



VIRTUE=STRENGTH.™



# DEVOTION

“GIVING YOUR BEST TO GOD.”





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## DEFINITION

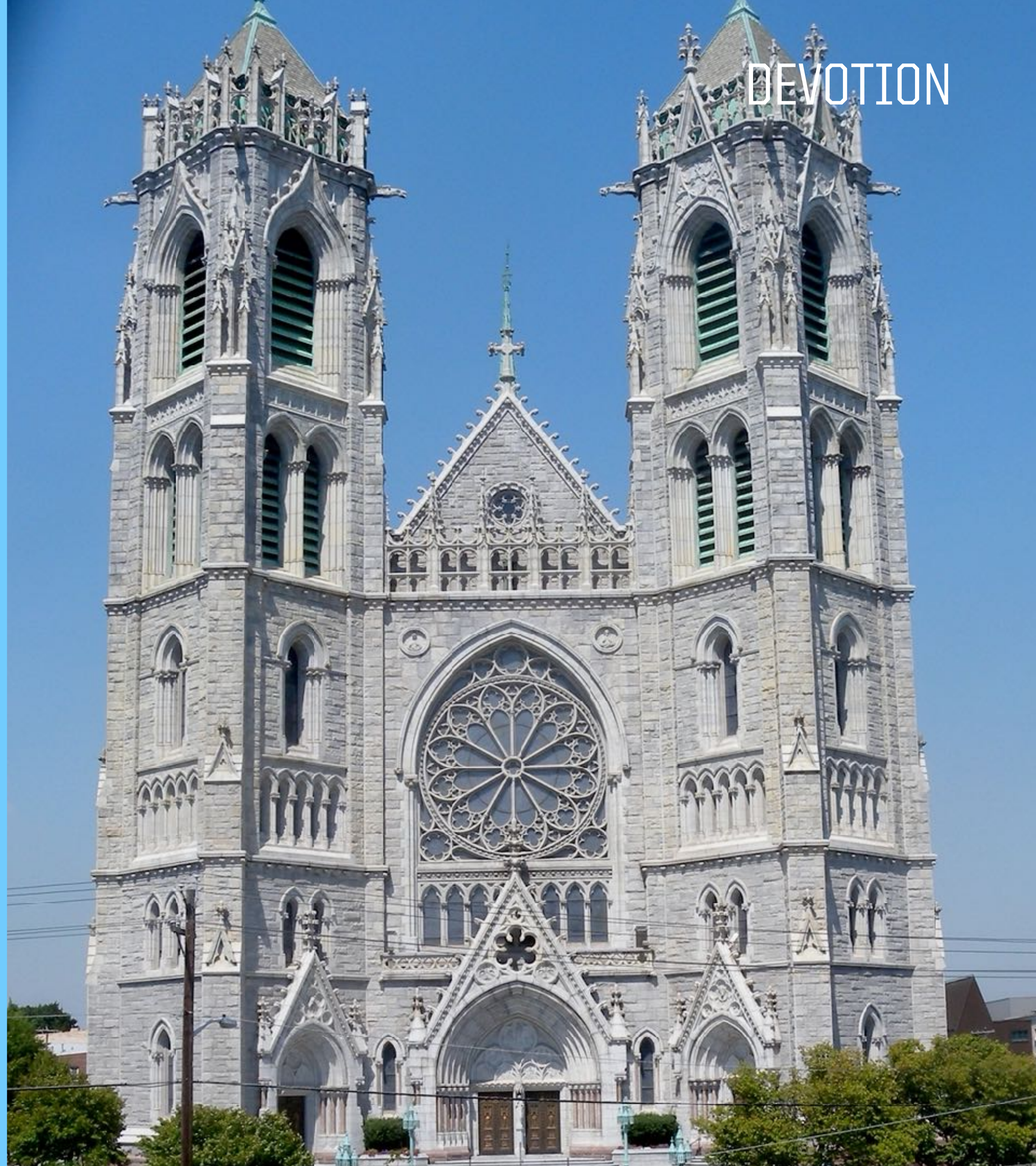
This week our strength building on the virtue of JUSTICE is DEVOTION.

*The strength to give due honor, worship and service to God.*

Imagine the time and devotion it took to build this beautiful church.

The Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, the fifth-largest cathedral in North America, is the seat of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Newark.

Construction began in 1899 and was finished in 1954.





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**DEVOTION**

## **BENEFITS**

Devotion to Jesus and His Sacred Heart is all about the practice of selfless love toward selfish people.

It is giving ourselves to persons that do not give themselves to us.

By loving them, we show something of the kind of love that God expects of His followers.

Devotion to Jesus and His Sacred Heart is the solution to the gravest problem in the modern world today: How can we give ourselves to those who do not love us, who even positively hate us?

We can love them, with the help of divine grace, by following the example of Jesus Christ, who died on the Cross out of love for a sin-laden human race.





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## RESOLUTION

Make a visit to Jesus in the Eucharist one day this school week.

*“Of all devotions, that of adoring Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the greatest, after the Sacraments, the one dearest to God and the most helpful to us.”*

- St. Alphonsus Maria de Liguori  
Doctor of the Church

DEVOTION





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DEVOTION

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**STORY**

**BOTH SIDES: DEVOTION AND IMPIETY**

Nicholas Belizaire was hurt when he heard that four statues outside his church had been vandalized. Three of them were marked with black spray paint while another had white paint dumped onto it outside St. Edith Stein Parish.

One of the statues in particular, a marble depiction of Jesus and his Sacred Heart, has special meaning for Belizaire, an 18-year-old college freshman, because he spent two years working to restore it as part of his final Eagle Scout project.

“The statue was found by Father Joe (Raeke) four years ago. It was face down in the mud and both the hands were broken off,” Belizaire said. “He put it in the shed while he looked for someone to fix it. I went to Father Joe to ask him if he knew of something I could do for my Eagle Scout project and he showed me the statue.”

A year-and-a-half of can drives and selling chocolates at church to raise the \$3,000 to have the hands repaired and to get the rest of the statue restored. After the repairs were made and the mud stains wiped away, he and members of his troop mounted the statue on a cement base on the lawn next to the church.

He was dismayed when he found out this week about the vandalism. “I’m just confused I don’t know why you would want to do something like that,” Belizaire said. “It kind of hurts honestly because I was working on that statue for so long.”

Good news came in the form of 30 volunteers who took steps to remove the paint.





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SMALL GROUP DIFFICULT SITUATION  
DISCUSSION

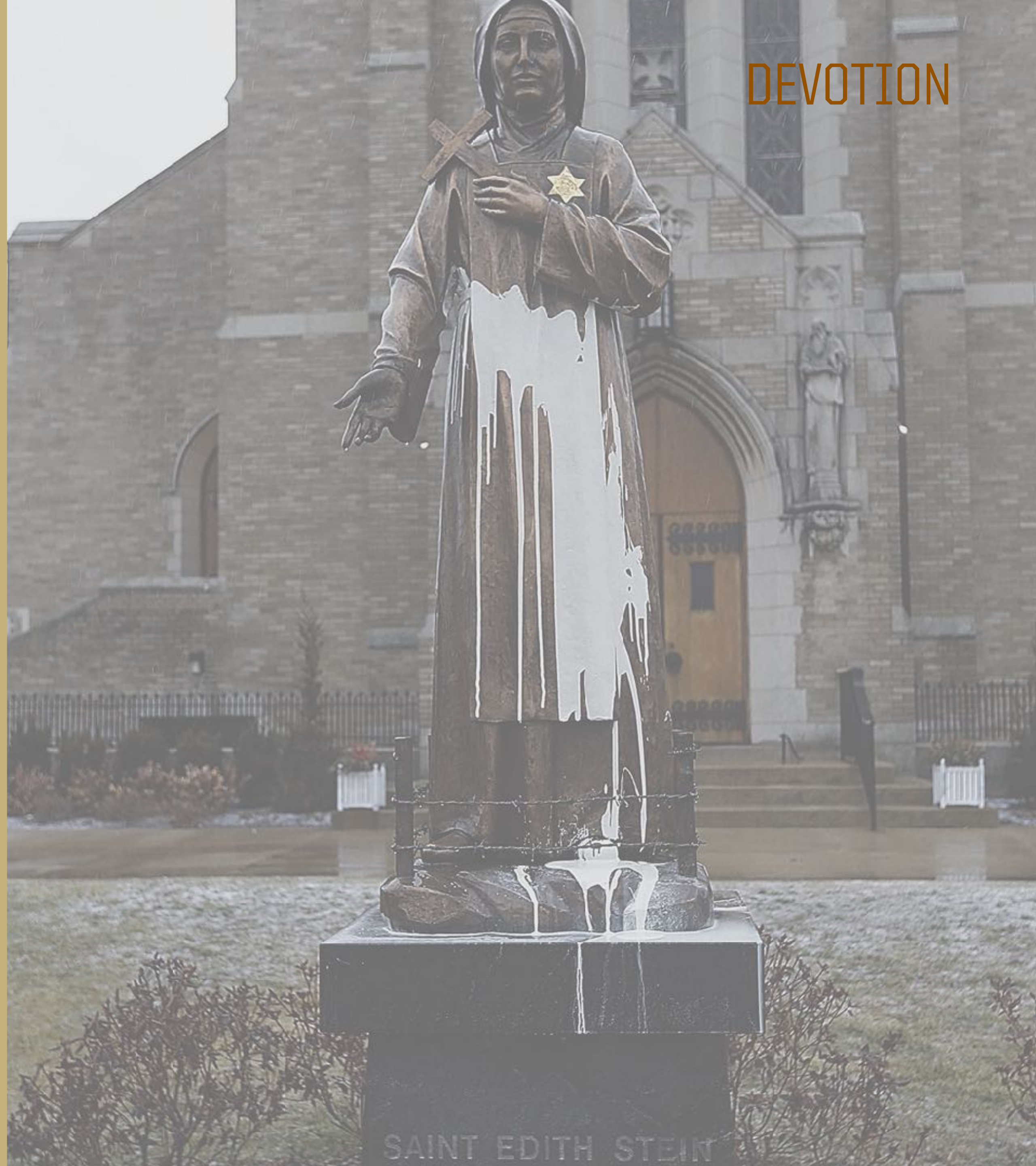
If you overheard people talking about  
vandalizing a church, what would you do?

If you saw people vandalizing a church, what  
would you say or do?

Does this story help you to value your  
Catholic Faith and Catholic Identity more?  
Why?

How would you feel if someone harmed  
something you loved and put so much time  
into?

DEVOTION





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DEVOTION

*“One single day of devotion is worth more than a thousand years of worldly life.”*

*- St. Francis de Sales*



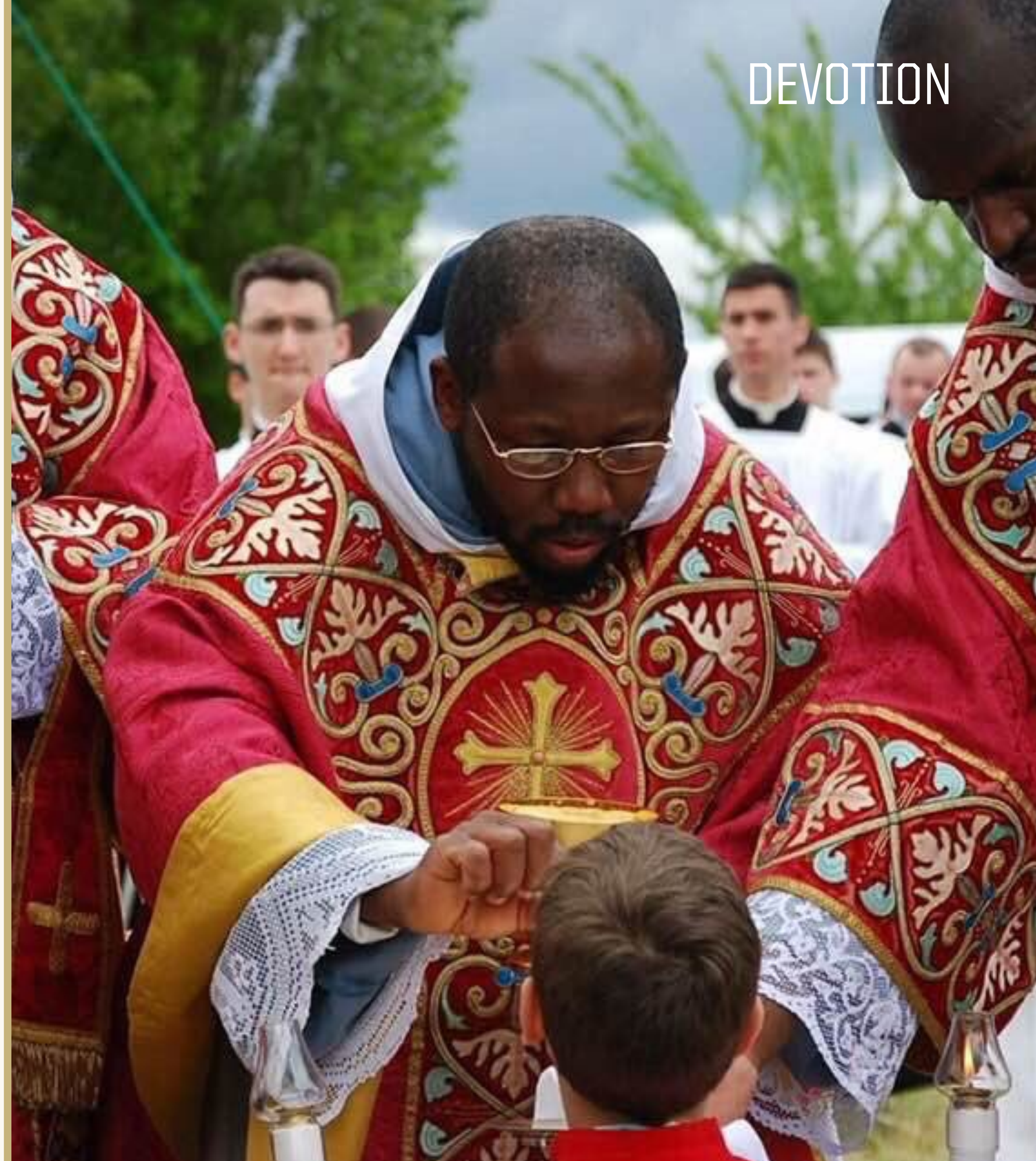


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DEVOTION

*“If you want to assist at Mass,  
with devotion and with fruit,  
think of the sorrowful Mother  
at the feet of Calvary.”*

*- St. Padre Pio*





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DEVOTION

*“He who, when tempted,  
makes the Sign of the Cross  
with devotion,  
makes hell tremble and Heaven  
rejoice.”*

*- St. John Vianney*







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IMPIETY

“DISRESPECTING GOD.”



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**VICE**

## EXAMPLES OF IMPIETY

Taking our Lord's Name in vain.

Vandalism or destruction of statues, church property or other objects dedicated to God, the Blessed Mother, the Saints and the Church.

Mocking or making fun of God, the Church, and those within the Church such as Priests and Nuns.

Talking or messing around in Church.

Failing to genuflect or doing it without attention.

Praying in a rushed manner.

Failing to frequent the Sacraments.

Not wearing our "Sunday Best" for Mass.

*What other ones can you think of?*





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