

“Have you come to believe because you have seen me?  
Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”

JOHN 20:29

SECOND  
SUNDAY OF  
EASTER  
(OR OF DIVINE MERCY)

APRIL 11, 2021

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**TWO HOLY MARTYRS PARISH**

*St. Symphorosa & St. Rene Goupil*  
Parish Office: 6135 S. Austin Ave Chicago, IL 60638  
(773) 767-1523



# Fr. Bob's Weekly Blog

## Welcome to Two Holy Martyrs Parish!!

One of the most famous passages in all of Sacred Scripture is the Prodigal Son, which is also referred to as The Parable of the Lost Son.

Here we see a story of an ungrateful, me-centered youth who demands from his father his inheritance (what's coming to him), while his dad is still alive. The punk child then abandons his family in search of the "delights" of the world.

Soon, however, the fun runs out; the money goes up in thrill-seeking flames. The son finds himself envious of pigs. Might this be rock-bottom?

Then comes one of my favorite lines, and it is an important line. "Coming to his senses." There it is. We could infer from this that the son had previously been "out of his mind." Sometimes it takes losing so much to make us realize what is truly important in life. Another translation of that line is, "When he came to himself." This means he **WOKE UP** to reality.

The son turns around and heads toward home. He's had a change of mind, a change of heart. Now his life-direction centers on the father.

This weekend (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter) is now known as the Sunday of Divine Mercy. St. John Paul II declared this day a feast. We are called to appreciate God's mercy, and the story of the Prodigal Son helps us see quite tangibly what mercy looks like.

The father sees the son at a distance and **RUNS** to him. The father embraces the son and kisses him. We might protest at this point and say "How to do we know the son is serious?" Ahhh! The father knows the sincerity in his son's heart.

Pretty soon the father has a robe put on the once-rebellious child followed by a ring. A feast is prepared. "This son of mine," the father says, "was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found."

Mercy! When we fall (and we will fall again and again) and "come to our senses" the Lord waits with mercy. We

recognize we have sinned, we are sorry, and we change our direction. "A humble contrite heart the Lord will not scorn (Psalm 51)." God the Father knows the inner workings of our heart. When our sorrow is sincere and we intend to walk the way of righteousness, the Lord never withholds His Mercy.

Here's a brief definition of mercy: "The love of God beyond what humankind deserves."

Wow! When we consider the time -- or times -- we've behaved like the Prodigal Son. We want what we want, and we want it **NOW**. The Father lets us drift. He honors our choice, even when our choice is a clenched fist shaken toward Him. Then He waits for us to "Come to our senses."

Now is the time for us to come to our senses. Authentic "Woke" is a humble contrite heart walking home to the Father (God). Now is not the time to fall asleep to the love and law of God. Many folks might think it best to turn away from God and indulge every human whim, but all roads that spurn God leads to the company of swine. God will not be mocked.

No one, repeat, no one, is ever too far gone to deserve God's mercy. The Father is waiting and looking out into the distance, waiting for His child to come Home. Waiting with a kiss, a robe, and a ring. That is Mercy!

### Easter Son-shine

Thank you for a wonderful, beautiful Easter Sunday. Even with all the challenges in place because of COVID guidelines, we did our best to celebrate our Easter liturgies. We added three extra Masses (a 7:30 AM at the last minute). Sadly, we once again had people who registered but did **NOT** show up and did not call to cancel their reservation. This affects our ability to plan.

Our two churches looked great. A special thanks to our parish Art & Environment Team and all the

volunteers who spent many hours so that we could enjoy the beauty. Things don't just happen around here, we have people (and always welcome more) who put their hands and feet into motion.

Many of you gave quite generously with the Easter financial offering. This has been a tough year for many of you, and it has certainly been a tough year for the parish in the \$\$\$ department. A very **HUGE** thank **YOU** to everyone who reached deep to help alleviate our expenses. Money-talk is frequently cited by church folks as a major turn-off. "They're always talking about money." I get it, and I am more likely to be accused of not mentioning money enough. And yet, we need the funds to keep the mission going forward.

If anyone ever has concerns or questions about the money we bring in and how it is spent, I'd encourage you to call the office and make an appointment. We want to help bring clarity. There are always some folks who hold back because of a specific issue. I once had a guy say to me "I am not giving to "To Teach Who Christ Is" because I don't want any of my money going to pay for the sex abuse pay-outs."

Well, I get where he is coming from, **BUT** ... do we match that concern when it comes to giving our hard-earned money to the government? We don't always like when our money is spent on another war, bloated government, government waste, tax-payer funded abortions, civil lawsuit payouts, etc. You get the picture. We won't fine you or put you in jail. We might simply ask if you can give a little more.

Thank you for your witness to the faith.



### Quote of the Week

*"The Lord's mercy often rides to the door of our heart upon the black horse of affliction."*

*~Charles Spurgeon*

**Pastoral Staff**

- Rev. Robert Regan  
Pastor
- Rev. Matthew Compton  
Associate Pastor
- Rev. Ted Bojczuk  
Pastor Emeritus
- Rev. Peter Paurazas  
Pastor Emeritus
- Rev. Idzi Stacherczak  
Pastor Emeritus
- Rev. Norman Trela  
Retired Priest

**Parish Staff**

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Operations Director
- Steve Kittler  
Music Director
- Deacon Raul Duque  
Parish Organist
- Magdalan Barry  
Irene Perconti  
Administrative Assistants
- Nancy Markham  
Office Coordinator
- Peg Siebenaler  
Faith Formation
- Kathy Berry  
Principal
- Chris Garza  
Assistant Principal
- Mark Schusteric  
Maintenance Supervisor

**Two Holy Martyrs Parish Office**

6135 S. Austin Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60638  
773-767-1523 (phone)  
773-767-6135 (fax)

www.twoholymartyrs.org (website)

info@twoholymartyrs.org (email)

Monday - Friday  
9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Saturday  
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

**St. Rene Worship Site**

6949 W 63rd Place  
Chicago, Illinois 60638

**St. Symphorosa School**

6125 S. Austin Ave  
Chicago, Illinois 60638  
(773) 585-6888

**Sacrament of Penance**

6-7pm every Tuesday (St. Symphorosa Site)  
3-3:45pm every Saturday (St. Rene Site)  
Offered by Appointment During the Week  
Please call the Parish Office

**FROM DOUBT TO BELIEF**

The apostle Thomas will forever be remembered as the one who doubted. It is good that his experience is recorded in the Gospel of John. We all doubt sometimes, and "Doubting Thomas" shows us how to move from doubt to belief, knowing that the risen Jesus will be with us through it all. Thomas did not keep his doubts to himself, but instead voiced them aloud to his trusted companions. We can only imagine the conversations that took place between Thomas and the other disciples as they described the peace that they felt following Jesus' time with them. Thomas' doubts were put to rest once and for all when Jesus offered him physical proof of the Resurrection. We do not have the sort of physical evidence that was shown to Thomas, but we can perceive Christ's presence in the Eucharist, in the words of sacred scripture, and in the presence and actions of others.

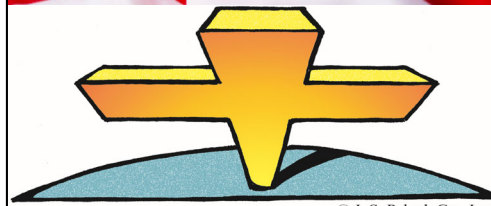
The journey of faith often ebbs and flows, with times when our relationship with the Lord is the guiding force in our lives, and times when we are tempted to turn away from all we know to be true, good, and beautiful. In those moments when we find ourselves struggling with doubt or temptation, we can follow Thomas' lead and turn to trusted companions, faithful and faith-filled family and friends, who will support us and show us the way from doubt to living faith. Like the disciples who were in the room when Jesus came among them, we too have received the Holy Spirit. Today, let us consider where we are on the journey of faith, turn to trusted companions and the Holy Spirit to strengthen us on the way, and know that the Lord is with us as we live and grow in relationship with Christ.

Today's Readings: Acts 4:32-35; Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24; 1 Jn 5:1-6; Jn 20:19-31

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Sgt. Frank Cisneros, USMC	Staff Sgt. Abel Sandoval, USMC
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Captain Kevin Dobbyn, US Army	Sgt. 1st Class Kristina Stuhlmacher
Sgt. John Flores, IL National Guard	L.Cpl. Justin R. Thorpe, USMC
Staff Sgt. Andrew Gaca, USAF	1LT Zachary White, IL Army NG
Sgt. Michael Hough, US Army	



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**growing our FAITH**  
Generosity

During the month of March, the following amounts were collected for special Collections at both worship sites.

Ash Wednesday.....	\$213
Building & Maintenance .....	\$1,955
Candle Money.....	\$663
Christmas.....	\$10
Christmas Flowers .....	\$2
Church in Latin America .....	\$5
Confirmation.....	\$557
Easter.....	\$905
Easter Flowers .....	\$1,908
Good Friday .....	\$345
Holy Thursday.....	\$508
Parish Debt Reduction.....	\$590
Religious Education Scholarship .....	\$495
Rice Bowl.....	\$85
School Support .....	\$439
Solemnity of Mary (New Year's) .....	\$15
Thanksgiving (Saint Vincent de Paul).....	\$27
Utilities Fund .....	\$782

Thank you for your kindness & generosity!

**Stewardship**

Two Holy Martyrs Parish Offerings for the weekend of  
**Sunday, March 28, 2021**  
Contribution: \$8,218.00

Offerings for the weekend of Sunday, April 4, 2021  
Contribution: \$10,397.15  
Thank you for your generosity!

**Split the Pot**  
March 28, 2021  
Received: \$210.00  
Winning envelope: #7840

April 4, 2021  
Received: \$165.00 Winning envelope: #1702  
Reminder: A minimum of \$5.00 is required to participate.

**Our Sanctuary Candle burning before the Blessed Sacrament for the month of April is offered for the following intentions:**

For the repose of the soul of Joan Brown given by her daughter, Cathy Kordelewski

For the repose of the soul of Vince Porcelli given by Family

For the repose of the soul of Claude Wiatrak given by his wife, Clara

May this light which reminds us of Jesus' presence in the Tabernacle help welcome our prayers into His eternal presence.



## Domine, labia mea aperies (Lord, you will open my lips) (Psalm 51:17)

This Second Sunday of Easter brings to a close the Octave, the eight days of celebrating Easter, yet the season will last through Pentecost. Given the richness of the salvation, which the Holy Trinity has achieved, the Church prays several different collects, each with a particular emphasis, across her Masses on this Sunday.

In the Ordinary Form Mass, the Mass offered in our parish and most Catholic parishes throughout the world, the Collect is somewhat longer than other Sunday collects. It reminds us of the Sacraments of Initiation, which the newly baptized received just a week ago and which many of us received years ago, the effects of which continue to mark us and are thoroughly suitable with our Lord's Divine Mercy, which also emphasized this Sunday: "God of everlasting mercy, who in the very recurrence of the paschal feast kindle the faith of the people you have made your own, increase, we pray, the grace you have bestowed, that all may grasp and rightly understand in what font they have been washed, by whose Spirit they have been reborn, by whose Blood they have been redeemed." (Roman Missal, 3rd ed.)



By contrast, the Collect for the Latin Mass is brief but nonetheless looks at Easter as being impactful not just on that first day of Resurrection as we make our way through this season. This Sunday is sometimes referred to as Low Sunday, the end of the Easter Octave, compared to the first Sunday of Easter, or High Sunday. The Collect reads, "Grant, we beseech Thee, almighty God, that we who have celebrated the Paschal Feast, may, by Thy bounty, retain its fruits in our daily habits and behaviour." (Translation, The Daily Missal and Liturgical Manual, Baronius Press, Ltd. 2007)

Among the Catholics of Anglican heritage, the Collect for their Divine Worship recounts the Sacred Triduum and how it provides a pattern by which we may live: "Almighty Father, who has given thine only Son to die for our sins, and to rise again for our justification: grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness; that we may always serve thee in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of the same Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord." (Divine Worship: The Missal)

~Fr. Matt Compton

**Just a reminder...**

Mass pre-registration will open as of Sundays a week before. We highly encourage all to pre-register for Mass each and every weekend. You may register by calling the parish office (773.767.1523) during regular business hours, visiting our website ([twoholymartyrs.org](http://twoholymartyrs.org)) or by scanning the printed QR code.

The faithful all around the world are invited to join with Pope Francis for his special intention. Won't you join in? The intention for the month of April is for Fundamental Rights.

**We pray for those who risk their lives while fighting fundamental rights under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and even in democracies in crisis.**

**WEDDING BANNERS**

II – *Kaitlyn Szaflarski & Thomas Glynn*




Please take a moment to sit down, watch, and/or listen to Fr. Bob's "Embrace the Grace" meditations every week.

Fr. Bob and Steve Kittler, our parish Music Director, began this page as a way to keep in contact with the parish and all our parishioners during the COVID stay at home order. This seven to ten minute video shares the good news with all interested persons.

Please visit the parish website at [twoholymartyrs.org](http://twoholymartyrs.org) or go directly to the YouTube page at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJm6IOYVzFmLnENc-rj7jMQ> to view.

saint snippets



I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls.

**Divine Mercy Sunday**

A Feast celebrated on the 2nd Sunday of Easter. Jesus promised an abundance of grace and mercy on this day.

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***Faith Formation Office***

*Phone: (773) 767-1523 x226*

*Email: msiebenaler@archchicago.org*

*Coordinator: Peg Siebenaler*

**UPCOMING  
EVENTS**

- 4/20: Faith Formation Classes  
St. Rene Campus (Tues.)**
- 4/21: Faith Formation Classes  
St. Rene Campus (Wed.)**
- 4/24: Faith Formation Classes  
St. Symphorosa Campus (Sat.)**
- 5/1: First Holy Communion  
St. Symphorosa Church 11am**
- 5/8: First Holy Communion  
St. Rene Campus 1:30pm**

**WELCOME FAMILIES TO  
TWO HOLY MARTYRS PARISH  
FAITH FORMATION**



Thank you to those folks who donated to our Easter Baskets for needy children. Many of you responded to the request to help make a young child's Easter a little more special. Our Savior's dying and rising is the greatest gift ever, but when a young person receives a basket on Easter, the heart of the child is touched, and the heart of the giver is warmed by such charity.

86 Baskets filled with Easter Joy were delivered to the St. Blase pantry. In times like this, we are always reminded of the two oars of our faith: Worship and Service. We lift our hearts toward God when we pray and celebrate the Eucharist. We also turn our hearts to those in need as we heed to the call of our Lord to love our neighbor.

Thank You for being such a Generous, Caring Parish.



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**TOTUS TUUS**  
Summer Youth Camps

**Week 1: June 13-18, 2021**

Two Holy Martyrs – St. Symphorosa  
and St. Rene Goupil, Chicago

St. Norbert and Our Lady of the Brook,  
Northbrook

St. Francis de Sales, Lake Zurich

For more information and to register, please visit:  
[chicagopriest.com/events/totus-tuus/  
parent-information-registration](http://chicagopriest.com/events/totus-tuus/parent-information-registration)



**CONFIRMED IN THE SPIRIT**

On March 26, Our Pastor, Fr. Robert Regan confirmed 48 of our Eighth graders from the Faith Formation Program, and St. Symphorosa Catholic School.

All who were present made a meaningful contribution to the liturgy.

It is our hope and prayer that these young people who were confirmed will continue to rely on the guidance of the Spirit in all of life's important decisions.



## Mass Intentions for the Week

**Saturday, April 10, 2021**

4:00pm *St. Rene Church*

Presider: Fr. Norm

Health & all the Lord's blessings for Martin Costello (*Family*)

†Lorraine Gorniak (*Family*)

†Wanda Zalewski (*John Gavin*)

5:30pm *St. Symphorosa Church*

Presider: Fr. Bob

†Thomas W. Bobbitt (*Hohm Family*)

†Janet & Steve Molnar (*Hohm Family*)

†Vince Porcelli (*Wife Judy*)

**Sunday, April 11, 2021**

7:30am *St. Rene Church*

Presider: Fr. Bob

### Sunday of Divine Mercy

For all St. Symphorosa & St. Rene parishioners, living & deceased

9:00am *St. Symphorosa Church*

Presider: Fr. Bob

†Thomas W. Bobbitt (*Hohm Family*)

†John Dragosetti (*Rosaria Dragosetti*)

†Frank Lease (*Arlene Scaletta*)

†Janet & Steve Molnar (*Hohm Family*)

†John Schramm (*Family*)

10:30am *St. Rene Church*

Presider: Fr. Matt

†Dominic Capparelli (*Cheryl & Tim Trench*)

†Anna Hughes (*Family*)

†Ben P. & Estelle Shafer (*Ben & Judy Shafer*)

†Judith Siwek (*Sue Solcani*)

12:00pm *St. Symphorosa Church*

Presider: Fr. Matt

For all deceased members of the O'Leary & Byrne Families  
(*Mike & Bea Byrne*)

†Rosaria Maria & John Dragosetti (*Family*)

**Monday, April 12, 2021**

8:00am *St. Symphorosa Church*

Health & all the Lord's blessings for Dawn Gasior (*Richard & Teresa Koziar*)

†Vince Porcelli (*Wife Judy*)

**Tuesday, April 13, 2021**

8:00am *St. Symphorosa Church*

Health & all the Lord's blessings for Emily Sarlitto (*Mary Sarlitto*)

Health & all the Lord's blessings for Matt

**Wednesday, April 14, 2021**

8:00am *St. Symphorosa Church*

For all members of the John Kolimas & Mary Karlowicz Families,  
living and deceased (*John & Mary Kolimas*)

†John Solcani (*Wife Sue*)

†Claude Wiatrak (*Wife Clara*)

**Thursday, April 15, 2021**

8:00am *St. Symphorosa Church*

†Vince Porcelli (*Josephine Tamburo*)

†Catherine & John Scanlon (*Margaret Scanlon*)

**Friday, April 16, 2021**

8:00am *St. Symphorosa Church*

†Vince Porcelli (*Josephine Tamburo*)

†Bruno G. Shotas (*Nancy Shotas*)

**Saturday, April 17, 2021**

8:00pm *St. Symphorosa Church*

For all members of the John & Mary Kolimas Families,  
living & deceased (*John & Mary Kolimas*)

†Vince Porcelli (*Wife Judy*)

Godly leadership in the United States & throughout the world  
(*Pelegrino Family*)

†Irene, Ceferino & Fidel Parra (*Almendarez Family*)

†David Valles (10th Annv.) & Andres Valles (1st Annv.) (*Family*)

†Wanda Zalewski (*Chester & Peggy Potempa*)

†Thomas W. Bobbitt (*Hohm Family*)

†Alice Kennedy (*Madalyn McLean*)

†Forylan Mendoza (*Family*)

†Janet & Steve Molnar (*Hohm Family*)

**Sunday, April 18, 2021**

7:30am *St. Rene Church*

Presider: Fr. Norm

For all Two Holy Martyrs' Parishioners, living & deceased

†Thomas W. Bobbitt (*Hohm Family*)

†Ana Maria & Lorenzo Duran (*Daughters*)

†Liam Hanley (*Margaret Scanlon*)

†Janet & Steve Molnar (*Hohm Family*)

†Virginia Sullivan (*Tom & Mary Anne Milici*)

10:30am *St. Rene Church*

Presider: Fr. Bob

†Jim Jannesse (*Teresa & Nick Laskewich*)

†Vince Porcelli (*Wife Judy*)

†Marion Schrock (*Family*)

12:00pm *St. Symphorosa Church*

Presider: Fr. Matt

For all Two Holy Martyrs' Parishioners, living & deceased

\*Weekend Presider subject to change without notice\*

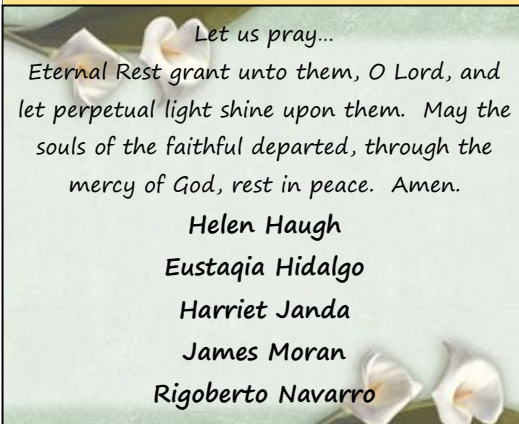


There are in the end three things  
that last: Faith, Hope, and Love,  
and the greatest of these is  
LOVE.

Martin Adelsbach  
Judy Adelsbach  
Larry Adkins  
Mary Adkins  
Guadalupe Almendarez  
Raeann Arends  
Kim Argires  
JoAnn Baade  
Ignatius Battiatto  
Carl Bell  
Mary Bieser  
Fr. Ted Bojczuk  
Lydia Brown  
Kathy Calcagno  
Gina Camp  
Pat Carmody  
Judy Carranza  
Margaret Ciampaglia  
Michael Clifford  
Marilyn Crites  
Chris Doherty  
Randy Etapa  
Juan Figueroa  
Maria Flores  
Janet Funk  
Mitchell Gallas  
Geri Gestaut  
Carol Gress  
Suzann Gunter  
Kathy Haars  
Catherine Hier  
Megan High  
Robert Hilbruner  
Heather Hradek  
Larry Holmes  
Deacon Tom Hyde  
Denise M. Jandura  
Rich S. Jandura  
Joan Juris  
Pete Kats  
Lee Karpinski  
Dennis Kline  
Claudia Kwilosz  
Norman Kwilosz  
James Lapsansky  
Maryann Larson  
Donna Lauritzen

Domenico Lepore  
Rose Ann Lindsay  
Debbie Lipien  
Maria Lopez  
Diane Malarick  
Maria & Martinez Family  
John Martini  
Marge Masunas  
Lori McCarthy  
Tina McGleam  
Thomas Minnich  
Christine Mosqueda  
Genevieve Nagle  
William Nita  
Carol Oles  
Florence Panzarella  
Eleanor Pastorek  
Baby Alexander J Pentz  
Gi Gi Piccolini  
Rochelle Piegari  
Marie Pratt  
Ann Robertson  
Edward Robertson  
Fr. John Rudnik  
Joseph Rudnik  
Coltyn Schmidt  
Kristyn Schmidt  
Marge Schmidt  
Elliana Sterk  
Brian Styka  
Sr. Christine Styka  
Terry Styka  
Melinda Svastisalee  
Michael Tallon  
Sandra Tallon  
Mary Thorpe  
Shirley Tloczek  
George Trendle  
Hector Hugo Valles  
Ryan Vaughan  
Judith Webber  
Joan Wilhelmy  
Richard Zaleski  
Emily Zambrano  
John Zappavigna  
Barb Ziegler  
Michelle

Due to privacy laws, names may only be added to our prayer list by immediate family. Please let us know when to remove a name.



Let us pray...  
Eternal Rest grant unto them, O Lord, and  
let perpetual light shine upon them. May the  
souls of the faithful departed, through the  
mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Helen Haugh  
Eustaquia Hidalgo  
Harriet Janda  
James Moran  
Rigoberto Navarro



DIVINE MERCY  
*Sunday*  
April 11, 2021



# Flood Brothers

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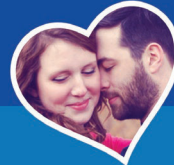
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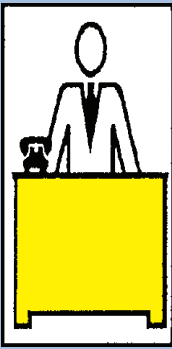
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