

## MISSION STATEMENT

***We The people of the Whiting/Robertsdale Cluster, are a Catholic Faith Community, ethnically rich, culturally diverse, and one in Faith. Inspired by the unity of The Holy Trinity, we endeavor to share our Faith as disciples of Jesus.***



### 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

"You wicked servant! I forgave you your entire debt because you begged me to. Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?"

Matthew 18:32-33

Parable of the Unforgiving Servant by Claude Vignon, 1629  
© Dorian

On this 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time we are reminded of our need to forgive. This is no surprise to those of us who pray the Lord's Prayer daily, asking God to "Forgive us our trespasses/debts as we forgive our trespasses/debtors."

Today's first reading from the Book of Sirach helps us recognize the inner tension we humans endure. We often want revenge, as we "hold tight to wrath, anger, and unforgiveness." Sirach urges us to remember that we will die and be held accountable for our sins. With this in mind he reminds us to let go of hatred and "overlook the faults of others". (Sirach 27:30-28)

St. Paul in his letter to the Romans reminds us that we belong to the Lord; in both life and death we should stay close to the Lord following his example of forgiveness. (Rom 14:7-9)

Jesus has set the bar high. We can never stop forgiving, since we expect God to forgive us as we forgive others. Like Peter we may ask how often must we forgive. Jesus' reply is the same for all of us: "I say to you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times." The #7 is infinite. Thus, there is no limit to forgiveness! (Mt 18:21-35)

This "Gospel/Good News" is for each of us, who hope to be forgiven and eventually enter the place of glory prepared for us by God in Christ Jesus.

#### LET US SEEK THE LORD'S HELP

- ◆ Which is harder: To ask forgiveness, accept forgiveness, or grant forgiveness?
- ◆ Today I will let go of anger and old hurts, asking for the Holy Spirit's help.
- ◆ Today I will offer a helping hand, a smile, a prayer for someone who disturbs my inner peace.
- ◆ This week I will make room for grace and growth in my relationships?

***"The Lord is kind and merciful,  
slow to anger, and rich in compassion."  
(Psalm 103:8)***

M.S.

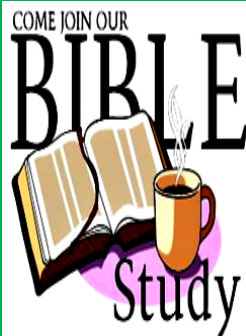
***Whiting / Robertsdale Faith Community St. John the Baptist & St. Adalbert***  
**1849 Lincoln Ave. Whiting, IN 46394**

**Confessions after 7:00 a.m. Mass and Saturdays 3:00–3:30 p.m.  
in the SJB Centennial Room,  
and also by appointment.**

**Sacraments: Please Call:  
St. John Church Office: 219-659-0023  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2023**

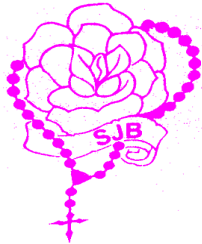




**TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY RESUMES**

You are invited to our Fall program "Presence" which begins this **Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>** at 6:30p.m. in the Founders' Room and continues every Tuesday throughout the Fall. Come prepared to be spiritually fed.

Questions: Contact facilitator Margaret Saliga 219-659-4138  
[dominicanmom@att.net](mailto:dominicanmom@att.net)

**ST. JOHN ROSARY SOCIETY**

Effective July 1 - through December 31, all women 18 years of age and older are invited to join the Rosary Society without having to pay 2023 dues. If you know anyone who is interested in joining, this is a good opportunity for them to do so.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>**, is the Rosary Society Corporate Communion Mass, 10:30a.m. New members will be welcomed into the Rosary Society at that Mass.

Questions: Contact Joyce Wagner,  
 (219) 922-8413, [joyce6333@att.net](mailto:joyce6333@att.net)

**ST. ADALBERT'S ~ RUMMAGE SALE 10-21-23**

We will be collecting items til the end of September for our next Rummage Sale. Please, gently used or new items. No clothes or shoes or dishes or glassware or pictures frames or baby items. **Call Nancy, 219-218-7521 to set a time to bring your items to our hall.** Not sure if we can take it? Just ask me. Thanks.

As always, your generosity is appreciated.



## Knights of Columbus®

**COME SAY THE ROSARY AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST  
 WITH THE WHITING KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

After the 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday October 1<sup>st</sup>, members of the Whiting Knights of Columbus will gather to pray the Rosary at St. John the Baptist Church. All community members are welcome to join the Knights in saying this powerful prayer, one that can change your life, strengthen the family, bring peace to the world, convert entire nations, and win the salvation of souls.

**ST. THERESE NOVENA**

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church invites you to participate in its annual St. Theresa Novena **Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>** through **Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>** at 6:30 p.m. each evening.

St. John parish has had a longtime devotion to St. Therese of Lisieux, whose intercessory prayers helped build our magnificent church during the great Depression. Shortly before she died, St. Therese stated that she would spend eternity praying for the needs of all mankind. In her writings, "The Story of A Soul", St. Therese assured the faithful that God's blessings would descend like a cascade of roses upon those who prayed. Consequently, the parish asked for her help. The result was the completion of our magnificent church, followed by the building of our present school and later the parish rectory.

Today our parish is in need of major repairs, starting with the boiler and heating system. Therefore, it is with renewed enthusiasm that St. John Parish is again asking St. Therese of Lisieux to pray on our behalf.

During our present year of Eucharistic Revival the nine consecutive days of prayer, will center on Jesus, present in the Blessed Sacrament. Reflective thoughts from the personal writings of St. Therese will bring a deeper faith commitment to our risen Lord as we request His help through the intercession of St. Therese.

Thus, our parish community and the community at large are invited to spend a spirit-filled 30 minutes in prayer, gathering in St. John Church each evening or praying the novena at home, if you are unable to attend. A free will offering on the final evening, will benefit our local St. Vincent de Paul Society, helping individuals and families who struggle with financial burdens. The **solemn closing on Sunday, Oct. 1 at 6:30 p.m.** will be followed by a social in the Parish lot and garage.

*Everyone is welcome!*

M.S.

**ATTENTION ALL MINISTRY LEADERS**

If you are leading a ministry within our Faith Community then please reach out to the Rectory to assure your meeting dates, times and events are posted onto our Parish Wide Calendar and posted onto our Website. The Calendar is always accessible on our parish website [www.stjohnbap.org](http://www.stjohnbap.org).

Contact Jamie Sandona with your ministry information-  
[jsandona@stjohnbap.org](mailto:jsandona@stjohnbap.org).

All School Room Usage must be entered into our Parish Calendar prior to using the room.

Thank you for those who have confirmed their dates via email.



## Register for Faith Formation

PLEASE VISIT THIS LINK TO REGISTER

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/JaimeSandona/WRFaithFormationRegistration>

Faith Formation Classes are open to children in Pre K- the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation (8<sup>th</sup> grade and older). Our program is open to all and we encourage family involvement. If you have questions or would like to discuss the program in detail, please call the Office of Faith Formation.

Faith Formation Classes are from 9:00 to 10:15 a.m. on Sundays.

Faith Formation Department is seeking adults and young people to assist with Sunday Classes. All materials and formation are provided. If interested please call the Faith Formation Department.



## CHILDREN'S LITURGY AT SUNDAY MASS

### CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

All children in Pre K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to participate. Children will be called forward after the opening prayers of the mass, they will then be dismissed to the Servers Room which is right off of the Altar. During these sessions the children will hear the Sunday Readings in a version which is easier for them to understand. Children will return to their parents after the Prayer of the Faithful. Help is needed to lead these sessions with the children, if interested please reach out.



### RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS

RCIA Meet and Greet ~ Are you or do you know someone who would like more information on how to become Catholic, perhaps receive Sacraments that they have not yet received, or just learn what it means to be Catholic. Our RCIA program may be just what they are interested in. If interested in participating in this program please call the rectory to register in advance and receive further information.



After a summer break, Family Mass begins. Family Mass is an opportunity for everyone to come to church at this time. Mass is intended to become an engaging atmosphere of faith filled members of our community, participating in the mass with the support of a more Contemporary Musical approach. So, whether you have a large family, small family, or you are a family of one, all are welcome and encouraged to come. As always Free Donuts, Coffee and Milk will be served in the School Cafeteria immediately following the mass.



### BAPTISM FORMATION

Our next Baptism Formation session will be held on October 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm in the school lower level. Pre registration is required. Please call the rectory to register.



### VIRTUS- PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN PROGRAM

With school underway it is time to begin our Virtus Training Sessions. These sessions are a requirement for any adult wishing to volunteer or work with any program or event within the diocese that has children involved.

The training is a 3-hour session that will prepare you to be the eyes and voice for the children we are entrusted to care for. Virtus is the Diocesan Safe Environment Program for adults.

This is a free program however there is a 15.00 fee for all background checks payable at time of submission. Our scheduled training session will be held on September 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00pm in the lower level of the school. Please pre-register at [www.virtusonline.org](http://www.virtusonline.org). No one under the age of 18 is permitted to attend.



# Trunk or Treat



## SAVE THE DATE

Our Annual **Trunk or Treat** event hosted by PHYRE Youth Ministry and St John the Baptist HAS will be held on **Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 12:00pm**. We will be looking for cars to fill our parking lot, space is limited so please call the rectory and reserve your spot.

## ALTERNATE WAYS TO GET YOUR CHURCH BULLETIN

Type [DiscoverMass.com](https://DiscoverMass.com) into your browser. At the website, type the name of the church and address **or** zip code of the church bulletin you want to view - **St. John the Baptist 46394** and follow the prompts. When the site comes up for the parish, click on the Bulletin tab which will then have a drop down menu of the current and three previous issue dates. You may choose the option to receive the bulletin via email; automatically, it will be sent every Saturday.

Another option is to go to our parish website [stjohnbap.org](https://stjohnbap.org) and click on the **News & Events** tab - at that drop-down menu, select **Bulletins** and a list of bulletin dates will appear. Click on the one you want to read. Bulletin inserts and flyers are never included in the Discover Mass emails nor do they appear on the parish website.

## PROPER POSTURE FOR RECEIVING JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST

- ◆ Bow as you approach the minister to receive Jesus in the host and/or the cup.
- ◆ As you look at the Eucharist, speak an audible, deliberate **"AMEN"**, thereby professing your belief in the real presence of Jesus. **"AMEN"** is the response, **NOT** "thank you".
- ◆ Receiving the Eucharist in your hands or on your tongue are options.
- ◆ Make a throne of your hands, lifting your hands to receive Jesus' in the host.
- ◆ Hold the chalice with reverence, drink, and then present it back to the minister.
- ◆ If you are not able to receive Eucharist, but want to receive a blessing, step forward with your arms crossed over your chest and the minister will extend a hand of blessing.



## PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

### Child Labor Isn't in the Past

Published in - *Commonweal Magazine*

By: Mollie Wilson O'Reilly, editor-at-large & columnist

#### Part #1

I recently took my family to a favorite hometown attraction, the Lackawanna County Coal Mine Tour. I grew up in Scranton, Pennsylvania, where anthracite mining was once a major industry, and the coalmine tour gives contemporary residents a glimpse of what their ancestors endured underground.

As a child, I was fascinated by stories of kids at work in the mines: breaker boys, nippers, mule drivers. But this time, holding my youngest child's hand in the dark, chilly tunnel, I shuddered as our guide described the routine tragedies of mining life: children losing fingers and limbs, or losing a father to a cave-in and having to go to work to replace him. She explained the economic system that attracted and then bound the families who lived in company housing, bought their necessities from company stores, and got as little for their labor as the bosses could get away with.

I came to the surface grateful for unions and labor laws, for school and all the other enriching opportunities that fill my children's days. I picked up the book, *Growing Up in Coal Country* by Susan Campbell Bartoletti, to fill out my children's notions of life in the unenlightened past. And then I read a story in the *Washington Post* about how, in 2023, there are state legislatures rolling back restrictions on child labor.

Reporters Jacob Bogage and Maria Luisa Paul tell of efforts to relax child employment regulations that are gaining ground in several states. The Iowa assembly passed a law that allows fourteen-year-olds to work the night shift and fifteen-year-olds to work on assembly lines. In Arkansas, children under sixteen no longer need to obtain work permits or have their ages verified by employers. The talking points supporting these laws are always about parent's rights and freedom from government intrusion, and supporters talk about teens who want to work a few hours after school to gain valuable experience and build character. Nick Stehle, a vice president of a political action committee told the *Post* his organization advocates "removing the permission slip that inserts government in between parents and their teenager's desire to work." That sounds swell, until you remember why the government got between kids and their prospective bosses in the first place.

(Continued Next Sunday)

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**TUITION\***

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SCAN ME

## PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

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**B:** Arlene B., Rita Bais, Mary Lou Barcevac, Donna Bewley, Carol Bibat, Eleanor Biel, Jennifer Bitterman, Steve B., Bob Bonchik, Lisa Vrabel Breitweiser, Thomas Brooks, Ruth Bzibziak, Wendy B.

**C:** Michael C., Ben Cassoday, Jim Campbell, Maximiliano Chavez, Abigail Coates, Rebecca Coates, Marlene Cooney, Geraldine Cox, Olivia Crinion, Gloria Cruz, Larry Culp, Jeannine Cusson, Richard Cusson, Sharon Cusson

**D:** Dave M., Jeff Delinck, Mary Ann Delinck, Ernie Demeter, Peggy Demeter, Kevin Dexter, Norb Dudzik, Norb Duray.

**E:** Jeanine Faulkner, Thomas Federenko, Malia Fortunak, Dianna Fritz,

**G:** Andrea Gaynor,

**H:** H. Haas, Shery & Jim H., Sophie Hatzcel, Mariah Hayes, Debra Henderson, Kingston M. Hensley, Betty Hunt, Bruce Hunt, Nellie Hunt, Richard Huss, Dennis and Peggy Hyde,

**J:** Sheila J.

**K:** Gerry Kasarda, Don Kasperan, Ryan Keelan, Barbara J. Korba, Patti Koopmans, Corky Kuipers, Kathy Kustka

**L:** Lenore Lazur, Donna Lewandowski, Carol Lukasik

**M:** Maria M, Mary Madejewski, Kristi Matalik, Frank Matlon, Jerry Matlon, Sebastian Mendoza, Ann Matusik, Steve Mihalso, Jerilyn Miller, Larry & Toni Milkowski

**N:** Ann Novotney, Linda N., Chloe N.

**O:** Bob Oliver, Robert & Selma O'Drobinak

**P:** Patton Donna, Willie Parlor, Eric Pieters Jr., Virginia Piljac, Pammela Puhek, Mary Puplava

**Q:** Leonardo Quiroz, Richard Kuinn

**R:** Lucretia R., Kathleen Radloff, David Reyes, Delia M. Reyes, Celeste Richardson, Sylvia Richardson, Joel Rivera, Cris Rzonca, Dannielle Roszkowski, Ed Roszkowski, Eileen Ross, Holly Russell, Randy & Luke Rycerz, Joyce Rybicki

**S:** Arthur Salinas Jr., Armando Sanchez, S. Scivinsky, Robert & Phyllis Samano, Deanna Stolarz, K. Smith, R. Smith, M. Stimac, Sandi Smith, Jack Strisko, Judy Strisko, Renee Suma, Michael J. Swentko, Suzanne M. Swentko, Ann Swiatkowski

**T:** Nancy Teles, Geraldine Tumidalsky

**V:** Elaine V. Pauline V.

**W:** Gina W., Evelyn White Terry W., Tucker W., Sadie Watson, Captoria Weems, Phil Wetnight

**Z:** Janel Zubeck

## PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR TROOPS

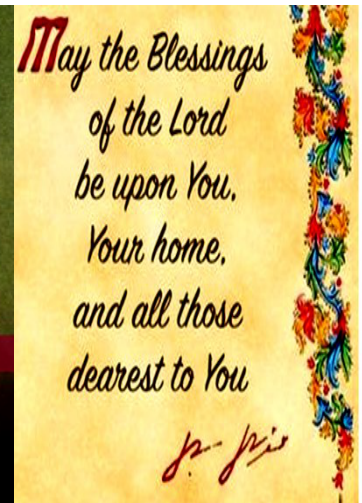
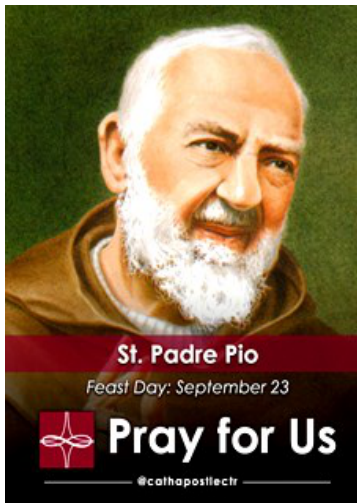
**B:** Matt Barbetta, **C:** Christina Campra, **E:** F: Victoria Franco, **G:** Larry Gazafy, Matthew Geffert, John Gervais, Gerardo Gonzalez, James Grunhard Jr., **H:** Alex Gonzalo Hernandez, Elliot Hlavaty, Matthew Hlavaty, **J:** Justin Jansky, **K:** Thomas M. Kaminsky, Keith Kennedy, Jeff Klobucar, Jason Koscielski, Jeffery Koval, Mark Koval, **M:** Walter Malenki, Randall McAllister, Mike McCay, Hugh A. McNinch, Philip Mlynarski, Derek Monks, **N:** David Novotney, **O:** Zack O'Drobinak, Nicholas Okamura, Justus Oliver, Mark Opachan, **P:** Kenneth Petkunas, Thomas Puplava Jr., **R:** Robert Rodriguez, **S:** Eric Schaufele, Elliott Schultz, Natalie Serna, John Starzyk Jr, Alex Supergan, Jason Sutton, Szweczyk, **T:** Stephen Taylor, Jeffrey Thormeyer, Christopher Trojnar, **V:** Samuel Valdyke, **W:** Ray Walsh.

**"Bless the Lord, O my soul and forget not all his benefits.  
He pardons all your iniquities, heals all your ills.  
He redeems your life from destruction,  
He crowns you with kindness and compassion."  
(Psalm 103: 1-3)**

INSPIRATION from the words of  
St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta

"I remember my mother, my father and the rest of us praying together each evening. It is the greatest gift to a family. It maintains family unity. So go back to family prayer, teach your children to pray, and pray with them."

*(Do Something Beautiful for God, The Essential teachings of Mother Teresa)*



## SJB CIRCLE OF PRAYER

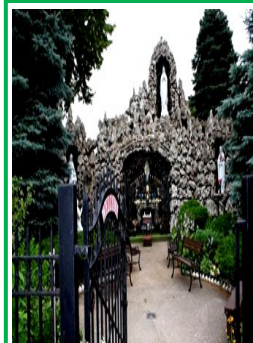
If you have an immediate need for prayer support, **please consider calling Margaret at 219-659-4138.** She will pray with you on the phone and then send your request to the volunteers in our circle of faith who will pray specifically for your intentions. Please know that we will maintain your privacy with use of first names only. If you would like to join this steadfast community of prayer, please

call the SJB rectory to add your name to the circle so that you too can pray for those who are in need of spiritual support.

**St. John the Baptist Our Parish Patron  
You were beheaded for proclaiming TRUTH.**

*May we courageously give  
witness to our faith.*

*St. John the Baptist, pray for us.*



## COME TO THE I.C. GROTTO

The beautiful weather combined with the outdoor beauty of the Immaculate Conception Grotto on White Oak Ave. beckons us to gather to pray the rosary **on Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m.**

Bring a chair if you'd like and your rosary. Everyone is welcome to this serene prayer time.







### TRAINING AND RENEWAL FOR LITURGICAL MINISTERS

The Office of Worship and Office of Intercultural Ministry invite you to our upcoming **CONFERENCE '23 Training and Renewal for all Liturgical Ministers in the Diocese of Gary**, which will take place **on Friday, October 27 from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and Saturday, October 28 from 7:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.**

**Where:** St. Michael the Archangel Parish, located at 1 West Wilhelm Street, Schererville, IN 46375.

For more information please call:

Phone: **219-769-9292**

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Tuition: \$200/school year

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**Classes meet weekly at  
 Hammond Central High School, Door D**

**Classes start Oct. 9/Oct. 11**

**October – May**

Email [Hello@BBB4E.org](mailto:Hello@BBB4E.org)

Or Call 219-932-3232



The Diocese of Gary is sponsoring a **Rachel's Vineyard post-abortion healing retreat** on **Friday, September 22 at 4:00 PM to Sunday, September 24 at 12:00 PM** in Michigan, City

This retreat is for the spiritual and emotional healing of anyone who has had or has been involved in an abortion. The retreat is open to women and men of all faiths and is completely confidential.

Please call **219-552-2944** or email [nwinrv@outlook.com](mailto:nwinrv@outlook.com) for more information or to register. You can also go to [helpafterabortion.net](http://helpafterabortion.net)....

### SAVE THE DATE!

#### RED MASS

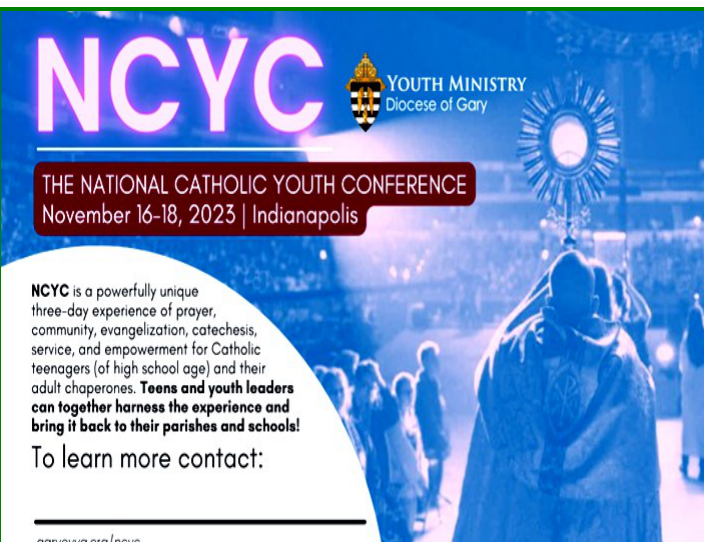
**Thursday, October 5 from 8:00  
 AM to 9:00 AM**

Our Lady of Consolation  
 8303 W Taft St  
 Merrillville, IN 46410

Renew your oath to integrity,  
 social justice, and serving one  
 another in God's love.

The Red Mass brings together members of the bar, government officials, the judiciary, and the finance community.

*All faiths are welcome.*



NCYC is a powerfully unique three-day experience of prayer, community, evangelization, catechesis, service, and empowerment for Catholic teenagers (of high school age) and their adult chaperones. Teens and youth leaders can together harness the experience and bring it back to their parishes and schools!

For more information contact:

**Vicky Hathaway**

**2197699292**

[vhathaway@dgary.org](mailto:vhathaway@dgary.org)



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**St. John Rosary Society**  
- Founded in 1899  
Open to All Catholic Women  
Meetings: 12:30pm Third  
MONDAY of most months  
Contact: Becky- 219.659.0023

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