

February 1-7, 2026

4th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*"Blessed are you when they
insult you and persecute you
and utter every kind of
evil against you falsely
because of me" – Mt 5:11*



ST. MARTHA CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mass Schedule

Saturday 7:30am • 8:30am • 4pm Vigil

4:00 (Hall) Vigil • 5:30pm Vigil

Sunday 7:30am • 9am • 9am (Hall) • 10:30am

12pm • 5:30pm • 12pm Vietnamese (Hall)

Weekday 7:30am • 8:30am • 12pm

Confession - Reconciliation Room

Saturday 3-4pm • Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11:30am

Eucharistic Adoration - Carosella Chapel

Tuesday-Thursday 9am-12pm

Rosary - Rosary prayed after 7:30am Mass

St. Martha Catholic Church

200 North Orange Avenue, Sarasota, FL 34236 • Tel 941.366.4210 • Fax 941.954.8434 • StMartha.org

Facebook St. Martha Roman Catholic Church • Instagram [stmarthachurch_in_srq](#) • YouTube St. Martha Catholic Church Sarasota, FL

Parish Office Hours Monday-Friday 8am-12pm and 12:30-4pm

February 1, 2026 - Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
by Deacon Pat

When we pray the *Our Father*, we intone the words, *thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven*. By our baptisms, each of us is called to bring about God's will. How? Through faith!

To live from it through faith is easier said than done according to Bishop Barron. He teaches that we are culturally conditioned to pursue wealth, power, and prestige as substitutes for God. He acknowledges that these pursuits will never provide true spiritual happiness or living a *good life*!

Thankfully, Jesus shows us the way to living a *good life* in *The Beatitudes*.

Quoting our Catechism: *The Beatitudes reveal the goal of human existence, the ultimate end of human acts: God calls us to his own beatitude. The vocation is addressed to everyone personally, but also*

to the Church as a whole, the new people made up of those who have accepted the promise and live from it in faith.

"Meekness, in this sense, is the power to be gentle, patient, and kind. It is the disposition of inner peace."

- Deacon Pat

The Catechism continues: *The Beatitudes depict the countenance of Jesus Christ and portray his charity. They express the vocation of the faithful associated with the glory of his Passion and Resurrection; they shed light on the actions and attitudes characteristic of the Christian life; they are paradoxical promises that sustain hope in the midst of tribulations; they proclaim the blessings*

and rewards already secured, however dimly, for Christ's disciples; they have begun in the lives of the Virgin Mary and all the saints.

In this reflection, I'll touch on several Beatitudes.

From the first Beatitude, God builds his kingdom from those who are *poor in spirit* - those who recognize their spiritual poverty and total dependence on God. We move away from worrying about wealth, power, and prestige. We humble ourselves. Sometimes, life humbles us. It is in those times that through our humbleness God opens the door to the kingdom.

continued to ➤



Our Pastor, Father George

Notes From Father George:

Annual Parish Mission - Together with Fr. Peter, I invite everyone in the parish, and anyone who would like to join the Parish Mission to come to our church. Fr. Peter Hill will lead us through the morning sessions at 9:00am and evening sessions at 6:00pm on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of this week.

Blessing of candles on the Feast of the Presentation - Monday, February 2nd, is the Feast of the Presentation of

the Lord in the Temple and traditionally, at each Mass on this day, there is a blessing of candles. You are welcome to bring your own candles to the church and they will be blessed.

St. Blaise's Blessing of throats - There will be a special blessing of throats at each Mass on Tuesday, February 3rd, which is the Memorial of St. Blaise.

No 4pm Vigil Mass in the Hall on Saturday February 7th - The 4pm Vigil Mass this week on Saturday, February 7th, in the Hall, is canceled. We invite parishioners who usually attend this Mass to come to 4pm Vigil Mass or 5:30pm Vigil Mass in the church.

Next Sunday, February 8, 2026, is the 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

With prayers for God's blessing to you and your family,
Father George

✓ Deacon Pat's Sermon continued from previous column

The Beatitude, that I have had problems with is *Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth*. This just did not make sense to me. Thankfully, it does not mean being a *doormat*. Here is what I have learned: Meekness in this sense is the power to be gentle, patient, and kind. It is the disposition of inner peace. The *inherit the earth* part refers to inheriting a true, lasting fulfillment and peace, a deeper enjoyment of life, and God's promised kingdom.

Looking at *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied* is having an intense, desperate longing for justice. It means having a right relationship with God as well as with neighbor. It means actively seeking to live according to God's standards, striving for justice, fairness, and peace. It is brought about by surrendering to God's rule.

Consider becoming more active in Parish life by volunteering in Caritas, Respect Life, Ministering in the Hospital and in Care Facilities, Catholic Days in the Capitol, Casa Santa Marta Board, Rosary Makers, etc.


I'll end with a prayer. *Heavenly Father, I want to be closer to you! What is your will for me to do for you today?*

March for Life - Washington DC




Rock the Universe 2026






2026 Diocese of Venice Eucharistic Missionary Conferences

Register Today





Sat, Feb 7 from 8am-3pm
Church of the Resurrection of Our Lord
 with the Most Rev. Frank J Dewane Bishop

After a three-year effort to reignite faith in, and reverence for, the **Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist**, it is time for us to look at another dimension: **that of becoming more fully Eucharistic Missionaries.**

Join us for the **Diocese of Venice Eucharistic Missionary Conference** on **Saturday, February 7, 8am-3pm** at **Church of the Resurrection of Our Lord**, 8121 Cypress Lake Drive, Fort Myers.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass offered by **Bishop Frank J. Dewane**
Jon Leonetti Nationally recognized speaker, Catholic presenter, best-selling author, and radio host presents on:
Sacrament Most Holy, Sacrament Divine and Saints and the Eucharist

There is food and fellowship. The conference concludes with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction.
There is no cost, but registration is required ahead of time to attend!
 Space is limited, register today:
dioceseofvenice.regfox.com/2026-eucharistic-missionary-conference

Join The Rosary Makers

February 6, 2026
from **9:30-10:30am**
at **St. Martha's Geenen Hall**

Supplies Provided




Save The Date

Women's Emmaus Experience

March 6-8, 2026

Location Our Lady of Perpetual Help Retreat and Spirituality Center, Venice
Hosted by Epiphany Cathedral Parish
Come Journey with Us On The Road to Emmaus!

Contact Donna Vodraska
donnadvodraska@aol.com • 941.496.4464 (home) • 630-336-0918 (cell)



 **ST. MARTHA CATHOLIC CHURCH**
The Pallottine Society of Catholic Apostolate

Presents:
Planning for Tomorrow

Wednesday, March 11, 2026
10:00 AM—noon
Parish Hall Conference Room

A COMPLIMENTARY LIFE PLANNING WORKSHOP

The Saint Martha Catholic Church has partnered with the Catholic Community Foundation of Southwest Florida and local estate planning experts to host a complimentary workshop, which will provide participants with the knowledge they need to make critical health, legal and financial decisions for themselves and/or a loved one.

Attendees will obtain important information on:
Avoiding Guardianship, Wills vs. Trusts, Probate, Durable Power of Attorney, Beneficiary Designations, Healthcare Surrogates, Advanced Directives, Financial Planning, Smarter Ways to Give and more.



RESERVE YOUR PLACE TODAY
CALL: 941-486-4722

COUPLES WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

February 14 and March 14, 2026

All couples celebrating 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, or more than 50 years of marriage are invited by Bishop Frank J. Dewane to an Anniversary Mass in their honor. The Anniversary Masses will be celebrated in two locations: February 14th at St. Leo the Great Parish in Bonita Springs at 11:00 a.m., and March 14th at St. Thomas More Parish in Sarasota, also at 11:00 a.m. Opportunity for a photo with Bishop Dewane will also be available both before and after Mass.

Please contact your local parish office for reservations no later than one week before the event you choose to attend.



Fun Fact about the ART in St MARTHA Catholic Church


Have you seen the tapestry to the left of the altar?


As you face the altar, have a look at the tapestry on the left near the Tabernacle, which was painted by Father Anthony Pastucci in 1988 while serving at St Martha. This beautiful piece of art depicts the faithfulness of the church in celebrating the Eucharist. The uniqueness is that it takes us from the Last Supper to present day, quite a unique expression.

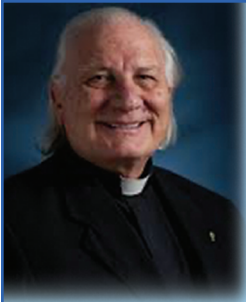
This beautiful artwork was cleaned and removed and remains a celebrated piece of art representing St Martha Catholic Church's uniqueness in the world.

St Martha Catholic Church is widely known and respected for being a parish known for its art and architecture, with a tradition of incorporating works of art by local artists connected to our community but also world renowned.

Read more about our Parish at StMartha.org.



 **ST. MARTHA CATHOLIC CHURCH**
The Pallottines (Society of Catholic Apostolate)



Join Father Fausto for Bible Study

The Gospel According to Luke

Fr. Fausto will conduct a seven-week program discussing the *The Gospel According to Luke*. Evening or morning sessions available in **Brother Geenen Hall**:

Evening Session 6-7:30pm • Thursdays February 12 to March 26

Morning Session 9:30-11am • Fridays February 13 to March 27

Bibles provided upon request. Participants are encouraged to read the *The Gospel According to Luke* prior to the program and bring a Catholic Bible to the sessions. Refreshments served.

Reserve a seat 941.366.4210 ext 0 - email mbrand@stmartha.org



Noah Aaron & Rebekah Stegmayer(1)

WOMEN'S EVENING BIBLE STUDY

We meet once a month, year-round from 5:30-7:30pm at Selby Library, Conference Room, Downtown Sarasota

If you would like to join the group or for more information: contact Perla Johnson 972.322.1095 psarabiaj88@gmail.com



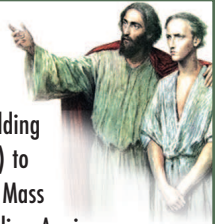
All St Martha's youth are invited to join in the singing with the

ST MARTHA MELODY MAKERS YOUTH CHOIR



For more information, Fall schedule, and to join, contact **Joy** at 941.587.3584 or mjoylfl@comcast.net

Events & Announcements



Milestone Wedding Anniversary Masses - An

invitation to all couples celebrating a milestone wedding anniversary (25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 or more years) to join **Bishop Frank J. Dewane** for an Anniversary Mass in your honor. The Diocese of Venice hosts two Wedding Anniversary Masses each year: **Saturday, February 14 at 11am**, at **St. Leo the Great Parish**, 28290 Beaumont Road, Bonita Springs; and **Saturday, March 14, at 11am**, at **St. Thomas More Parish**, 2506 Gulf Gate Drive, Sarasota. A luncheon follows the Mass. Photos with Bishop Dewane are provided for each couple. To register contact your local Parish office no later than one week before the Mass you wish to attend. Contact **Jim Gontis**, 941.484.4754 for additional information.

Catholic Women's Program Offered at Four Diocesan Parishes -

She Shall Be Called Woman (SHE) is a free, Parish-based Catholic women's program, open to all Catholic women. SHE is a place for Catholic women who want to be truly known and loved on their journey with the Lord. It features different topics of study each season, designed to educate and foster deep sisterhood and spiritual growth through talks, discussion, and prayer.

A new session has begun and continues through April. Parishes in the Diocese of Venice currently hosting the program include **Epiphany Cathedral Parish, Venice**, contact **Elise Filbrandt**, 616.446.5902; **St. Frances Cabrini Parish**, contact **Mary Jo Chronis**, 941.776.9097, ext. 209; **San Pedro Parish**, North Port, contact **Kristin McCombie**, 941.204.0660; **St. Francis of Assisi Parish**, Grove City, contact **Shauna Haggerty**, 210.857.8833. For more information or to join, contact one of the participating Parishes, or **Jim Gontis** at gontis@dioceseofvenice.com.

Mental Health Counseling Services - Health Counseling, for adults and children provided by licensed mental health therapists. If you or someone you know is feeling stressed, anxious, depressed, helpless, or overwhelmed, Catholic Charities can help. For more information, please call **239.455.2655**.

Theology on Tap - Join us for a very special night of fellowship, faith, and fun with fellow **Catholic young adults** from across the Diocese. Don't miss this chance to grow in faith, connect with others, and enjoy a great evening together. *Theology on Tap* meets on the **third Thursday of every month** at **Oak & Stone**, 5405 University Parkway, Sarasota. There is no cost to attend, and no registration required. Bring a friend!

Emmaus Journey Bible Study

Tuesdays 10:30-11:30am • St. Martha Conference Room

All are welcome! Bring your Bible and a desire to share and learn with participants, a facilitator, and parishioner **Lindy Donahue**.

Call **Lindy** 724.263.8285 lindydonahue@mac.com



Surviving Divorce
HOPE AND HEALING FOR THE CATHOLIC FAMILY

Support for Separated or Divorced Catholics

12 Sessions Video-based Peer Support Group
Begins **January 15, 2026** at
Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Venice

For details or to register bobandchrissmialek@icloud.com



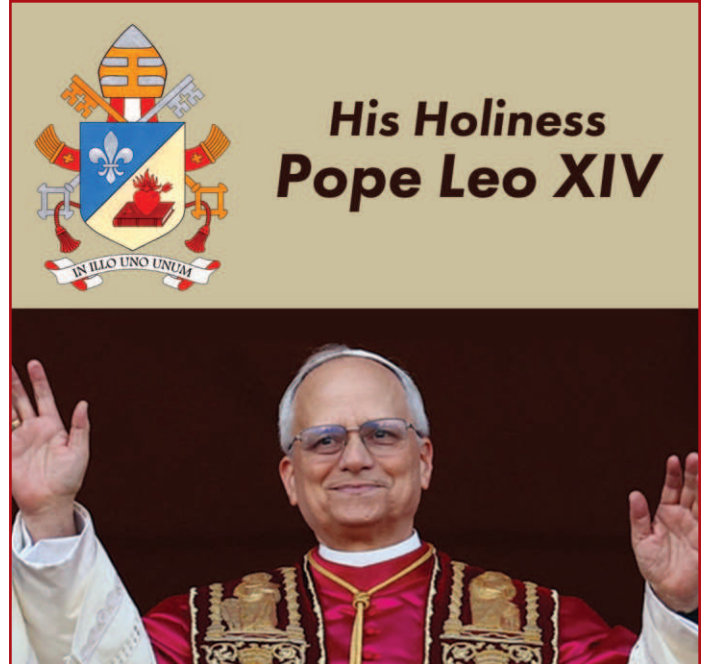
St Martha Legacy Society

The Legacy Society at St Martha is open to all parishioners. There is no financial donation required to join, only the commitment to leave something –anything– to St Martha in your will.

As a member, you will ensure the future of our beautiful historic church in downtown Sarasota. Through your efforts, we will be able to minister to present and future generations.

To become a member, you only need to get in touch with us and express your interest in leaving something to the church in your estate. We will never ask how much, and we will not ask for verification.

Interested in joining?
Contact Emil Efthimides at ede24@usa.com or
Samantha McDonald,
Parish Hall 941.366.4210
smcdonald@stmartha.org



His Holiness Pope Leo XIV

Prayer Intention for February 2026
For children with incurable diseases

Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope..


Kids Corner

Kids Corner  **PUZZLE**  BECAUSE VIBRANT CHURCHES MATTER

Unscramble the words from today's Gospel.

bsedles	<u>b</u> <u>l</u> <u>e</u> <u>s</u> <u>s</u> <u>e</u> <u>d</u>
pacee	_____
meke	_____
kidomng	_____
filedl	_____
reardw	_____
mecyr	_____
hevena	_____
peur	_____

blessed
meek
filled
mercy
pure
peace
kingdom
reward
heaven

 **MISSION** God loves peacemakers. The next time you are tempted to argue with someone, think of ways to get along instead.

Kids Corner  **COLOR**  BECAUSE VIBRANT CHURCHES MATTER

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



Weekly Mass Intentions



Sun, Feb 1 Zep 2:3; 3:12-13; 1 Cor 1:26-31; Mt 5:1-12a

7:30am.....[GR]. . Elizabeth Albritton by the Family
 9:00am.....[FS]. . Jesus Manuel Calvo, Jr. by Lilly Volpert
 9:00am.....[GS]. . (Hall) Tony Ordonez by the Ordonez Family
 10:30am.....[GR]. . For All Parishioners
 12:00pm.....[FS]. . (L) Ron Marano by Martina O'Sullivan
 12:00pm.....[JV]. . (Hall/Vietnamese) Special Intentions
 5:30pm.....[GS]. . L & D Mbrs of the Cummins Family by Bob and Virginia Forget

Mon, Feb 2 Mal 3:1-4; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40

7:30am.....[GS]. . (L) Fr. Fausto by Paula and David Shigley
 8:30am.....[PH]. . Jordyn Kruzel by Jane and Sam Norton
 9:00am.....[PH]. . Parish Mission
 12:00pm.....[JV]. . Robert Alloca by Tony and Edna DiBianca
 6:00pm.....[PH]. . Parish Mission

Tue, Feb 3 2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30-19:3; Mk 5:21-43

7:30am.....[JV]. . (L) Jennifer Klein-Kirst by Mr. & Mrs. Klein
 8:30am.....[PH]. . Dr. Antoon Batri by Magda Kovacic and Family
 9:00am.....[PH]. . Parish Mission
 12:00pm.....[GR]. . Dwayne Linthicum by Aunt Fran
 6:00pm.....[PH]. . Parish Mission

Wed, Feb 4 2 Sm 24:2, 9-17; Mk 6:1-6

7:30am.....[GR]. . Marek Dworski by Paula and David Shigley
 8:30am.....[GR]. . Dcn Larry Cummins by Bob and Virginia Forget
 9:00am.....[PH]. . Parish Mission
 12:00pm.....[GS]. . L & D Mbrs of the Letourneau Blouin Family by Linda
 6:00pm.....[PH]. . Parish Mission

Thu, Feb 5 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12; Mk 6:7-13

7:30am.....[JV]. . Dr. Joseph Iacopelli by John and Stephanie Iacopelli
 8:30am.....[GR]. . Alice Swick by Silvana Mandin
 12:00pm.....[FS]. . Margaret Alexander by Duane Alexander

Fri, Feb 6 Sir 47:2-11; Mk 6:14-29

7:30am.....[GS]. . Thanksgiving-new add. to Richard Klein
 Fam by Klein Grandparents
 8:30am.....[FS]. . Jane Varel by the Salmon Family
 12:00pm.....[GR]. . Kathleen Butler by Rica Lim

Sat, Feb 7 1 Kgs 3:4-13; Mk 6:30-34

7:30am.....[GS]. . Sergio Massara by Al Donohoe
 8:30am.....[JV]. . Ione Fowler by Rose Fowler
 4:00pm.....[GR]. . Joanne and Kenneth Colglazier by Joann
 4:00pm.....[JV]. . (Hall) Vietnamese New Year's Mass
 5:30pm.....[GS]. . James P. Meade by Claire Meade

Sun, Feb 8 Is 58:7-10; 1 Cor 2:1-5; Mt 5:13-16

7:30am.....[GS]. . Larry Corsaro by the Corsaro Family
 9:00am.....[GR]. . Marge Lortie by the Clergy
 9:00am.....[FS]. . (Hall) Michael Houlihan by Michael and Margaret
 10:30am.....[GR]. . For All Parishioners
 12:00pm.....[GS]. . Richard LaPointe by Marna O'Sullivan
 12:00pm.....[JV]. . (Hall/Vietnamese) Special Intentions
 5:30pm.....[GR]. . John and Delores Starandwicz by Jeff and Debbie Stern
 Fr. George (GS), Fr. Joseph (JV), Fr. Fausto (FS), Fr. Gennadi (GR)
 Fr. Peter Hill (PH)



Catholic Community Foundation of Southwest Florida College & Vocational Scholarships

**Now accepting applications
for the 2025-26 Academic Year**



Mary Fran Carroll Scholarship

The Catholic Community Foundation is proud to offer multiple \$3,500 renewable Mary Fran Carroll Scholarships to residents of Sarasota County, Florida worth up to \$17,500 for tuition, books and fees. These scholarships may be renewed annually for up to 5 years for students maintaining a 3.2 GPA as they pursue their undergraduate degree.

The Traditional Scholarships are open to graduating seniors and recent high school graduates (within the last 2 years) who wish to pursue an undergraduate degree in any accredited college or university.

The Non-traditional Scholarships are open to adult learners who are returning to school to obtain a college degree or vocational certification after being out of high school for three or more years.



James & Margaret Schwarz Scholarship

The Catholic Community Foundation is proud to offer the Schwarz scholarship valued at approximately \$7,700 to a graduating senior from Cardinal Mooney Catholic High School in Sarasota, Florida that will be pursuing a career in education.

This one-year scholarship is non-renewable and can be used for tuition, books, fees and housing expenses.



Frank & Florence Coseglia Scholarship

The Catholic Community Foundation is proud to offer the Frank & Florence Coseglia Scholarship to one financially needy graduating senior from each of the four Catholic High Schools in the Diocese of Venice. This one-year, nonrenewable scholarship is valued at approximately \$1,100 and is intended for students that provided significant service to their Catholic Schools and Parishes.

Apply For All Scholarships
cfdioceseofvenice.org/scholarships

Deadline: All applications and supporting documents due by **March 2, 2026 at 11:59pm**



1000 Pinebrook Rd., Venice, FL 34285 | 941.441.1124 | ccf@dioceseofvenice.org

ST. MARY ACADEMY

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- Great Odds - Only 1,000 tickets sold
- Need not be present to win
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- Drawing takes place at St Mary Academy on Thursday, April, 26 at 8:15am
- No mechanically reproduced entries accepted
- No purchase necessary. Minimum donation \$50
- Drawing completed in accordance with the requirements of Section 849.0935, FL Statutes
- Because of Diocesan regulations, we are required to deduct taxes from winnings

Thank You for helping St. Mary Academy. You are making a difference!

Fill out the coupon below.

Make check payable to St. Mary Academy. Mail it with your \$50 donation/payment to:

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We will then mail you a ticket receipt.

Please include two address labels per ticket for our use in returning your receipt.

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5th Grade Science

Emma from Little Medical School visited for another fun and educational lesson about body systems including neurological, respiratory and digestive! Students filled in the organs on their poster person and got to use their very own stethoscope to hear their heartbeats!



8th Grade Cougar Experience

8th Graders spent the day at Cardinal Mooney High School learning about and experiencing what it's like in High School! This fun and informative day is one way to help students prepare for this upcoming transition. #8thGrade #HighSchool #75YearsOfExcellence



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A Note From The Principal...



To Our St. Martha Parish Family,

Catholic Schools Week had been filled with meaningful learning and joyful moments across campus. Our fifth graders enjoyed an engaging, hands-on science experience that brought learning to life, while our eighth graders spent time at Cardinal Mooney, gaining insight into the next exciting chapter of their academic journey. Even our youngest learners joined in the fun, exploring shapes, colors, and creativity in the PK4 classrooms. These experiences reflect the vibrant, faith-filled learning that makes our school community so special and remind us of the many ways our students grow each day.

God Bless,

Mari Jo Hanson, *Principal*

PK4 Kaleidoscopes

K is for Kaleidoscope in Mrs. Kovack's PK4 Class!



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CATHOLIC SCHOOL!**
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PRIVATE SCHOOL**



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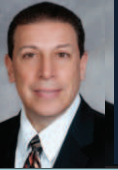
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