



THE CRUSADER



Official Publication of the New Jersey State Council Knights of Columbus



Bruce DeMolli
State Deputy



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State Deputy's Message

Brothers,

We are now at the half way mark in our fraternal year and every district and council should be meeting the goals and objectives that were planned for at the beginning of the year. Membership and programs go hand in hand. One cannot be successful without the other. I encourage all District Deputies and Grand Knights to continue to use their monthly planners to achieve their goals. Only through the careful planning, proper implementation and communication will you succeed. Success can be accomplished through T.I.C, ie: Training, Incentives and Communication.

It is extremely important during this time of year that we use our resources to help the needy with food, clothing and gifts. Many are in need and turn to the Knights for our assistance. Church and community food pantries need our help. Please remember them and give whatever support you can. Please refer to the Grand Knights manual on line and CD for a listing of our programs.

Remember to "Keep Christ in Christmas". Our state program asks our members to display car magnets, lawn signs and billboard messages to remind us what the true meaning of Christmas is.

On behalf of my fellow State Officers, my wife Anna and I would like to wish you a Blessed, holy and joyous Christmas Season. May God give you strength and knowledge. God bless you all for what you do for our order.

Vivat Jesus
Bruce De Molli
NJ State Deputy

Merry Christmas!





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From the Editor's Desk

Brothers,

As we prepare for the coming Christmas Holidays, remember to say loudly and proudly "Merry Christmas". This is the time of year to wear your Faith on your sleeve. Many times you will hear "Happy Holidays", let your response inform people you are proud of your Catholic Faith. Display your "Keep Christ in Christmas" magnets and lawn signs prominently.

Remember that New Years Day is not just a day of football and beverages, it is also The Solemnity of Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God. Start your day by celebrating Mass, thanking Mary for her life as Jesus' mom, as well as ours. It is through Our Lady that all we do is possible.

Remember these words from your First Degree, "Mary, and her Knights, a team beyond compare, in the service of her Divine Son." Ask Our Mother for guidance when something is troubling you, when you have a big decision to make that will not only effect your life, but even decisions that may seem like they should be easy ones, sometimes they are the toughest to make. We all have times like that in our life, and Mary can help you make the proper choices.

Here is an easy choice to make, help your Council with the Free Throw Tournament, show the kids and their family that the Knights are here not only for fundraising opportunities, but also to promote activities that children and families can enjoy. Not only will the kids have fun and make new friends, but you may get a new member out of it. Think about it



Program Corner

Brothers,

It is hard to believe, but Thanksgiving has already come and gone, Advent has now begun and we are starting our preparations for Christmas. All our planning over the past few months for this joyous time now comes to fruition as we distribute the "Keep Christ in Christmas" magnets and Christmas cards, feed needy families and clothe others with winter coats. Let the Knights of Columbus be the leaders for all to see of how to keep the Christmas Season and to truly "Keep Christ in Christmas".

Through our charitable works for those less fortunate as well as our observance of our faith, we can be the shining example of what the Christmas Season is about! Our Knights of Columbus State and Supreme programs will help you to achieve these seasonal goals as well as your goals throughout the year. But you need to get moving, because before you know it, the year will be gone

I myself cannot believe how fast the year is going. The first half of the Columbian year is almost gone and we need to take inventory on how we are doing. Have we met our goals that we set back in July for Youth, Council, Church, Community and Respect Life? If you have, then congratulations! You are probably on course for the Columbian Award or maybe even Star Council. If not, don't despair. There is still time to get back on course and you have so many programs to choose from to help you meet your goals.

To assist you in your planning, please use the "Fraternal Leader Success Planner" that will enable you to plan out your programs for the next 3 to 6 months. The planner will remind you of important upcoming Supreme programs as well as programs the State your Council are planning. In addition, the planner will help you fill out your Fraternal Survey due at the end of January.

As a reference, here are some programs you should consider for December-January:

- "Keep Christ in Christmas" Poster Contest
- Mass w/corporate Communion celebrating the Feast of the Immaculate Conception - 12/8.
- Marian Devotional Prayer Program is The Blessed Immaculate Conception
- Council Website Contest; deadline is 12/31
- Keeping Christ in Christmas as a reminder with Christmas cards and magnets
- Feeding needy families for Christmas
- Visiting the shut in and sick from your parish and council.
- Visiting a Homeless Shelter and helping them financially, with blankets, coats and time
- Welcoming back members who we have not seen for a while to participate in our programs
- New Eyes for the Needy – something FREE
- Free Throw Contest
- Coats for Kids

With good planning, comes great success! Keep your Council active and looking towards your next event. Open up your events to non-members to expand your team and get a few extra hands. Who knows? Maybe those non-members will see the good your Council does and will look to join the Knights. Do not miss that opportunity. Make sure you ask them to join your Council. Let us, together, do our best to develop a calendar of programs with the tools supplied by our State Council and Supreme.

From my family to yours, Eileen and I would like to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Keep the Faith,

Jim Sweeney, FDD, NJ State Program Director



HIGHLIGHTED PROGRAM OF THE MONTH

DEBORAH HEART AND LUNG HOSPITAL

Deborah Heart and Lung Center was established in 1922 as a tuberculosis sanitarium and pulmonary center. Legend has it that Deborah's rural Burlington County location was the key to recovery because of its therapeutic Jersey pine barren air. In reality, thousands of TB patients were medically treated and successfully cured by Deborah physicians.

With the development of antibiotic medications, which eradicated TB, Deborah began expanding its focus to other chest diseases. In 1958, Dr. Charles Bailey, a pioneer in heart surgery, performed the first open heart at Deborah. The specialty of cardiac diseases was immediately embraced and Deborah evolved in the only Cardiac and Pulmonary specialty hospital in New Jersey.

Today, Deborah offers the latest surgical techniques and non-surgical alternatives for diagnosing and treating all forms of cardiac, vascular and pulmonary diseases in adults, and congenital and acquired heart defects in neonates and children.

The Deborah campus consists of Deborah Heart and Lung Center, a 161 bed hospital with a full service ambulatory care center and the Deborah Hospital Foundation, the fundraising arm of the Center with approximately 68,000 volunteers supporting the Deborah mission.

In 2001, the Joint Commission of the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO), effective for three years, awarded Deborah accreditation, which is the longest period of accreditation awarded. Since JACHOs inception, Deborah has always received the maximum time allowed before an institution must be re-accredited.

This center is known worldwide for its special programs in the treatment of heart and lung diseases. Deborah provides the treatment at no charge to patients, except for those items that are covered by the patient's insurance.

Local Councils, Assemblies, and Chapters are encouraged to plan special activities and dedicate the income from activities to the financial support of Deborah.

Knights and members of their families in need of services at the Deborah Hospital have always received consideration when applying for admission. Contact the State Contact for information.

Your Council, Assembly, or Chapter, determines the events scheduled for this great cause. Our goal for the 2014-2015 Columbian Year is \$30,000. If only 150 councils and assemblies were to donate at least \$150, we will easily make this goal!

Make checks payable to Deborah Hospital and mail them to the State Chairman, along with a transmittal report on the Council, Assembly, or Chapter letterhead, if available. We can do this!

State Chairman:

Andrew J. Julia, Jr., FDD
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**For complete details on
the
services offered and
the level of care visit
Deborah Hospital at:
www.deborah.org**

General Agents Corner

“We’ve come a long way, but we have miles to go.”

I write to you today to share some wonderful news. On November 3, your Knights of Columbus surpassed \$100 Billion of life insurance in force, further cementing our position as one of the largest life insurers in North America. It is a tremendous achievement, and one that we should all celebrate – please allow me to tell you why.

I smile when I see that number. I smile, not because I like big numbers, (those of you who know me, know I cannot count that high without using my toes). It’s not the number that impresses me. It’s not that \$100 Billion isn’t impressive – it is. It’s not that it doesn’t matter – it does. But it’s about the purpose and the potential of those dollars, not the dollars in and of themselves.

It’s not about the number, it’s \$100 billion of protection for brother Knights and their families. It’s \$100 billion of real money, waiting to be paid out, to keep the hopes and dreams of Catholic families alive when a family member suddenly dies. It’s a \$100 billion promise that our members have entrusted to us.

But the Supreme Council office tells me that on an average night that 74 brother Knights passed away, 74 of them. And yet only 30 have insurance with the Knights of Columbus. Today, (and every day) there are 44 widows somewhere out there to whom we have nothing to give. To be sure we have prayers, but we don’t have enough. We don’t have enough to send the children to school. We don’t have enough to save the family home. We don’t have enough to make a terrible time easier.

That \$100 billion number makes me smile because I know that bringing that number up, means bringing the number of unprotected families down. I know that sometime in the not too distant future, \$100 billion will become \$150, and \$150 will become \$200 billion, and subsequently the number of brother Knights left uninsured at the time of their death will decrease, the number of widows and orphans provided for will increase, and Catholic families will flourish, despite the odds, because of the diligent planning of a brother Knight – just as Father McGivney would have wanted.

What a tremendous number. What a point of pride for you and for me.

For those of you that have given the Knights of Columbus the privilege of helping to protect your family’s financial future: thank you for your trust.

For those of you that haven’t yet: there has never been a better time to turn to your Knights of Columbus. We are here to protect you, just as Father McGivney intended us to be. That is a claim that no other company can ever make. We are the premier Catholic insurance company, and we are yours.

Charlie Miraglia,
General Agent, Northern New Jersey
Protecting Catholic Families Since 1882.



MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Brothers,

November was a very exciting month. As of this printing **New Jersey is leading in the State Football Challenge**. It seems that the **incentive programs** are definitely working and our State Team is getting the message out to our District Deputies and our District Deputies are getting the message out to our Grand Knights.



As we move into this Christmas Season it's a perfect opportunity to continue seeking out new members. We will be attending Christmas parties, family gatherings and an overall opportunity to meet new faces. A great chance to ask "**Are you a Knight of Columbus?**" It's also an opportunity to welcome back a brother who we have not seen at the Council for a long time.

The State website posting for degrees seems to be working very well. 1st and 2nd degree postings are to come from the aides using the on-line Degree Reporting Form. The application for a 3rd degree can be completed on-line but **MUST** be printed out; signatures obtained where indicated and a check from the Host Council. Let's continue to get our candidates to degrees.

Continue with your incentives. If anyone has not brought in a new member so far this year please give your Diocesan Chairman a call or me directly and we can aid you in your endeavor. Start forming **CHURCH DRIVES** for the new year, it's never too early. Just a reminder that a copy of the Form 100 for each new or reactivated member should be sent to me. The sponsors will be entered into a state drawing at the midterm (January 9th) and end of the year Grand Knights meetings.

KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS!

Your friend in Christ,

Mike Vaclavek, FDD

State Membership Director

"Defending God's Kingdom"



SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Good Day Good People

Persecuted Christians

Last month I submitted an article on Persecuted Christians in the Middle East, I was amazed at the response that I received within just a couple of days. There are many councils eager to begin programs to support these refugees, one council has already been active in raising funds and educating the public. Our Lady of the Pines Council 9852 were very moved by the idea of Catholic Christians needing to flee their ancestral homes or face martyrdom or enslavement. One of their parishioners created a presentation and the council assembled 600 awareness packets to be distributed after all the Masses, and set out a jar to collect "Free will" offerings. They received \$200 in donations before they even started and when they had finished the weekend Masses at Saint Elizabeth Seton Parish, the total raised was \$2538. They submitted the funds to Supreme's website www.christiansatrisk.org, which was set up specifically for this purpose.

The packets consisted of an orange wristband, orange ribbon and an information card in a zip lock sandwich bag. The orange represents the orange jumpsuits that they are forced to wear before they are executed. If you would like more information on duplicating these packets or on the presentation that they created please check out this [link](#) to the State website.

Marian Devotion Program

We are still awaiting prayer cards and program books for the Holy Family devotion program. However I have an alternate prayer service, contact me if you would like to print it out for use in your Council, Parish or home. Contact the Regional coordinator in your diocese to schedule hosting the Holy Family image.

Polar Bear Plunge

We are only two months away from the Polar Bear Plunge, get those sponsors signed up.

Wishing you and your families a Blessed Advent and a Joyous Christmas season.

May God bless and keep us,
Vivat Jesus,

Joe D. Wickham, OFS,
Director of Special Programs



CULTURE OF LIFE

Brothers:

The battle for a Culture of Life can get discouraging, but there are some successes that make it all worthwhile. Adolph Schimpf, our Letters for Life chairman, shared with me this story. On November 5th, 2015, a woman, 20 weeks pregnant, was walking in Paterson. She said she was thinking about having an abortion and she asked God for a sign.

It came instantly, as a bus pulled up. On its side was an ad: "**Pregnant? Know your options**," and it offered "free and confidential pregnancy test & ultrasound." She called the number and went directly to the newly opened Lighthouse Pregnancy Resource Center. When she saw her baby on the ultrasound screen she said: "I can't do that!" There would be no abortion! Who put that ultrasound machine there? We did!

March for Life. As we move into January, we have several Pro-Life programs approaching, and for which we must prepare. First, there is the March for Life in Washington on January 22. If your council or parish has a bus going, be sure to submit the details to the State Council. There may be many people around the state who would like to go and would love to join you on your bus, if the even knew about it. Please fill out the form at this [LINK](#) by December 16 and help us spread the word.

Also, don't forget the Life Rally in Trenton run by NJ Right to Life! If you can't make it down to Washington, you and your council should support this local show of solidarity for the Pro-Life cause. You can get all the details at this [LINK](#).

Speaking Out for Life. We must be vocal in our support for the Culture of Life. Brother Schimpf suggests a banner for your council home or parish that says "Choose Life." These can be had for \$150 from the [Life Education Council web site](#). Also, your council should get involved in Our Catholic Voice in the Media (and Social Media) by writing letters to the editor and posting on Facebook and Twitter. We must speak out as Catholic Citizens!

Save a Life/Share in Life. We have placed 23 ultrasound machines in our state, which are saving lives every week. But these machines (and the pregnancy care centers where they reside) need our support to continue in their work. Consider participating in these programs through donations to help defray operating expenses.

Council Respect Life Chairmen. Please be sure to update the contact information for your council chairman. There are councils that we haven't heard from since 2008, and we need to! This helps us get important info to the right people. The reporting form is at this [LINK](#).

Vivat Jesus!



From Our Webmaster

From the Glow of the Monitor

October and November have seen an amazing number of Degrees posted to the State Website – more than any time in my 10+ years as State Webmaster! This is a tribute to the obvious full-court press by the Councils and their membership teams and the Grand Knights, Financial Secretaries and District Deputies who schedule, host...and most importantly, notify their Diocesan Aides to the State Deputy so that their Degrees are posted on the website.

Up to that point, all I can do is wait for the mail to come in – that “data in / data out” thing! Bringing new men into the Order is easy, and getting them to Degrees has become even easier as a result of improvements to the State Website. I am always open to suggestions and criticism on ways to improve Degree postings and actual turnout for those Degrees.

So how can I help “all y’all’s” (that’s a southern expression: plural possessive) reel ‘em in and get the Degrees scheduled AND posted?

Recruiting and advancement can be fun! I have personally recruited over 220 members in my 14 years as a Knight, since November 26, 2001. This was even though my own experience as a First Degree Candidate was almost a disaster! Now fortunately we have addresses, contacts and maps for each Degree.

Vice Supreme Master Reggie Beckett, KGCHS, PSD has a tried & true method of always being on the lookout for new members, always carry a form 100. I usually have at least 2, carefully folded, Form 100s in my wallet – plus a Fourth Degree Form 4 for good measure. Even when hospitalized, I have had my forms in my bed stand, and I was able to recruit 5 Practical Catholic gentlemen to the Order. One was a male nurse, and he noticed my robe with the emblem of the Order. He stated, “I didn’t know the Knights of Columbus were in New Jersey!” It was a good thing the side rails were up and kept me from falling out of bed. All I could respond was, “Well yeah...and in 49 other States and (at the time) 12 other Countries!”

Once you have interviewed the Candidates, then schedule & post a Degree ASAP, or check the State Website for the nearest or even the reasonably closest Degree, to your area. Crossing into a neighboring County may expedite the process. Don’t forget to notify the host Council.

Lastly, PLEASE, in the interest of *Unity*, do not conduct Degrees without letting other Councils know about them. Get your Degrees posted to the State Website. Thank you.

Vivat Jesus!!!

Bernie Ernst, FDD

State Webmaster



THE BULLETIN BOARD

SCHEDULED DEGREES

[LINK](#)  individual councils below for details.

| DEGREE | DATE | LOCATION |
|------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|
| CAMDEN: | | |
| 1 st | Monday, Dec 7 | Council 1443 Haddon Heights |
| 1 st | Monday, Dec 14 | Council 7463 Waterford |
| 1 st | Monday, Dec 21 | Council 3784 Cherry Hill |
| 1 st | Monday, Jan 4 | Council 1443 |
| 3 rd | Friday, Jan 15 | Council 1443 |
| 1 st | Monday, Jan 18 | Council 3784 |
| 1 st | Monday, Jan 18 | Council 7463 |
| METUCHEN: | | |
| NEWARK: | | |
| 2 nd | Wednesday, Dec 2 | Council 1711 Scotch Plains |
| 1 st | Tuesday, Dec 8 | Council 2188 Westwood |
| 2 nd | Wednesday, Dec 9 | Council 9021 Northvale |
| 2 nd | Thursday, Dec 17 | Council 3632 Cedar Grove |
| 1 st | Saturday Jan 16 | Council 2188 |
| 2 nd | Thursday, Jan 21 | Council 2586 |
| PATERSON: | | |
| TRENTON: | | |
| 3 rd | Friday, Dec 4 | Council 1672 Freehold |
| 3 rd | Friday, Dec 11 | Council 6201 Jackson |
| 1 st | Monday, Dec 28 | Council 860 Bayville |
| 1 st | Monday, Jan 18 | Council 5903 |

[All Website Schedules](#) 

*Celebrating
Anniversaries
this Month*



| COUNCIL | CHARTERED | YRS |
|------------------------|------------|-----|
| 2061 – Sayreville | 12/1/1919 | 96 |
| 10994 – Wrightstown | 12/1/1992 | 23 |
| 11459 – Jersey City | 12/1/1994 | 21 |
| 12592 – Hainesport | 12/1/1999 | 16 |
| 4504 – Union | 12/2/1957 | 58 |
| 5903 – Englishtown | 12/2/1966 | 49 |
| 11644 – Asbury Park | 12/3/2013 | 2 |
| 6735 – Merchantville | 12/5/1975 | 40 |
| 7677 – Hamilton Square | 12/8/1980 | 35 |
| 6320 – Succasunna | 12/9/1971 | 44 |
| 7926 – Point Pleasant | 12/9/1981 | 34 |
| 4885 – Edison | 12/12/1995 | 56 |
| 6552 – Forked River | 12/13/1973 | 42 |
| 2561 – Caldwell | 12/14/1924 | 91 |
| 7020 – Brigantine | 12/14/1977 | 38 |
| 13677 – Sparta | 12/15/2004 | 11 |
| 13678 – Wyckoff | 12/15/2004 | 11 |
| 636 – Princeton | 12/16/1901 | 114 |
| 6195 – Nutley | 12/17/1969 | 46 |
| 943 – Butler | 12/18/1908 | 111 |
| 5920 – Hawthorne | 12/18/1966 | 49 |
| 474 – Phillipsburg | 12/19/1899 | 116 |
| 3187 – Red Bank | 12/19/1948 | 67 |
| 6196 – Newark | 12/21/1969 | 46 |
| 1179 – Mount Holly | 12/23/1906 | 109 |
| 475 – Jersey City | 12/24/1899 | 116 |
| 1178 – Bloomfield | 12/27/1906 | 109 |

State Deputy Bruce DeMolli along with the entire NJ State Council and the Newsletter Staff would like to take this opportunity to wish **ALL** councils best wishes on their **Charter Anniversary**.

May your council continue to grow and do good deeds for many more years to come! Let's continue to grow our Order, expand our programs and continue "**Protecting God's Kingdom!**"

Happy Anniversary

[NOTE: Due to the large number of anniversaries some months we may have to limit the publishing list to the names of councils celebrating their 25th, 50th, 75th and 100th Anniversary.]

THE PATRIOTIC CORNER

My Worthy Brother Knights,

With the start of the fall season, our social and Order calendars tend to become rather congested. I would hope that all Assemblies will already have had their Memorial mass of Remembrance for their departed Brother Sir Knights. If not, it's never too late to remember them with a special prayer or service.

November always presents us with the opportunity to remember our Veterans and those who served during periods of war and conflict. Special efforts were made at this year's fall Exemplification of the Fourth Degree in Cherry Hill to honor these individuals. The Exemplification Ceremony itself always includes recognition of our hero veterans and those who made the ultimate sacrifice by giving up their tomorrows so that we could have our todays.

The Opening Ceremony at the evening's celebratory banquet included a special Missing Honored Guest Service where all Service Branches and civilians who served our country but never returned were remembered. They truly could not attend and participate in our dinner. We offered a toast in their memory and promised to keep them in our hearts and in our prayers. Continue to remember them and all who served in your prayers. Later, the dinner was interrupted to recognize and honor all veterans present at the dinner with the playing of the theme songs of all branches of service and having the attending veterans stand while their branches theme was played.



The Exemplification ceremony welcomed 262 new Sir Knights to our ranks. Our Exemplification Honoree was New Jersey State Deputy Bruce De Molli. In addition to the traditional plaque given to the Honoree to commemorate the event, a donation in his name was made to the Tank Pull Project being initiated in the Second NJ District.

Please make an effort to make an effort to attend the Blessing of the Nativity Scene at the State House in Trenton on Saturday, December 12 at 11:30 a.m. Your presence is needed to demonstrate, in a big way, to our community that Jesus is the reason for the season. Color Corps members are asked to join us.

From my family to all of you, have a Blessed Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year.

Vivat Jesus

Chester B Kulak, D.M.D.

Master, 2nd NJ District



Upcoming Events:

* PLEASE NOTE - **ALL MONTHLY REPORTS ARE DUE AT THE STATE COUNCIL OFFICE ON THE 15TH OF EACH MONTH.**

Be sure to make a note of the activities that are scheduled for the next several months. Click the specific activity [\[hyperlink\]](#) to obtain more information, details and forms. Log-in required.

2015

- December 7 - Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
Fly your Flag
- December 8 - Feast of the Immaculate Conception
- December 12 - Blessing of the Creche – State House
- December 12 - Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
- December 15 - Reports Due
- December 24 - Christmas Eve
- December 25 - Christmas Day
- December 31 - New Year’s Eve

2016

- January 1 - New Year’s Day – Fly your Flag
- January 1 - Solemnity of Blessed Virgin Mary
- January 6 - Feast of the Epiphany
- January 18 - Martin Luther King Day
- January 22 – March for Life
- February 2 - Groundhog Day
- February 12 - Lincoln’s Birthday – Fly your Flag
- February 14 - Valentine’s Day
- February 15 - Presidents Day – Fly your Flag
- February 22 - Washington’s Birthday - Fly your Flag

Please forward this Newsletter to all your council members.

WHEREVER YOU SEE PRINT [“LINK”] THE COLOR OF THIS BOX – OR  – YOU CAN HYPERLINK DIRECTLY TO THE WEBSITE

CHECK for “Summary of Forms & Deadlines” 

Quarterly Calendar



| DECEMBER 2015 | | | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |
| JANUARY 2016 | | | | | | |
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
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| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | | | | | | |
| FEBRUARY 2016 | | | | | | |
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| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | | | | | |

