈哈大笑！我開車有那麼可怕嗎？！

然後我們來到一個斜坡，車擋不配合，因為它們非常難攪，我們幾乎無法讓車爬上坡。這一次彼得神父把他的歌改為：主啊，我要回天家了！

嚇得我再也笑不出來，只是專注於蝸牛般的速度駕駛.....

我的天啊，我認識的彼得神父在平常時道理說的非常幽默，但沒有什麼時候比現在這時刻更有機智和有趣的了！

然後，當麵包車滑下坡時，兩名交警進入視野了，彼得神父停止唱歌，開始嚴肅起來。

我想轉下麵包車的窗戶，但卻移動了雨刷器！

當我和彼得這年青人，終於找到確的按鈕時，發覺自己正面對面的向著警察！而他們對我咧著嘴笑，我則忙著向他們道歉！

他們甚至懶得檢查我的駕駛執照，只是臉上帶著燦爛的笑容向我揮手致意麵包車可以離開！

他們一離開視線，彼得神父就接手駕駛了！

他說：很高興我現在可以接手開車了！

此話一出，全車哄堂大笑！

Michael 兄弟抱歉，我們本來應該對你的逝世表示沉痛和悲傷，但如果你從你所在的地方看到這一突發事件，我相信你也會對這起意外事故大笑！

我們感謝上主將我們安全地帶到 COLA 向您致以最後的敬意！

在你轉至神界19週年之際，我們懷念你，祈望親愛的兄弟安息🙏🙏

翁月萍



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