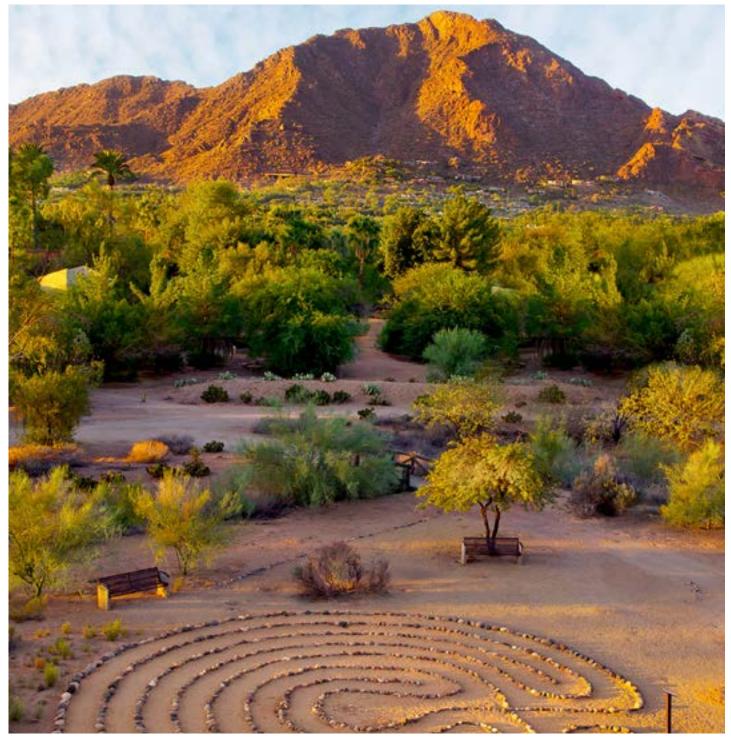
February 18, 2024 The First Sunday of Lent REDEENSEVICE The First Sunday of Lent

The Franciscan Renewal Center • Peace. Renewal. Good.



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*photo by: Peter Jordan* 

#### PASTORAL REFLECTION



The readings for this Sunday provide us with a kind of synopsis of the entire Lenten season. They speak about living in the midst of conflict, about God initiating a relationship with us, and ending with a proclamation of the good news of salvation.

The first reading gives us an account of the story of Noah and the catastrophic flooding of the world. This story speaks to us about the conflicts that we may find ourselves in. We may experience such conflicts when we have social discord, war, or natural disasters. We become victims of forces beyond our control. We become completely vulnerable, and it is only our hope that we trust that God is always with us.

We see Jesus being driven by the Spirit into the desert, where he is tempted by the devil. It's a conflict that we all share, where we struggle between right and wrong, being faithful and disobedient.

It is in our baptism that God initiates a covenantal relationship with us. We share in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. God promises to walk with us on our journey of faith, no matter the circumstances in our life. Our baptism is both the good news of our salvation and our pledge of fidelity to God. Following Christ allows the reign of God to be made present in our world. The season of Lent is a time for us to reflect on God's goodness and to decide upon an appropriate response to it.

- Jame Seffert, orm

Father James Seiffert, OFM

The Conventual Church of

# Our Lady *of the* Angels

Sunday Mass	at the Franciscan Renewal Center Saturday 4:00 pm	
	Sunday 7:30 am; 9:1	5 am; 11:00 am
Daily Mass	Monday – Friday	8:00 am

*Sat. 4 pm, Sun. 9:15 am, and Monday – Friday Daily Mass also available on* <u>YouTube.com/theCasaFRC</u>

Taizé Prayer	2nd & 4th Wedn	esday 7:00 pm
Reconciliation	Saturday	2:00 - 3:00 pm
<b>Guest Services</b>	Sun. – Sat.	6:00 am -7:30 pm
Adoration	1st Friday	6:00 pm
Bookstore	Sun. Mon. Tue. – Thu. Fri. Sat.	8:00 am - 1:00 pm Closed 10:00 am - 2:00 pm 10:00 am - 6:30 pm 11:00 am - 5:30 pm

Please see pg. 10 for this week's Mass Intentions. For weekly readings, visit <u>bible.usccb.org/</u>.

#### Our Lady of the Angels Church Pastoral Staff

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Visit: thecasa.org/about-the-casa for all board members and bios			

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## Holy Week 2024

Palm Sunday Mass — March 24, 2024 7:30 am and 10 am. No Saturday Vigil Mass. (outdoors in Palm Court)

Holy Thursday — March 28, 2024 Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7 pm (church)

- Good Friday March 29, 2024 Stations of the Cross at 12 noon (outdoors) Celebration of the Lord's Passion at 3 pm (inside the Church)
- Holy Saturday March 30, 2024 The Easter Vigil at 7:30 pm (in the church)

Easter Sunday Mass — March 31, 2024 6:45 am, 8:45 am, and 11 am (outdoors)

## **Lenten Almsgiving Envelopes**

As a community, our almsgiving this year will go to the *Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement Program* and *Catholic Charities Manna House*, which serves homeless veterans. Please pick up your envelope in the Narthex; we'll collect them at the end of Lent.

The call to charity is a frequent theme of the Gospels. During Lent, we are to be more focused on "almsgiving," which means donating to the poor and doing other acts of charity. The Lenten call to almsgiving means making the needs of other people our own. One of the central lessons of the cross is compassion; the heavy burdens we carry help us to appreciate the suffering in others. *Suggestion: take what you would have spent on your Lenten fasting and make that your almsgiving gift.* 

## **Fridays in Lent** (February 16 – March 22) *Prayer, Fasting, & Almsgiving Opportunities*

- 5:30 pm Stations of the Cross (in the desert walkway) This prayerful devotion walks a symbolic processional route symbolizing the path Jesus walked to Mount Calvary. This helps us to make a spiritual pilgrimage through contemplation of the Passion of Christ. We begin together near the Meditation Chapel.
- 6 –7 pm Simple Soup Supper (at the poolside) The Casa kitchen prepares a healthy, satisfying, and simple meal of a meatless soup and bread. The community shares it together, and donations are collected and given to the poor.
- 7 pm Taizé Prayer Around the Cross (in the church) Taizé prayer consists of meditative singing and periods of silence. Short chants, repeated over and over, using just a few words, express a basic reality of faith, quickly grasped by the mind. The service lasts about 40 minutes.

Director of Liturgy & Music Assistant Director of Liturgy & Music Executive Assistant to the Liturgy Office

Norbert Zwickl Richard Guerra Rosa Rod<u>riguez-Saiz</u> Lent Reconciliation

Lent is a good time to celebrate the beautiful Sacrament of Reconciliation: the proclamation of God's great love for us — through forgiveness.

Every Saturday – 2 – 3pm (*No confessions Sat. March 30*)

Monday, February 19	9 – 10 am
Thursday, February 22	1 – 2 pm
Wednesday, February 28	4 – 5 pm
Thursday, February 29	5 – 6 pm
Thursday, March 7	6 – 7 pm
Tuesday, March 12	2 – 3 pm
Friday, March 15	2 – 3 pm
Tuesday, March 19	3 – 4 pm
Friday, March 22	12 – 1 pm
Wednesday, March 27	2 – 3 pm

norbert@thecasa.org richard@thecasa.org rosa@thecasa.org 480.355.0346 480.355.0347 480.355.5642

Page 3 • RENEWAL • thecasa.org

## **Adult Ministry**

Faith & Science Night: Continuing Creation CREATIO CONTINUA Saturday, February 24 | 5:30 – 6:30 pm

Free event presented by Vatican Observatory Foundation

- God's Universal Creative Action begins with *Creatio ex Nihilo* — Creation from Nothing. God's ongoing action in the world continues with *Creatio Continua* — Continuing Creation, where God, in an ongoing relationship with Creation, sustains and works in and through the Laws of Nature.
- Creation is not an event, but an ongoing relationship with the Creator who enables and empowers things to be and act on their own as they are.
- *Creatio Continua* describes an ultimate dependence on God for existence and order.
- God, the source of all being and order, is both the Transcendent source of the universe, including its existence at each moment, and the Immanent Creator of all physical and biological complexity, acting continuously in, with, and through the processes of nature.
- *Creatio Continua* leads to a discussion of Divine Action in the world in relation to the Laws of Nature and how those laws actually function.

## Whole Community Ministry

For ALL members of the community and for all ages



#### **Sacrament Preparation Ministry**

For adults, teens, children & their families preparing for Baptism, Confirmation, Reconciliation & Eucharist

- Infant Baptism: For more information about infant baptism preparation, contact <u>cheryl@thecasa.org</u>
- OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults): Session 12 is Thursday, 2.22.24 at 7 pm in the Liturgy Room. Topic: *Creed*
- OCIT (Order of Christian Initiation for Teens): We meet this coming Thursday, 2.22.24 | 7 – 8:30 pm
- Year One Sacrament Preparation: First Reconciliation: Session Six | Sunday 2.18.24 | 10:30 am – Noon | CLC A & B
- Year Two Sacrament Preparation: Confirmation: Session One | Sunday, 3.3.24 | 10:30 am – Noon | Piper Hall, Garces Room

## **Family Ministry**

For families with children — birth to 6th grade

- Children's Liturgy of the Word: Every Sunday at the 9:15 am Mass. Children ages 6 – 12 may come forward to be dismissed each week for ageappropriate reflection on the Readings.
- Family Ministry Table in Hospitality: Theme: Holy Week & Easter | Sunday, March 10, 2024 | After all the Sunday morning Masses!
- Calling All Parents: We are looking for your input regarding family sessions beginning in the fall of 2024! If you are interested in being part of a small focus group, please email Donna: donna@thecasa.org
- Young Family Sunday: Sunday, March 10 at 10:30 am, but stop by anytime to meet other families, hear a Bible story, plus activities and play. Any family with children between birth and 5 years of age are invited to join us.

Fred Mercadante, Director of Faith Formation: <u>fred@thecasa.org;</u> Donna Kinzie, Sacrament Preparation, Family Catechesis: <u>donna@thecasa.org;</u> Cheryl Hentz, Youth, Young Adult, Young Family & Infant Baptism: <u>cheryl@thecasa.org</u>. Page 4 • RENEWAL • <u>thecasa.org</u>

#### FAITH FORMATION

### Young Adult Ministry

For young adults – 20's & 30's

Friday, March 15, 6:30 pm Young Adults | Dinner | Conversation For more information, email <u>cheryl@thecasa.org</u>



Please use this QR Code to RSVP

## In Spotlight

## **OCIA & Adult Confirmation**

This weekend, we welcome those adults entering the final stage of preparation for the Easter sacraments. We celebrate the Rite of Covenant (Confirmation Candidates) and the Rite of Sending (Full Communion Candidates and Catechumens.)

Christina Bell Tim Haas Tricia Kitaeff Ismael Ibarra Moreno Myles Smith Anthony Marquez Mike Wollet Debbie Stewart David Chanko Ted Ardans Stephanie Iaccino Jennifer Kocour Jennifer Spenser Rick Speta Chloe Larson Eve Hofstedt

#### To find out how to get involved, visit our Casa Faith Formation Online Portal: www.casafaithformation.org



A one-hour introduction to the Casa's mission and ministries.

**DISCOVER THE VISION** 

Friday

March 8

Thursdays

April 4 11:00 am

May 2

11:00 am

11:00 am

## **Reserve Your Spot Today**

online: <u>thecasa.org/</u> <u>discover-the-vision</u>

phone: 480.355.5631
email: rsvp@thecasa.org

**ART DOCENT TOURS** *Explore the Art of the Casa* 

## Treasures of Franciscan Art

1st & 3rd Wednesday 11:30 am - 12:30 pm

1st & 3rd Sunday 12:30 – 1:15 pm

#### Registration Required

online: thecasa.org/artdocent-tours

email: churchtours@thecasa.org

phone: 480.948.7460

g .org 480.355.563

Director of Development Development Manager Development Manager Page 5 • RENEWAL • <u>thecasa.org</u> Amy Jo Hutchison Heidi Dwigun Paula A Tobin amyjo@thecasa.org <u>heidi@thecasa.org</u> paula@thecasa.org 480.355.5634 480.355.5630 480.355.5631



## Lenten Service Opportunities

Visit FIA LinkTree for information and sign-up for these opportunities.

### Hunger Action Ministry: hungeraction@thecasa.org.

- St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP), Mondays, 8:45 am to Noon. Each day St. Vincent de Paul, at the main kitchen, prepares more than 1,000 lunches and dinners to be delivered throughout the community. We will be plating meals to be sent to the homeless shelters. Mondays: March 4, (and April 1, and May 6). Signup: <u>http://tinyurl.com/y3urv856</u>
- Desert Mission Food Bank (DMFB), Wednesdays, from 8:45 am to 11 am. DMFB continues to be an important resource in the Sunnyslope community. HAM volunteers sort and bag food items, prepare senior and student supplemental food bags, and help distribute food to waiting clients. *Wednesdays: February 21, March* 20. Signup: <u>http://tinyurl.com/fd3m7ee</u>

**The Casa Habitat Ministry:** Help build a house and change lives. Email <u>thecasahabitat@thecasa.org</u> to be put on the mailing list or to find out more. Next service opportunities: *Saturday, February 24 and Saturday, March 2*. In the spring we begin to build, with the Caritas Coalition, our 23rd house. There will be additional build dates that are not yet listed.

*Matthew* 25 Serving Asylum Seekers Ministry: <u>matthew25@thecasa.org</u>. Every Monday the Casa serves asylum seekers at the Phoenix Welcome Center. To volunteer, email and find out more such as how to be trained to serve at the Welcome Center.and find out more such as how to be trained to serve at the Welcome Center.

# **Welcome the Stranger**



Saturday, March 2, 1:30 – 3:30 pm, Fee \$10 Hear from experts in the areas of refugee resettlement and immigration. *Register now at <u>frc.retreatportal.com</u>*. Sponsored by Matthew 25 Ministry

Visit the Matthew 25 Ministry in the Hospitality area to learn more about Welcome the Stranger:

• After Mass on Saturday/Sunday, February 24 – 25



*Pick-up your Lenten Almsgiving envelopes in the Narthex or at the Lobby Desk.* 

# Gardening Sustainably in the Desert: How will your Garden Grow?

Saturday, February 24 9 am – 2 pm Fee: \$15



In partnership with the Maricopa County Master Naturalist Chapter, the Care for Creation ministry is hosting educational workshops on growing native heat-and-drought-tolerant crops in your home gardens. *Register now at <u>frc.retreatportal.com</u>* 

> *Popcorn, Pizza, and Peace* **Friday Night at the Movies to Honor Women's History Month.**



## Friday, March 1, 5:30 – 8:30 pm Fee is \$15 and includes light dinner.

Featuring films telling the stories of women overcoming social and cultural barriers that bring new hope and opportunity within their communities. *Women Being Peacemakers, Becoming Changemakers.* Details and flyer found on *FIA LinkTree.* Registration closes Wednesday, February 28, at 7 pm. *Register now at* <u>frc.retreatportal.com</u>

Co - Manager, Faith in Action	Victor Jaimes	<u>victor@thecasa.org</u>	480.306.4027
Co - Manager, Faith in Action	Laura Libertore	<u>laura@thecasa.org</u>	480.355.5645
For volunteer opportunities and FIA events, visit: <u>linktr.ee/socialconcerns</u>			
Page 6 • RENEWAL • <u>thecasa.org</u>			

#### COMMUNITY CONNECTION



A conversation during my first week working here last October: Volunteer: "You're the new Volunteer Coordinator." **Me, politely:** "No, I'm the new HR Specialist." Volunteer: "What do you do?" **Me, smiling:** "I work with volunteers."

My staff position is new to the Casa, almost as new to the Casa as this place is to me. Nonetheless, we have learned to work well together over the past few months for the benefit of the Franciscan Renewal Center (including Our Lady of the Angels and all that this organization encompasses). In my first three months, I onboarded (and facilitated other staff in onboarding) over two dozen new volunteers. Additionally, I placed several existing volunteers into new roles.

I have helped develop two new volunteer roles, including position descriptions. Those are Safety Inspector (still recruiting) and Guest Ambassador (almost full). The volunteer onboarding and orientation process already established here is professional, stimulating, and Franciscan. Many of our new volunteers appreciate that. Many of our longtime volunteers have yet to experience it! I have enjoyed getting to know many longtime volunteers, (both individually and in groups) and getting them "caught up" on the benefits of the current onboarding and orientation process.

Another important part of my role is ensuring compliance with our volunteer requirements of background checks (every six years) and Safe Environment Training (annually). These policies support a safe environment for everyone.

I am honored to be of service here. If you have any questions or concerns about volunteering, please contact me. — Jenifer Tull-Gauger, Society for Human Resource Management-Certified Professional, HR Specialist. Direct: 480.355.0350 or jenifer@thecasa.org



Ryan Sheade, LCSW, Director of Therapy, Support, and Counseling email: <a href="mailto:counseling@thecasa.org">counseling@thecasa.org</a> phone: 480.948.7460, ext. 134

#### EDUCATION, RETREATS, AND EVENTS — Pre-registration required.



## PRESENTATION The Meaning of the Stigmata of Francis of Assisi March 7, Thursday, 7 – 8 pm

Fr. Steven McMichael, OFM Conv

Did you know St. Francis was the first recorded person to receive the stigmata? Come join us for a one-hour presentation of the Stigmata of St. Francis of Assisi. One of the most fascinating topics of the study of Christian religious experience is the stigmata and whether it is possible that human beings could bear on their bodies the very marks of Jesus' crucifixion.

#### Fee: \$10 per person. Register: frc.retreatportal.com

# RETREAT



Mercy and Compassion in the Spirituality of St. Francis of Assisi March 8 – 10, Friday – Sunday

Fr. Steven McMichael, OFM Conv

In recent years, Italian scholars have produced many books and articles on the theme of mercy and compassion in the writings of Francis of Assisi. We will focus on Francis' writings such as the Earlier Rule, the Testament, the Admonitions, the Canticle of the Creatures and the Letter to a Minister.

Fee, incl. meals: \$300 single room; \$150 commuter. Register: <u>frc.retreatportal.com</u>

## RETREAT



Holy Week 2024, Theme: Questions Around the Table Part I: March 23 – 27, Saturday – Wednesday Part II, The Paschal Triduum: March 28 – 31, Thursday – Sunday Fr. Greg Friedman, OFM This retreat will focus on Jesus' Last Discourse in John's Gospel—what Fr. Greg likes to call "The World's Longest After-Dinner Speech."

#### For fees and registration information, visit: frc.retreatportal.com

#### RETREAT



## A Brush with God April 11 – April 14, Thursday – Sunday

Peter Pearson, MDiv & ThD

During our time together, we will paint the image of Christ, the Gardener and Lord of the Harvest. We'll follow the traditional, step by step process of Byzantine iconography in a prayerful atmosphere. No previous experience or innate talents are required. Come, learn to make a brushstroke your prayer and give yourself to an ancient way of proclaiming the gospel in color and lines.

Fee, incl meals: \$600 single room; \$400 commuter. Register: frc.retreatportal.com

To see all of our upcoming programs and to register, please visit <u>frc.retreatportal.com</u>. Registration can also be made by visiting or calling our Guest Services Desk, or emailing <u>lora@thecasa.org</u>.

### EDUCATION, RETREATS, AND EVENTS — Pre-registration required.



#### RETREAT

## **Divorced and Separated** May 17 – May 19, Friday – Sunday

Judith McHale, MA, LPC and Tom Mitchell, Ph.D.

While we would like to think that time heals, it is truly insight that helps us understand what is needed to renew, restore, and rebuild after our relationship ends. This weekend retreat will help you live through the end of your relationship and show you how that ending can be an opportunity for personal growth, healing, and even joy. Fee, incl meals: \$300 single room; \$150 commuter. Register: frc.retreatportal.com Email lora@thecasa.org for information on doubles.



#### RETREAT

## **Emmaus Retreat for Grieving Parents** May 17 – May 19, Friday – Sunday

Marianne Gouveia and Greg Eckerman

During this weekend, we pray for all of our parents and we ask Jesus to join us as we walk the horrendous journey of grieving our loss every day. EMMAUS Ministry for Grieving Parents is a unique ministry that serves the spiritual needs of grieving parents whose children of any age have died by any cause, no matter how long ago.

Fee, incl meals: \$250 single room; \$135 commuter. Register: frc.retreatportal.com

## RETREAT



Timothy Ringgold, MT-BC

Anyone who has known the joy of love has most likely experienced the pain of loss. Grief is a natural part of life, yet we often need help to find our way through it. Tim Ringgold provides a supportive setting where you will gain new insights into the grief process and discover ways to heal and move forward.

Fee, incl meals: \$250 single room; \$135 commuter. Register: frc.retreatportal.com

#### RETREAT



# Your Spiritual Legacy: Reflections into the Heart of Who You Are. June 7 – 9, Friday – Sunday

Mary Dunn and Alanna Mack

Deep in your soul is the story that wants to be told. In our weekend of guided reflections, we will help you open yourself to that story and discover the treasure that lies within. The treasure that is your true legacy to others.

Fee, incl meals: \$300 single room; \$150 commuter. Register: frc.retreatportal.com

To see all of our upcoming programs and to register, please visit <u>frc.retreatportal.com</u>. Registration can also be made by visiting or calling our Guest Services Desk, or emailing lora@thecasa.org.

#### **Spiritual Direction Ministry**



## An Invitation to **Spiritual Growth**

Our Spiritual Direction Ministry offers one-on-one listening and support for finding God in our lives and deepening that relationship. Spiritual direction or companionship is not counseling, it is holy listening and discernment

of God's voice in our lives.

To set up an appointment with one of our directors, contact Cathy Olds, Coordinator of the Spiritual Direction Ministry, at spiritualdirection@thecasa.org

#### Faith Sharing & Prayer Groups at the Casa

Centering Prayer meets Wednesdays, 8:45 am in the Meditation Chapel. All are welcome.

**Contemplation in the Desert** gathers in the Healing Garden on Monday at 11 am. CareforCreation@thecasa.org

Cornerstone Contemplative Meditation Wednesdays, 11:30 am – 12:30 pm. We are located in the Spiritual Direction room between the Guadalupe and TK conference rooms. Joanne Rapp: jorapp25@ gmail.com

Interfaith Healing Prayer Group meets every Friday following 8 am Mass in the back of the church. Contact Terri at healingprayer@thecasa.org. All are welcome.

Men in Spirit. Christian men meet on the first Saturday of the month at 8 am for breakfast in the dining room, followed by discussion. Zoom available. Steve Hempelman 602.821.7178. meninspirit@thecasa.org

Prayer Partners petition prayers and prays for our human family. Send requests to: casaprayerpartners@thecasa.org.

**Rosary Group** Meets Tuesdays at 6 pm in the Meditation Chapel. Requests for meeting information and prayer intentions contact: rosary@thecasa.org

The Order of Secular Franciscans (OFS) Peace Fraternity meets on the second Sunday of the month. This canonical Order of the Catholic Church is open to lay Catholics. Contact: John Elder, OFS, at johncelder@gmail.com or 480.580.7750.

#### **Mass Intentions** February 18 – February 24, 2024

<b>Sunday</b> Paul Cafiero Mary Zahn Gail Fagan	7:30 am 9:15 am 11:00 am
<b>Monday</b> Janet Steddon	8:00 am
<b>Tuesday</b> Donna Barker	8:00 am
<b>Wednesday</b> Lila Cannon	8:00 am
<b>Thursday</b> Frank Baselice, Sr.	8:00 am
<b>Friday</b> Clare Basset	8:00 am
<b>Saturday</b> Tony Công	4:00 pm

The intentions listed here will be the intentions of the priest and will not be announced to the gathered assembly.

#### About the Franciscan Renewal Center

The Franciscan Renewal Center ("the Casa") is a place for spiritual growth, healing, and community that is open to everyone, regardless of faith. Activities at the Casa include:

- Weekday (Mon. Fri.) and Weekend Masses at Our Lady of the Angels Church
- Meetings and conferences for religious and nonprofit groups
- Therapy, counseling, and support groups
- Education, retreats, and events
- Family faith formation and Young Adult ministry
- Volunteer ministries in service of the poor and vulnerable
- Spiritual direction

The Franciscan Renewal Center was founded as a Catholic retreat, called Casa de Paz y Bien (the Casa), by the Order of Friars Minor in 1951. It remains an active religious community that seeks to follow in the footsteps of Saints Francis and Clare of Assisi. The Casa works cooperatively with the Diocese of Phoenix.



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