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### Desert Pilgrimage Newsletter, August 1, 1987

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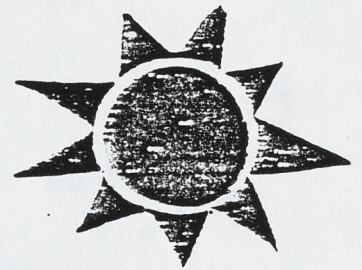
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# DESERT PILGRIMAGE



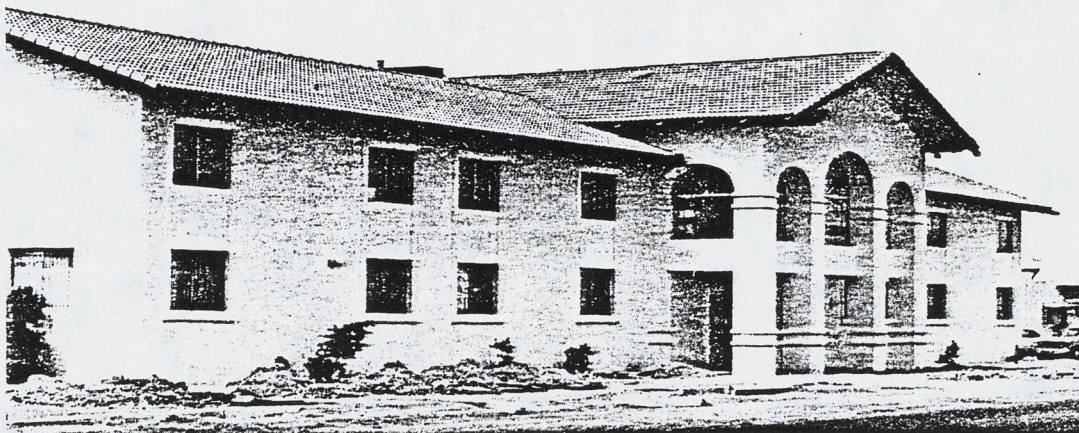
*Pilgrim, there is no pathway,  
you make that path.*

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A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION BY AND FOR THE DISABLED.....PHOENIX, ARIZONA  
Volume 11, Edition 4.....November thru January, 1987

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## WE ARE MOVING



OUR NEW HOME  
1825 W. NORTHERN

*F R O M*



*Fr. Bob Wicht, P.D.P.*

*In the last few weeks I have been thinking about the fact that suffering is redemptive, - an idea which is foreign to our American way of life. But how is suffering redemptive; what kind of suffering is redemptive; and for whom is it redemptive. As I was meditating over this thought I read Jesus' discourse of the Vine and the Vinedresser in St. John's last Supper scene, (15:1-8)- one verse jumped out at me - "and every branch that does bear fruit He (God) prunes to make it bear even more (v.2)" For me this answered the previous questions about the redemptive quality of suffering.*

*What kind of suffering is redemptive? If it is suffering for sufferings sake then we should seek to live a life of suffering which doesn't make sense. No, it is God who does the pruning. It is the suffering that we are dealt with in life. No life is or can be free from suffering. We do not have to go searching for suffering. We suffer because it is part of being human - "and being as all men are, he (Jesus) was humbler yet, even to accepting death." (Phil2:7) It is accepting our humanity and placing it in God's hands that we let God do the pruning. We do not do the redeeming, we let God work in our lives as He sees fit because He loves us. That is the ultimate act of faith - to trust that God loves us.*

*How is suffering redemptive? It is not redemptive in itself. The suffering of Jesus only makes sense in the light of the Resurrection. Suffering can only make sense if it brings life - if it bears fruit. We can never let ourselves enjoy suffering. We must always open ourselves up before God in our suffering so that He can draw more life from our suffering.*

*For whom is suffering redemptive. Again we must turn to Jesus. First, His suffering in St. John's Gospel is to show the glory of God. Jesus mirror's the ultimate love of God for us because He shows the depth of his friendship by laying down His life for us, (Jn 15:13) Second, Jesus suffered for us not for himself.*

*It seems to me then that suffering is redemptive for others. It is in living out our Christian lives in whatever is dealt to us that we show God's love to each other. And if we can accept our suffering as an act of God's love for us, we can come face to face with the loving God. Suffering which is redemptive can be energizing to all those who come in contact with it. It can speak volumes of God's gentle, loving hand in our lives.*

*It is God then who will always prune us, not ourselves. He will do to us what is necessary for us to be made free to love him. And He will always prune us to bear more fruit, not for ourselves but for others. If we take the time to reflect, we all know people who have shown this to us. I thank those who have shown God's love to me.*

\*\*\*\*\*



## **WE ARE MOVING**

We are leaving our 'home' of six years at the Diocesan Center as of November 1st. Actually, we are going back to where the Office of Special Services was first established, 1825 W. Northern. This move will put us under the Vicariate of Christian Witness. (We were under the Vicariate of Christian Formation.) Our services will remain the same. We will miss seeing the people at the Diocesan Center on a regular basis, as we feel we had a very good working relationship with everyone. But hopefully, we will be able to establish the same relationship at our new home. Our number will be 997-6105.

# SPECIAL MINISTRY WITH HANDICAPPED

Introducing:

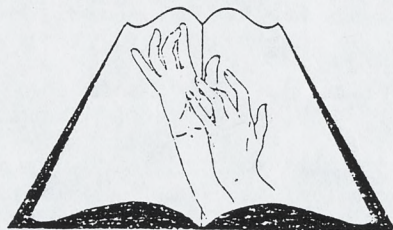
DEE HOSTETLER ---  
COORDINATOR FOR  
DEAF SERVICES

**Welcome!**

Dee Hostetler will be assuming the role of Minister to the Deaf as of October 15th. A graduate of Phoenix College interpreting program, Dee has spent most of her life here in Phoenix and has worked in church ministry as a CCD teacher, youth group coordinator and sacred dancing. Besides providing interpreting services at St. Daniel's Church, she is also director of a signing sacred dance group from the school.

Some of the activities she has already begun working on are: religious education classes for children; spiritual growth classes for adults; the monthly mass for the deaf every 2nd Sunday of the month at the Kino Institute; a retreat for the deaf in the Spring.

\*\*\*\*\*  
WORSHIP SERVICE FOR THE DEAF



St. Daniel the Prophet - 9 a.m. Sunday  
1030 N. Hayden RD

St. Mark's Church - 9:30 a.m. Sunday  
400 N 30th Street

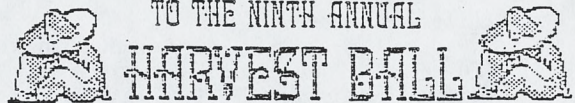
St. Jerome Church - 7:00 p.m. Sunday  
10815 N 35th Avenue

Kino Institute - 11:00 a.m. 2nd Sunday, month  
1224 E. Northern Ave.



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AND  
HIS  
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HONORARY  
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EVERYONE'S WELCOME

MONEY FROM THIS DANCE BENEFITS OUR EQUIPMENT FUND FOR MEDICAL AIDS AND SERVICES WHICH ARE LOANED FREE TO ANY DISABLED PERSON.

## In Memoriam

We would like to remember these 'pilgrims' and their families in our prayers.

Carmela (Cammie) Gouveia  
Henry Aguilar  
Carrie May  
Winifred Hagey  
Vi Henderson

\*\*\*\*\*

*Joy is not the absense of suffering,  
but the presence of God.*

*Family Life Today*



## NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

### SUPREME COURT NULLIFIES EFFORTS TO PROTECT LIFE

In rulings two days apart, the U.S. Supreme Court has expanded the constitutional "right" of abortion it invented in 1973 and has invalidated one means for protecting the lives of handicapped infants.

In a June 11 decision in *Thornburgh v. American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists*, a five-member majority reaffirmed the Court's 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision and invalidated various provisions of a Pennsylvania law designed to regulate abortions within the limits set by the decision. "Informed consent" provisions, requiring that women receive information on the nature and risks of abortion and the availability of state-funded alternatives, were dismissed as efforts to "intimidate" women into continuing their pregnancies. Provisions intended to help viable children survive late-term abortions were nullified because they allegedly engaged in a "trade-off" between the pregnant woman's wellbeing and the life of the child.

Four members of the Court strongly dissented, arguing that the Court's majority has now reneged on all its earlier statements about limits to the abortion "right." Chief Justice Warren Burger, who had sided with the majority in *Roe*, said that all the Justices who found a right of abortion in the Constitution in 1973 were confident they were not establishing "abortion on demand." Burger now accuses the Court of going beyond abortion on demand, because now "the 'demand' will not even have to be the result of an informed choice." For the first time, Burger joined Justices White, Rehnquist and O'Connor in saying that *Roe* itself should be re-examined.

Speaking for the NCCB Office for Pro-Life Activities, Rev. Edward M. Bryce remarked that on the subject of abortion "the court rejects even those forms of regulation which are permissible and sometimes required for other procedures performed by a physician." While the Court claims to recognize a compelling state interest in protecting the child's life at least after viability, he said, "that claim rings hollow in light of today's ruling." The Court's attack on informed consent provisions, he added, indicates that "the court's alleged defense of medical privacy has ever more clearly become outright pro-abortion advocacy."

Two days earlier, on June 9, the Supreme Court issued its ruling in *Bowen v. American Hospital Association*, upholding a federal appellate court's judgment that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services lacked authority to investigate cases in which medical treatment is withheld from handicapped newborns. In several ways, however, this decision was much less sweeping than the high court's abortion decision. It ruled that the Reagan administration's "Baby Doe" regulations are not authorized by the federal statute protecting handicapped citizens from discrimination, but it did not invalidate all such efforts as unconstitutional. Thus it may be possible to amend federal law to provide more explicit authority for this type of regulation. The court ruling also leaves intact federal regulations issued under the federal Child Abuse Amendments of 1984, which provide an alternative route for protecting the lives of handicapped newborns through state child protective agencies.

The meaning and scope of the *Bowen* decision are also unclear because the Court issued no majority opinion explaining its rationale. A plurality opinion, signed by only four of the nine Justices, conceded that handicapped newborns are protected by federal civil rights law and that selective withholding of medical treatment from them may violate this law; but it criticized the regulations for imposing new and intrusive procedures on hospitals without adequate evidence that such new enforcement procedures were intended by Con-

gress or necessary. All the instances cited by the Administration as evidence of the need for regulations were cases in which parents decided against treatment. The plurality said parents are not subject to federal civil rights law, because they are not institutions receiving federal funds, and hospitals are not "discriminating solely on the basis of handicap" when they act on parents' orders.

Chief Justice Burger joined in the decision invalidating the regulations but did not sign the plurality opinion: Justice Rehnquist had removed himself from the case because a relative was an attorney for the plaintiffs. Justices White, Brennan and O'Connor dissented, saying they would uphold the government's right to issue regulations it considered necessary to protect children's rights. Justice White said in his dissent that hospitals discriminate against a handicapped child if they encourage parents to decide against treatment, and if they selectively fail to question parents' refusal of treatment when the child is handicapped. The Reagan administration, he noted, had evidence from opinion polls that pediatricians practice both these kinds of discrimination.

Fr. Bryce criticized the Court's plurality opinion because it "never faces the key issue presented by this case—whether federal law protects the child's (not the parents') right to be free from discrimination." He said the federal child abuse law "will continue to help ensure enforcement of state laws against abuse and neglect in cases involving newborn children with disabilities," but if this vehicle proves inadequate Congress should amend civil rights laws to provide "unambiguous statutory support for regulations like those which the court has invalidated."

The week after these two rulings were handed down, Chief Justice Burger announced his decision to resign; President Reagan has nominated Justice Rehnquist to succeed him as Chief Justice, and federal appellate judge Antonin Scalia to fill Rehnquist's seat. Observers say these appointments may signal a slight additional shift on the Court against *Roe v. Wade*.

— Reprinted from *Respect Life Report*, Vol. 9, No. 6.

S. 2294, "Handicapped Education Amendments of 1986" amends and extends for three years programs authorized under the "Education of the Handicapped Act"; and takes a bold new step for establishing a program of services for children with disabilities from 0-2 years of age. If this bill is passed, it will be the first new infusion of federal funds in several years for the education of disabled children. The bill was passed by the Senate on June 6, and referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor. The bill has no counterpart in the House of Representatives. **Contact the House Committee on Select Education to encourage action and urge your representative to sponsor a counterpart bill in the House.**

S. 415 and H.R. 1523, "Handicapped Children's Protection Act". Different versions of this bill passed the House and Senate last year, but the Conference Committee has yet to work out a final version. This legislation will reverse a 1984 Supreme Court decision (*Smith v. Robinson*), which placed the educational rights of disabled children in jeopardy. **Urge conference members to complete the final version of this bill.** (List of conferees available from NCPD.)

(Reprinted from *National Apostolate with Mentally Retarded Persons*, September, 1986)

# WHERE TO LOOK FOR SERVICES

## *Conference Planned To Measure Arizona's Progress In Meeting Concerns of Disabled Persons*

The Arizona Congress for Action, Inc. (ACA), a self-advocacy group, is an out-growth of the Arizona White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals which held its' first conference in December, 1976. The ACA is holding a 10th anniversary meeting to evaluate what has happened in the decade since the first meeting. What progress has been made? What work remains to be done?

These and other related issues will be on the agenda for the Arizona White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals (AWHC-II) to be held on Thursday and Friday, December 4-5, 1986 at the Ramada Inn Airport North, 3801 E. Van Buren. Presentations will be made on education, employment, independent living and accessibility. For registration contact ACA, P.O. Box 33304 Phoenix, AZ 85013.

## **INFORMATION FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED STUDENTS**

Visually impaired students can obtain a free cassette tape giving information on post-secondary student financial aid for visually impaired students, contact: Cassette, U.S. Dept. of Education, Office of Student Financial Assistance, Room 4051, ROB-3, 400 Maryland Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20202.



The Phoenix Parks and Recreation and Library Department's six districts are offering social and recreational activities for developmentally disabled individuals. For each district contact:

- East District - Tom Buban, 256-3155
- South District - Kathi Reichert, 276-3345
- West District - Jeff Katzman, 262-6263
- Central District - Pam Cady, 262-6759
- Northeast District - Linda Outlaw, 262-6661
- Northwest District - Karen Mischlispy, 261-8082

## **Have you heard**



SIGNED  
ROSSON HOUSE  
TOURS

Hearing impaired history lovers are now able to get more out of tours of the turn-of-the-century Rosson House in Heritage Square Park. A new tour service, which began in September by Sarah Suggs, will offer special signed tours by appointment. Hearing impaired people have always been able to tour the house but have missed out on the facts, color and anecdotes provided by Heritage Square Guild tour guides. To sign up for signed tours, call 262-5071.

## **EPILEPSY PARENT SUPPORT GROUP**

The Epilepsy Society of Central Arizona (formerly CARES) is sponsoring a Parent Support Group which meets the last Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Phoenix Children's Hospital Outpatient Center, 909 E. Brill St. in the Third Floor Conference room. This group is open to any parent whose child has a seizure disorder.

The Epilepsy Society is still very active with their School Alert Program. For more information on how to get speakers to come out to your school call 265-1733.

**FIRST ANNUAL GOVERNOR'S  
CUP 2K (1.2 mile) WALK  
For Adults 50 years of Age or Older  
DECEMBER 3, 1986  
9:00 A.M.  
MESA CENTENNIAL HALL  
201 North Center Street  
Mesa, Arizona**

**DOROTHY GARSKE CENTER  
4701 S. Lakeshore Drive  
Tempe, Arizona  
345-1612**



## PIGRIMS MAKING NEWS...

The Diocese of Tucson and our Phoenix Diocese joined together to have a Special Religious Education workshop on September 20th. Tucson had a great representation, but Phoenix was slightly lacking in participation. We want to thank the parishes who had their special education catechists attend. Sr. Sheila Haskett, who started out volunteering very much the same way most of us did, gave us some very good concepts to bring to our ministry. First, we have to have clear visions of what we want to accomplish. Through her teaching manual, "Journey With Jesus", she opened up some of those visions. Hopefully, our workshop next year will be better attended to let us know that through special religious education, the love of God is being made known to all His children.

### "BAYLESS DAYS"

#### A Community Service Program

We have a very big project coming up that hopefully will be an on-going project for our office. Through the years, our expenses for equipment, services, and our retreats have grown considerably. We like to offer these services at minimal costs to our disabled community, but in keeping up with the rising cost of equipment and facilities, we have over-extended our limits on what we can spend.

Bayless has a community service called "Bayless Days", whereby a special Tuesday is set-aside for a particular organization. On this day, shoppers who have a special envelope (attached to this newsletter), merely present their envelope to the cashier for validation when checking out their groceries that day. The cashier validates the cash register receipt and gives it back to the customer. Your job then is to return the envelope with cash register receipts to us. NO SALE IS TOO SMALL! From the total of all our receipts, we will receive 5% of the total sales. Sounds Great! What an easy fund raiser! Our special day is on ..... NOVEMBER 18th. There are 50 Bayless stores all over the state who will validate your receipts. So even if you don't normally shop this store, maybe you could make this the one day, the day you try Bayless, even for one item.

So far, our office has presented two workshops to two vicariates in this diocese on indentifying disabled persons and starting a parish program of handicapped awareness. We are going to every vicariate in the next year. Members of our team of presenters are Helen Hoza, Ellen Illardi, Joan Ellis, Fr. Bob Wicht, and Phyllis Vogelsang. It is going very well, and hopefully

continued.....

the needs of every disabled person in our diocese will be met in the next few years. Our diocese will then, become a diocese that has community with all our brethren in every liturgical sense. It is in caring for handicapped that we become more human.

Our Desert Pilgrim Retreat was a very meaningful experience this year. Even though our number was smaller, the camaraderie between everyone was closer. Our heartfelt thanks goes out to Mr. Joe Chamberlin who led us on the journey of "exploring our call in ministry." We have received great feedback from our retreatants as evidenced by one of the letters we received.

Dear Fr. Bob, Joe, Phyllis & George,

Just a note to say "thanks" for our great retreat! Missionaries are always talking about "walking with" the poor rather than "helping" them. After last weekend, I understand that better - and realize too, that I've been doing a fair share of that in my life. No wonder I became a Catholic 10 years ago - the Church embodied for me then everything I considered good and wanted to be, and now, even more so! Peace be with you all!

In Jesus' love,  
Freddie Agins

## Publications

WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE ME, written and illustrated entirely by disabled children, edited by Helen Exley. Friendship Press, New York, 1984, \$10.95, FPO, P.O. Box 37844, Cincinnati, OH 45237. 125 pages of essays, poems, comments, sketches and full color drawings on "Why Me?" "I feel the same as you."

SO WHO'S PERFECT, PEOPLE WITH VISIBLE DIFFERENCES TELL THEIR OWN STORIES, by Dhyana Cassie. For pastoral workers, teachers and other professionals & persons with disabilities; a collection of autobiographies sure to hold your attention. Herald Press, \$12.95 U.S. Herald Press 616 Walnut Ave. Scottdale, PA 15683.

*Best Wishes For the Holidays  
and for Health and Happiness  
Throughout the Year*

# SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

BLESSED MARGARET OF CASTELLO, who died in 1320 at the age of 33, has become the inspiration of the pro-life movement in our country. All who are involved in ministry with disabled persons will benefit from reflecting on her life.

Born blind, dwarfed, hunchbacked and lame, she was rejected by her parents whose family names were deliberately hidden because they did not want their disabled child to be identified with their noble lineage. As a child she was walled up in a tiny room next to the parish church where the priests instructed her and she learned to pray and contemplate.

At 20 years of age, completely abandoned by her parents, she was adopted by the beggars of Castello. Families which took her in reported a noticeable change for the better in their lives. Her goodness attracted the attention of the local convent monastery and she was taken in as a potential member; however, her efforts to live a truly contemplative life only showed up the laxness of the others and she was expelled. Margaret was then allowed to enter a Dominican Third Order and devoted herself to visiting sick persons and prisoners until her death. Her life was not studied until 3 centuries later; she was beatified in 1609 by Pope Paul V.

Margaret's life speaks volumes to us today when many children with disabilities are rejected by their families; when persons with disabilities are ignored and segregated; when beauty, productivity, and possessions are valued over spirituality.

The holiness in Margaret's life, her love of God and others, even those who rejected her, serves as a model for all persons of all times. Her life is a testimony to the most fundamental of sacred rights - the holiness of the human person.

Blessed Margaret of Castello, intercede for us to the Lord our God.

(C.C.H. Newsletter, Jul-Aug, 1985)

## SEE ME FOR ME

When you look at me--  
What do you see?

When you look into my eyes  
Do you see beautiful blue,  
sparkling with joy, delight  
in my accomplishments  
Or do you see that "almond shape"  
or "brushfield spots"?

When you look at my hands  
Do you see them reaching  
for toys, writing the alphabet,  
throwing a ball, doing a  
meaningful job  
Or do you see a "simian crease"?

When you look at my face  
Do you see the resemblance  
to my parents, that I have a  
cute smile, that I have just had  
my hair permed  
Or do you see a "flat face" or  
"epicanthal folds"?

When you look at my behavior  
Do you see my feelings of  
pleasure and anger, my desire  
to achieve, my frustration in  
being treated like a baby  
Or do you see the "stubbornness"?

When you look at my development  
Do you see me playing with peers,  
participating in sports, growing  
into a productive adult  
Or do you see "low muscle tone" or  
"the eternal child"?

When you look at my family  
Do you see loving parents wanting  
to challenge me to my ultimate potential,  
sisters and brothers who have a better  
understanding of the differences in us all  
Or do you see a family torn apart by my  
difference, constantly in crisis, unable  
to accept, never to feel the joy of  
having a "normal child"?

What Do You See?  
Look At Me.  
Look Closer.  
See Me For ME.

Written by: Donna Roll,  
Down Syndrome Association  
of Greater Cincinnati





OFFICE OF SPECIAL SERVICES  
FOR DISABLED PERSONS  
1825 W. Northern  
Phoenix, AZ 85021

The Diocesan Office of Special Services for Disabled Persons is here to serve you. Anyone wishing to receive our newsletter or if you would like to send in articles concerning disabled persons or activities, please send to:

Desert Pilgrimage  
1825 W. Northern Ave  
Phoenix, AZ 85021

We are quarterly and the deadline for the next issue will be January 15, 1987.

Director - Rev. Robert Wicht, S.D.S.  
Coor. HC Programs - Phyllis Vogelsang  
Coor. Deaf Services - Dee Hostetler  
Coor. Blind Services - Bill Bidleman

Please advise us of any change of address. Returned newsletters cost 25¢ each. Call the office at 9976105

DIOCESE OF PHOENIX  
OFFICE OF SPECIAL SERVICES  
400 E. Monroe  
Phoenix, AZ 85004

return requested

REV. JOE BRUCE, S.J.  
CAMPION CENTER  
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WESTON, MA. 02193

## Special Catalogs

for the handicapped or physically impaired

**Comfortably Yours** offers easy-to-wear clothing plus an array of useful, clever gadgets you may not have known existed for the handicapped. There are pet feeders, car locks, money belts, escape ladders, left-handed kitchen tools, unusual gardening implements and more. Send \$2 (for a year of catalogs) to DN7013T, 52 West Hunter Ave., Maywood, NJ 07607.

**Exceptionally Yours** addresses the problems of handicapped children and young adults. Their clothing is easy to get in and out of and accommodates such special needs as braces, bibs and diapers. Free from 22 Prescott Street, Newtonville, MA 02160.

**Fashion Ease** specializes in clothing for elderly, arthritic or handicapped people. Styles wrap and close easily with Velcro or snaps. There are wheelchair accessories and items for the incontinent. Free from 1541 60 Street, Brooklyn, NY 11219.

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