



A LETTER ▶

FROM RALPH MARTIN

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RENEWAL MINISTRIES' CANADIAN BOARD

Pictured from left to right:

Jim Cavnar,
Vernon Robertson
(recently retired),
Fr. James Mallon,
Ralph Martin,
Msgr. Gregory Smith
(Chairman),
Robert Shiley,
Bishop Scott McCaig,
Miriam Wright,
Dominic Inneo, and
Deacon Tom Welsh.



Dear Sons and Daughters of the Father,

How often do we stop to consider that we are indeed sons and daughters of the Father? It's pretty amazing! It will be even more amazing when what we already are is unveiled in glory.

As we read in Second Corinthians 3:17-18: *"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being changed into his likeness from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit."*

CANADIAN UPDATES

I'd like to update you on some of our recent mission efforts and news of particular interest to our Canadian brothers and sisters.

We held our annual meeting for our Canadian Catholic Renewal Ministries' Board of Directors in December. Praise God, border restrictions were finally lifted, and we were able to meet in person in Toronto—for the first time in a few years. At our meeting,

- We reviewed all the mission projects supported by Catholic Renewal Ministries of Canada. On page two, we've listed the countries to which the board will support missions in 2023.
- We made the significant decision to return to a live, in-person Lift Jesus Higher Rally in Toronto. Look for a report on the event in an upcoming newsletter!

• We honored Vernon Robertson—a long-time board member and exemplary disciple of Christ. He was a missionary disciple of Jesus before anyone was talking about missionary disciples! He worked in a grocery store in Vancouver for many years as a meat-cutter, simultaneously leading many evangelization events in parishes throughout the area and organizing some big conferences that many of us participated in. Vernon's wife, Maureen, accompanied him to the December board meeting, and we thanked them both for their amazing life together as a married couple, parents, and committed followers of Jesus.

We wish them the best in what I'm sure will be a time of continued witness—

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even in their retirement. Thank you, Vernon and Maureen, for everything you have done for so many over the years; your amazing commitment to the mission of Renewal Ministries; and your friendship, love, and witness of a wholehearted response to Vatican II's call to lay people!

- While at our board meeting, Chairman Msgr. Gregory Smith, from the Archdiocese of Vancouver, was asked by Archbishop Michael Miller to serve the archdiocese as vicar general—a very big responsibility. He already leads a large parish and serves as director of deacon formation but has accepted the additional responsibility. Let's pray for Vernon and Maureen in their retirement and for Msgr. Smith in his new responsibilities!

- At one of our quarterly meetings, the board suggested that Bishop Scott McCaig send a letter to his fellow bishops offering to have Peter Herbeck, Dr. Mary Healy, or myself conduct clergy formation days or retreats with all costs to be absorbed by Catholic Renewal Ministries of Canada. Msgr. Smith noted that many rural dioceses cannot afford to organize something like this, and the support of Renewal Ministries would be important. Since then, we have heard from three bishops requesting our help for events with their priests and have set dates for two of them. More later! Thank you—your support makes all this possible.

SUPPORTING CATHOLIC RADIO

One of the more interesting, fruitful, and inspiring activities I've carried out recently was accepting an invitation to speak at the annual fundraising dinners organized by Real Presence Catholic Radio—an amazing network of radio stations spanning the upper Midwest, from Wyoming, through both North and South Dakota, and including Iowa and Minnesota. Our media director, Elizabeth Rzepka, served for many years in this region and strongly encouraged me to accept this invitation. I told them I was not typically an “after-dinner” speaker and didn't know a lot of jokes, but they said they wanted a talk that addressed the current crisis in the culture and in the Church, based on my work in the book *A Church in Crisis: Pathways Forward*. I was happy to accept their suggestion!

I spoke at annual fundraising dinners for them in Rapid City and Sioux Falls, South Dakota; in Bismarck, Minot, and Fargo, North Dakota; and in Duluth, Minnesota. In the coming year, I'll speak at two more of these dinners, in Aberdeen, South Dakota, and in Rochester, Minnesota. Altogether, more than two-thousand people attended these dinners—an amazing turnout to support Catholic radio! The most recent dinner I spoke at, in Fargo, had more than nine-hundred people present, including Bishop John Folda, the bishop of Fargo, and Bishop Andrew Cozzens, the bishop of Crookston, Minnesota.

I think there is a growing hunger among orthodox Catholics for support as the situation in the culture and Church worsens. Catholic radio is a great instrument for helping people keep their heads clear and their hearts at peace (relatively at least!) amid the confusion and conflict around us.

We are blessed here in the Ann Arbor and Southeast Michigan area to have Ave Maria Radio, which provides great programming and supports the local Catholic community. If you have the opportunity, support your local Catholic radio! It's important in these times.

Your brother in Christ,

Ralph Martin

Ralph Martin



MISSIONS PLANNED FOR 2023:

- CAMEROON
- GHANA
- GUINEA-BISSAU
- HAITI
- LITHUANIA
- NAMIBIA & BOTSWANA
- PAPUA NEW GUINEA
- RWANDA
- SLOVAKIA
- TANZANIA
- UGANDA
- ZAMBIA
- ZIMBABWE





SPREADING THE GOSPEL IN ROMANIA



BY TIBI MAJOROS

Country Coordinator for Romania

We are pleased to announce that Tibi will be ordained the first permanent deacon in Romania on June 17, 2023! Please join us in praying for Tibi and his family!

Tibi is the founder of the community of St. Paul Oradea and the administrator of Foundation Missio. He is also the former president of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in Transylvania. Tibi began collaborating with Renewal Ministries in 1998, promoting and pioneering the work of evangelization in Hungary and Romania. Each year, he organizes evangelistic events, Holy Spirit seminars, youth camps, retreats and rallies, and helps to form young leaders. He and his wife, Martha, live in Oradea, Romania, with their three sons.

The past year has contained many exciting opportunities for growth and proclaiming the Good News! I am happy to share some of these opportunities with you.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING

The Wholeheartedly Youth Leadership Training, which we have organized with the Archdiocese of Gyulafehérvár for the past seven years, offers participants eight months of in-depth training and mentoring. This helps them acquire a personal relationship with God and a stable prayer time and helps them heal from their spiritual wounds. By the conclusion of the program, they can build and lead teams, manage different situations and people, and be role models.

My main role is to help with the training's spiritual side, especially with Saturday night adoration and organizing and guiding the prayer meetings. I gave lectures, held trainings, and led practice sessions on personal relationship with God, prayer life, personality of a leader, leadership and developmental stages of a community, and evangelization.

This year, we had forty-eight participants and offered basic training, training for worship leaders, and additional opportunities for advanced leaders. Some past graduates were even a part of our team!

The Holy Spirit moved powerfully during the trainings. During the first weekend, the Holy Spirit filled the room and our hearts. The event ended, but nobody wanted to leave. Many of the youth and some of the organizers encountered God like never before. A team member studying to become a religion teacher said that before the training, he thought he knew everything there was to know about a personal relationship with God, but now he truly experienced being filled with the Holy Spirit.

A similar format has become the structure for all our Saturday nights. It is something familiar that the youth look forward to and feel safe in. They indicated that this was where God made the biggest changes within them.

At the end of the training, participants shared many testimonies like the following one:

The training strengthened my faith. The teachings and the community helped me grow in my relationship with God. I did not have a well-balanced spiritual life but here I came to the conviction that life is much better if you try to live it with God. My prayer life has grown and now I dedicate more time for God in my day-to-day life.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

They also reported feeling well-equipped to handle an array of situations within their other ministry work:

A troublesome youth was assigned to a group I was working with. The situation escalated to the point that they were seriously considering sending him home. When asked about the situation, I was adamant about the person staying. I truly believed I could work with the person. By the end of the five-day meeting, the youth was reformed and not causing trouble anymore. If not for the Wholeheartedly training, I would not have been able to overcome this situation.

We now have behind us a new generation of talented and committed youth who can do this work wonderfully! This process of renewal will not end with us; they can keep the flame going. For the dioceses, this means forty to fifty well-trained leaders. The entire youth ministry is thus renewed. God's is the glory, ours is the joy!

ADVENTURE CAMPS

Adventure camps are our most effective method of spreading the Good News to the youth. This year was challenging for many reasons. The neighboring war caused prices to skyrocket. As a result, we moved the camp to a beautiful village parish with good infrastructure served by a charismatic priest who is a good spiritual friend of mine. He initially refused to charge us but finally accepted a nominal amount

to repaint youth's dormitories and modernize the showers and plumbing before we arrived. It was wonderful to have a church and a priest on site for the entire camp!

The other difficulty was finding a good spot for our rock climbing, caving, and survival activities. Finding all the necessary places for our activities and instruction took about a week of working from sunup to sundown. Ultimately, God provided for everything—sometimes through big and small miracles that astonished us.

The first miracle was the weather. This village is in the mountains, so when it starts raining—which happens frequently—it continues for days. In fact, it rained until the very moment we arrived at camp. The local youth told us there was such a big thunderstorm, they were afraid to leave their homes. While we were there, the weather was perfect.

Both camps were at the maximum number of participants. On the last night, we camped on a small island where we had organized survival activities. The forecast predicted bleak weather for the next day, and clouds were starting to gather, but we had a wonderful time. The youth had the opportunity to light the fire and fry sausages, as we had taught them to. It was raining north and south of us, but we stayed dry. God held out his hands above us. We stayed up well into the night, the youth played on their guitars, and we gazed at the stars. The down-

pour hit while we were driving home the next day. Cars were stopping in the middle of the road because visibility was below thirty feet. We stopped as well. We thanked God that this did not happen during the camps.

God granted us another tremendous blessing when someone lost the keys to the minibus in a nearly thirty-two-square-mile area. I thought that if we did not find the keys, it could lessen the youths' conviction toward prayer in general. Then, one of them found the keys in the forest's underbrush! The only thing I can do in situations like this is fall to my knees. The Lord is truly mighty! That day, we had roamed through the forest, run, jumped, and crawled on the ground. Those keys could have fallen anywhere. We should have never been able to find them, but with God, we can do all things.

I felt like the apostles; they thought they already knew the Lord well—and then He calmed the storm, and they were dumbfounded. It was a big miracle for all of us to see the power of prayer and what the Lord can do.

It also was wonderful to see the youth change before our very eyes. One young man did not want to hear anything about church when he arrived. He went home from camp and became an active member of his local youth community. Once, we even had to delay the start of Mass because the line for confession kept going! As one leader said, “we saw kids come to Jesus, experience the touch of the Holy Spirit, and be filled with the love of the Father.”

RETREAT DAYS

Another essential part of our work in Romania is helping communities and organizing retreat days. Our work has helped the number of these communities grow exponentially—thanks in part to new communities being born and strengthened where people had not yet been familiar with the renewal.

One group I greatly enjoy visiting is in Tarcea. The members are primarily

↻ A group of participants was muddy but happy after caving.



poor and elderly—but I have never seen such strong prayer. We spend hours in worship. Another place I love visiting is in Cluj. These youth were not yet born back when we started helping this community. They love us, and it is always a packed house when we visit. It is an important community because a significant number of the intellectuals of Transylvania receive their higher education in this city. If they are converted and filled with the Holy Spirit, there will be people that God can use all over the country.

I had many positive experiences when other brothers and sisters in Christ accompanied me on these trips. God uses them, and their presence positively affects our ministry. I have learned that it does not matter how old someone is—God can use them. Through the people who accompanied me, God touched the hearts of those I might not have been able to reach on such a personal level.

Here is one testimony from Magdolna Boér, who accompanied me on a trip:

I had gone with Tibi to visit other communities, but this trip was to be for multiple days. I declined at first because of my age. I am seventy-one. I have many ailments and thought I could not endure the trip. But I felt like God was calling me. Finally, I said yes. It was a beautiful missionary journey. It was good to praise the Lord with the wonderful community. I have been widowed twice and have no children. I shared my testimony about God's love and how He takes care of me. At the end of the event, many people surrounded me and wanted to talk with me. There was also a university student who waited for everyone else to leave so that he could talk to me in peace. I met brothers and sisters with whom I am still in contact with today. We arrived home with great joy and enriched in spirit. We prayed and worshipped the Lord the entire way home. Praise and thanks to God for everything!



➤ Tibi met with students in a sports hall at one school mission this year. He has been trying to reach out to more challenging students at the school.

Our school retreat ministry also was powerful this year. In Oradea, there is a Catholic school attended by about nine-hundred students. Due to various factors, many students pick this school even though they are not religious. The school holds two annual retreat days that I have been going to for some time. After a day of Mass and talks, the students return to their classrooms to hear from special guests. Some time ago, I asked the principal to send me to a problematic class. She directed me to the real black sheep, who I began visiting regularly and not just on retreat days.

This year, my first group met in the sports hall with no chairs or microphone. It was a rainy day, which was loud against the metal roof of the sports hall. I tried to do my best, speaking loudly (but not shouting) to be interactive and to use stories and examples they like and understand. It went well; they were listening and interacting with me.

The principal asked me to visit another class afterward. She said nobody else wanted to go to this class. They suggested that I wear a bulletproof vest. The students indeed misbehave, but I have visited them twice since then, and I already see signs of improvement even though we are at the beginning of our

journey. They come from very difficult backgrounds and have received the same thing from everyone throughout their lives—judgement, expectation, and scolding. I try to simply love them; someone needs to. As the weather gets better, I plan to take them on a trip into the mountains.

At the change in school years, many of the students transferred elsewhere. I learned, however, that when the students who stayed found out I would be going to a different class than theirs, they started skipping their own classes to attend the one where I was present. I simply thought they were also in the class I was speaking to. I only realized what was happening when they said at the end that they had better get going back to their own class. Their faces are hard to read, and it is hard to gauge how much things I say touch them. I would not have thought my time with the boys meant enough for them to skip their class for it. What they did strengthened me. May the name of the Lord be praised!

This year was blessed. God is building something with our help, the Good News is being spread, and we are the facilitators of the renewal. I am grateful to God—and to everyone who has supported this work—for every moment.

RECLAIM *the* SABBATH

BY PETER HERBECK

This talk was originally presented at id's January 2023 Disciples' Night, available at www.YouTube.com/intentionaldisciples/streams.

Let's reclaim the Lord's Day as a day of rest and the most important day of the week for Christians. Let's withstand secular culture's efforts to turn the Lord's Day into just another day to be entertained.

The first three commandments are about relationship with God. The Lord makes it clear that He is our highest value. We were made to be in relationship with Him. Nothing can come before Him in our hearts or minds. The only way to reach human fulfillment is to be united in heart with the living God. This is why it is important to revere God in all we say and do.

The Third Commandment is,

“Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day.”

Honoring the Sabbath brings clarity to the Lord's primacy in our lives. There are situations where people must work on that day, but in general, this is meant to be a day set aside to the Lord, where the Lord's people rest in Him.

What we value most will shape our lives. This is why the Church, in obedience to the Lord, wants us to pay attention to the true value of the Lord's Day. Doing so helps create a culture that honors and is in relationship with Him. The lack of this contributes to the Church collapsing in so many areas in this intense time of spiritual combat.

Few people believe in the Real Presence, in part because we no longer honor the sacredness of the Lord's Day.

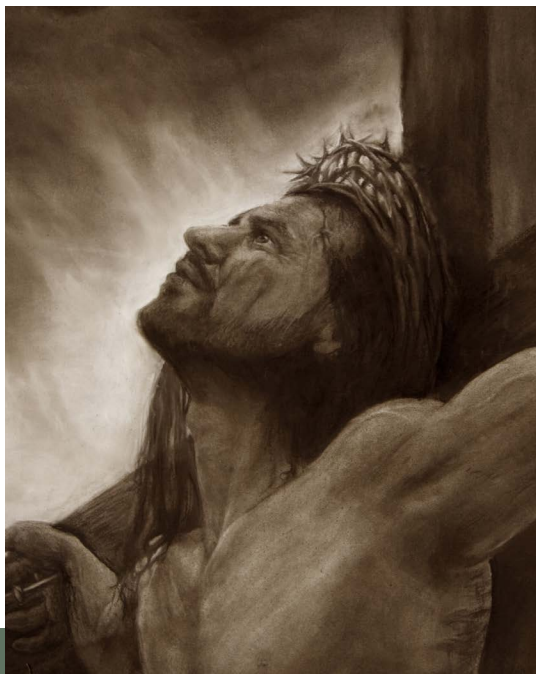
Mass calls us again to Calvary—where, by an act of love, Jesus became an expiation for our sins. He ransomed us, canceled the debt, and broke the devil's power. In response, we get on our knees, honor Him, and say yes to Him. We behold what the Father values the most about human life, as demonstrated in his Son who emptied Himself, humbled Himself, and became obedient even unto death on a cross.

At Mass, look at Jesus and consider: What does God crown? What's the most important thing we as his followers are supposed to see? Humility and obedience.

Also at Mass, we confess our sins—we bring them to the Lord and bow down together as weakened, broken people uniting around the Lord's table. We give thanks together to the Father for giving us his Son. We thank and exalt Jesus for his victory and then, through his Word, He feeds us and teaches us how to follow Him.

This day of rest reminds us that we belong to God, that we need to be strengthened by Him, and that we need Him as the center of our lives and families. With his body and blood, Jesus gives us strength to live a new way of life. When the priest says, “go,” we are sent ones, missionaries. We're a nation set apart, and a nation has a culture that celebrates what its people value. Let's set apart the whole day—from sundown on Saturday night until sundown on Sunday. Make it a different day.

Although honoring the Sabbath may look somewhat different for everyone, I want to share what my wife and I did while raising our children. We would have a normal Saturday doing chores and taking the kids to their sporting events. Then we would come home and have a nice dinner to bring in the Lord's Day. We would light a candle and pray. We often had guests over, maybe other families with kids, and afterwards would sing, praise the Lord, and read Scripture or the lives of the



saints. Occasionally, we'd play games, watch an inspiring movie, take walks, take naps, visit people, or even help at a soup kitchen. It was a time to be together and rest.

In the morning, we as parents would be excited about going to Mass. We expressed,

“This is the most important thing we're going to do this week as a family. We love this; we aren't just doing this out of some obligation.”

Mom and Dad together have to say,

“This is our first love, and we desire to honor the Lord with our entire life. This is what we most want to pass on to our children; this is our family's culture.”

If our rhythm of life doesn't communicate what we believe, we're going to become lukewarm. The pressure of the world makes it intimidating to live our faith if we don't truly know that we are part of a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation. We are a weakened, broken people living in obedience to Jesus, knowing

If our rhythm of life doesn't communicate what we believe, we're going to become lukewarm.

our lives are no longer our own. Jesus told us to not be afraid—but if we aren't clear about what we stand for, we're going to be double-minded.

The Lord wants to feed us. He wants to be our rest and give us his promises. Over time, honoring the Sabbath moves us out of a fleshly way of existence and away from anxiety, fear, lust, anger, and bitterness. It leads us to walk in patient love, the fruits of which are joy, peace, patience, and kindness.

The Lord wants to feed us. He wants to be our rest and give us his promises. Over time, honoring the Sabbath moves us out of a fleshly way of existence and away from anxiety, fear, lust, anger, and bitterness. It leads us to walk in patient love, the fruits of which are joy, peace, patience, and kindness.

Let's recover this culture-building reality for the Church. Let's be a holy nation who lives set apart for the glory of his name!

A Call to Rest

From the January 2023 id Disciples' Night (www.YouTube.com/intentionaldisciples/streams), below is a story of one person's journey to observing the Sabbath. We hope this encourages others to consider how the Lord may be calling them to rest with the Lord on the Sabbath, as the Lord undoubtedly calls each of us in similar but unique ways that may change over time.

BY EMMA NOWAK
PA student at Eastern Michigan University

I began practicing the Sabbath at Notre Dame University. My days were structured around study. The Lord was a focus of my day, but there was nothing special about Sundays. The days and weeks blended into each other. One of my friends, now a postulant with the Sisters of Life, upheld the Sabbath. It was a day of rest for her: she did no schoolwork. It was radical at Notre Dame to not work on Sundays—but she radiated joy and peace.

Slowly, many of my friends began observing the Sabbath. I would do things with them on Sunday that weren't Mass or studying, but I found myself feeling stressed. I wouldn't be resting; my mind would be in what I needed to do.

I began praying with Jesus's words that the Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. The Sabbath was a gift the Lord was offering me, and I was saying, “No, thank you.” I couldn't reconcile that.

With my friends' encouragement, I accepted that gift and began observing the Sabbath—and it transformed everything! I made sacrifices to not work on Sundays. I had to be more focused during my work and look at it more as an offering to the Lord. I had to say no to some things.

I better prioritized people the Lord had place in my life: friends, family, and people not at Notre Dame who I wanted

to stay connected with. I wanted to maintain those relationships and help them feel loved.

This is the secret to my Sabbath: I don't over-plan my days. The rest of my week

This is the secret to my Sabbath: I don't over-plan my days.

is packed, and the Lord has offered me an unplanned day. It allows Him to surprise me with different things. I now say yes to things that

come up with friends and family. If my friends want to go to brunch, I go. If I sit down to do a puzzle and one of my friends starts working on it with me, I sit with them for as long as they are there, laughing, talking, and having fun together. Spending time with people is so important, and the Lord is asking me to just be with people. I also try to call or write at least one person I'm not with physically—whether it's my grandma or an out-of-state friend. I always end my Sabbath with a holy hour, just sitting with the Lord.

Receiving the Sabbath has sweetened my relationship with Christ. On the Sabbath, the Lord says in a special way,

“Come away with Me and rest.”

I'm finally just receiving that, and my relationships with people have improved, and I have more peace and joy throughout the week.

EVENTS APRIL 2023

Complete event list: RenewalMinistries.net/Events

THE CHOICES WE FACE

Wichita, KS
Legatus*
April 11
Pete Burak

Rochester, NY
Sacred Heart Cathedral Renewal
April 14-15
Ralph Martin
Details: darnbeck@protonmail.com

Austin, TX
St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology
Clergy Conference*
April 18-20
Ralph Martin

Farmington Hills, MI
St. Fabian Parish Mission
April 24-26
Dr. Mary Healy
Details: stfabian.org

Cleveland, OH
Ignite Young Adult Conference
April 29
Pete Burak
Details: ignitecatholic.com

* Not open to the public.

MISSIONS



Mexico City, Mexico
Fr. Gabriel Richard High School
Mexico Mission
April 11-17
Jim Murphy & Team



*This is a serious warning cry:
Surrender without reservation
to the Lord who has called us.*

*This is required of us so that the
face of the earth may be renewed.*

// Edith Stein



PLEASE PRAY

- ▶ That the hearts of our nation turn back to our Lord, bringing about an increased respect for life at all stages.
- ▶ That the Lord would bless our mission efforts around the world, allowing us to help strengthen his Church and bring his children into greater freedom and trust.
- ▶ For the prayer intentions of all our supporters and their family members, especially as they face the challenges of illness and economic uncertainty.

The Choices We Face is the longest-running Catholic television program in the world! Each episode explores an important topic concerning the faith. Watch these and other episodes on our website at:

www.renewalministries.net/the-choices-we-face

APRIL TOPICS:

Jesus is Enough // Annie Randolph
High school senior Annie Randolph talks about the transformative power of encountering the love of God and giving everything to Him. (04/02/23)

Why Hell Has to Exist // Msgr. Charles Pope
Msgr. Charles Pope gives a talk at a Renewal Ministries' conference on why hell has to exist. (04/09/23)

For the Sake of Life // Dr. Kristin Collier
Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine Dr. Kristin Collier shares how God's grace moved her from being a secular humanist to a pro-life Christian. (04/16/23)

Defending Freedom // John Bursch
Lawyer John Bursch, of the Alliance Defending Freedom, embraces a call to uphold God's law amid the most pressing social issues of the day. (04/23/23)

Keep Your Eyes on Jesus // Pete Burak
Pete Burak interviews Ralph, discussing aspects of authentic Christian leadership and the need to be transformed by the Holy Spirit. (04/30/23)



Renewal Ministries is a Catholic ministry committed to renewal and evangelization in the Church. It seeks to proclaim Jesus Christ through its TV, radio, and social media outreaches, as well as through books, conferences, retreats, and other international evangelistic events.

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NEWSLETTER

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