



the Chalice

Volume 44

March - April 2017

Issue No. 2



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN By Bruce G.

Dear Calix Family,

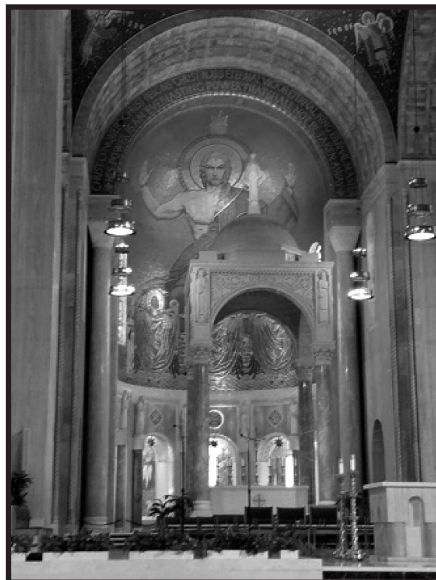
It is Holy Week, and strange as it may sound, my thoughts are turned to UNITY. Maybe it is because, in unity, on the Feast of the Annunciation, we consecrated our Calix Society to the Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, whose heart is wholly united with the Sacred Heart of Jesus. We had a wonderful gathering in the Mid-Atlantic region, organized by the units from Philadelphia and Delaware, with members from Virginia and Maryland also in attendance. Approximately 50 Calix members gathered for Mass at 9:30 a.m. in the Immaculate Heart chapel of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. The Mass was celebrated by Father John McHale, a retired second-vocation priest from the Diocese of Scranton, PA and Father Douglas McKay, our beloved national chaplain. After Mass, in unison, our two good priests led us in the consecration prayer. After a break for shopping in the bookstore and gift shop, we gathered again for a guided tour of the Basilica and then finished with a group lunch in the cafeteria. It was with a great sense of completion, peace, and joy that we said our goodbyes and went our separate ways. I certainly felt a renewed sense of **unity of purpose** stemming from our gathering.

Before returning home, some of us from Virginia spent the afternoon at the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land. The three-leaf clover shaped monastery shrine features an exact replica of Golgotha, with Jesus and

the thieves on crosses looking down from the second story. From the crosses, the crucified gaze at an exact replica of the Holy Sepulcher.

The church's architects constructed these scenes to exactly replicate the distance and elevation of these two points as they exist in the Holy Land. Symbolically, the Cross and the Tomb represent the unity of the Passion and the Resurrection. It is a reminder that death does not have the final word, and regardless of our trials here on Earth, we are made for eternal unity in the Communion of Saints. The pivot point between the Passion and the Resurrection is Easter Sunday. Glancing at a calendar today, I happened to notice that both the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox churches are celebrating Easter on the same date this year, a special sign of unity in an otherwise divided Christianity. And this sign brought me back to our Calix Consecration at the Basilica.

The Basilica is absolutely spectacular overall, but the mosaic I find most edifying is **Christ in Majesty**, one of the largest mosaic images of Jesus Christ in the world. To me, it is a reminder that **Jesus will come again**, and as you see in the photo, it is Mary who stands before him, presenting the children she has gathered in unity. I think Jesus would like to find us living in unity when He returns. In this fallen world,



perfect unity is not possible, but I can do my part by practicing charity. Charity, for a person in Catholic recovery like me, means more than making amends. It means more than carrying the 12-Step message to others in need. To me, charity means practicing the Spiritual and Corporeal Works of Mercy; particularly praying for the living that are "still out there."

I pray that you have a blessed Easter season, and that your units will join me in prayer for our ailing brothers and sisters in Christ.

Pax Tecum -BG



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Father Douglas McKay

The Calix Flower In The Divine Son Shine

In the 2016, May – June Chalice, I wrote about, what I call now, the Calix Seed. It was planted when William J. Montroy, a despairing alcoholic, met Earl Rooney, a saving messenger. On a cold winter night, this A.A. sponsor spoke about the loving mercy of Jesus to this suicidal man. As Rooney pronounced the name ‘Jesus’, Montroy receives his ‘moment of truth’, quits his drinking, and restores his sanity and sanctity. Later he proclaims: “This man Earl was to make the greatest change in my life... The thought of Calix really began to form at this first meeting with him.”

So, in other words, through the Rooney-Montroy story at the Holy Name of Jesus, the Calix Seed was planted.

In the July – August Chalice, I wrote about, what I call, the Calix Sprout. One could see that the Calix Seed took root when the ‘five founders’—Bill Montroy, Steve Levi, Sol Humbarger, Chuck Jennings, and Bob Doherty—brought Father Pat, an alcoholic priest, to Father Rudy Nolan for a 5 a.m. daily Mass to pray for this ‘Tough Bunny’s’ victory over alcohol. After weeks of sacrificial Masses and Pat’s ongoing sobriety, we see the seed sprouting when Montroy exclaims: “Dear God, this is the answer!” Discovering that Holy Mass and Holy Communion are victorious over addiction, he adds, “What more do we need?”

However, Montroy and his disciples knew, by the influence of the Holy Spirit, that more was needed for the society to develop, flower, and flourish into the Calix Garden.

At Bill Montroy’s home the group, sometimes including Earl Rooney, met night after night to draw up a constitution under the direction of Father Nolan, the First Calix Chaplain. After much deliberation, Father Pat himself delivers the manuscript to Archbishop John Gregory Murray who makes his own extensive changes and additions. Receiving Episcopal approval and authorization, Bill remarks: “We owe a great deal to our beloved Archbishop Murray who had given us Pat to work on!”

Now, one could debate that we have in our society not one founder, not five founders, but nine founders, including Earl Rooney, Father Nolan, Father Pat, and Archbishop John Gregory Murray who ‘Baptizes’ our society. It amazes me how the good Lord willed that His priests be a significant part of our lay foundation. Without the priests, there is No Chalice, No Eucharist, No Calix Society.

So the Calix seed really sprouted through the graceful story of Father Pat, the Tough Bunny, and especially through the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass celebrated by Father Nolan that led to the Constitution which was thoughtfully edited and approved by Archbishop Murray. And then, after all of this, follows the divine continuation: the First Spiritual Meeting.

Therefore, in this Chalice, the March - April newsletter, I write about, what I call, the Calix Flower: the first meeting and last aspect needed to complete and solidify our spiritual organization.

After the Calix Constitution was approved by the archbishop, the hearts of the recognized ‘five founders’ were set ablaze. By the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Bill Montroy, the only man in the Legion of Mary at Saint Stephen’s, envisions the spiritual meetings: “Yes, we would have meetings and Mary, Mother of God, who was so dear to me, would be our patron. We would have a statue and candles and flowers, and each of us would have a job of love to make everything pleasing to her. She would be asking her Son’s blessing on our objectives.”

Finally, in 1947 at the Rainbow Cafe, after the 7 a.m. Sunday Mass celebrated in Saint Stephen's Church, the five recovering founders got together to develop their spirituality. Here, in this cafe, within a private see-through-glass room, 'the five' set up their prayer leaflets, holy books, and a Marian shrine with roses and vigil lights upon a suitable table cloth. Then the men knelt before the beautiful statue of Mary praying their first formal prayers, praying for their deceased loved ones, and praying for Our Lady's intercession over their emerging society.

At first the waitresses thought that they were serving a bunch of religious fanatics, but after hearing and observing them, they realized the sincerity, honesty, and humility of these precious souls. Experiencing God's presence in the Rainbow Cafe these women served these men as if they were kings: platters of ham, bacon, and eggs, fried potatoes, mountains of toast, and liters of coffee. Enjoying their breakfast, the first supper, the hungry men felt sure that Jesus and Mary sat right there, in their midst, with them, circling the royal table.

Getting down to holy business, with Montroy's spiritual tips, the small group took turns reading from the Bible, especially from the Gospels. In particular, they pondered the parables of the Prodigal Son and the Adulterous Woman. Sharing their inspired thoughts, the recovering sinners began to experience the infinite love that Christ had for them. Meditating on the Crucified One, they restored their hope in God's merciful love and overcame their alcoholic shame by taking to heart the dying words of the Lamb of God: "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."

Savoring God's gentle presence, they surrendered their sinful burdens to the Savoir and cherished His inviting words, "Come unto me, you who are heavily burden and I will refresh you."

Besides the Bible, at this historical meeting, the Calix Pioneers also had at hand *The Confessions of Saint Augustine* and *The Spiritual Life* written by Adolphe Tanquerey, a treatise on ascetical and mystical theology. At this time, just like William J.

Montroy, all these Calix apostles were now quite serious and determined to quit living like devils and work on becoming saints. They knew it would be 'no good' to give up the drink and become 'dry drunks' by practicing old vices like pride, impurity, dishonesty, and all the other sinful behaviors. They also knew that they needed sanctifying grace to practice the virtues like humility, chastity, honesty, and all the other graceful behaviors. The first business, for these apprentice saints, was their own sanctification.

Through Holy Mass, Holy Communion, Holy Hours, Sacraments, Sacramentals, Scriptures, Sacrifices, Spiritual Readings, Inspiring Saints, Marian Devotions, Heartfelt Prayers, Retreat Days, Works of Mercy, and any other means of our Catholic faith, our beloved Calix Founders sanctified themselves. And therefore, as Calix members, we too can and must do the same for our own holiness and happiness.

So, it was here at the Rainbow Cafe, within a private see-through-glass room, that we see the blooming of The Calix Flower In The Divine Son Shine.

Father Douglas McKay O.F.S.

How Christian Music has Enhanced my Spiritual Journey.

I had never really listened that much to Christian music. Sure, I sang in Church, even Christmas carols in the shower and the car during the holidays when on the radio. But never with any reverence and passion until 2 years ago when a relatively new Christian friend asked me if I had ever listened to a local Christian music station in the Washington, DC market, station WGTS 91.9. Once I started listening to the Christian songs on that station, I haven't listened to much other music since.

So, why my late life interest in Christian music you may ask? Well, as I listened to the various Christian music, I started to realize how much I

How Christian Music Enhanced my Spiritual Journey (cont. on pg. 4)

How Christian Music Enhanced my Spiritual Journey (cont. from pg. 3)

could identify with the songs' lyrics and how they very often related to the experiences and emotions in my life. And many times, I could relate to the song playing to a present moment, occurrence taking place in my life. That grabbed my attention. As I would hear Christian songs that I liked, and there are many, I would note its name and the artist, then download the song from iTunes to my music library on my iPhone.

Today, now 2 years later, I have quite an arrangement of Christian songs that I play depending on my thoughts and the occurrences of my day. If I have something 'heavy' weighing on me and I'm in prayer seeking God's strength, I may play 'Shoulders' – for KING & COUNTRY or 'Praise You in this Storm' – Casting Crowns. When I'm reminded that I'm here to help my fellow man, I may play 'Do Something' – Matthew West. When I'm reminded of the utmost importance for placing God #1 in my life, above all people, places and things, I may play 'First' – Lauren Daigle. When I have the evil one whispering those negative thoughts to me, working to bring me down into a dark place of despair, I might play 'Grace Wins' – Matthew West or 'Your Great Name' – Natalie Grant. When I'm feeling gratitude or need to be reminded of the multitude of blessings He's given to my life, I may play 'Good Good Father' – Chris Tomlin. When I'm reminded that God IS everywhere, all encompassing, and I 'see' Him in all areas of my life, I will play 'God's Not Dead' – Newsboys. When I need to feel God's love and comfort to get me through a difficult situation, I may play 'Just be Held' – Casting Crowns. When I'm reminded how far I've come in my journey with God, how much love and gratitude I have for Him, that He didn't give up on me and waited for me, I may play 'Redeemed' - Big Daddy Weave or 'Love Broke Thru' – tobyMac. While I do not know what God has planned for the rest of my life here on this earth, I do know it will be wonderful. If you are ever in doubt, do listen to the song, 'Glorious Unfolding' – Steven Curtis Chapman. The beauty of iTunes includes the feature to be able to send a friend in need any of these songs via text with just the click of my 'Share' button.

So, I've come a long way in music since my 1st concert many, many years ago, seeing John Kay and Steppenwolf, listening to 'Born to be Wild' at Villanova University, to my last concert last summer with Matthew West with 2 of my daughters, listening to his final song of the evening, 'Grace Wins' ! I may have been born to be wild, but I have since been tamed. I thank God.

Other highlights for my Christian music concerts include Steven Curtis Chapman, December 2015 and Matt Maher, October 2015. I've been asked if Matt Maher and I are related. We are not. But when I was fortunate



to meet him backstage after his concert, we both agreed that 'it's a Maher thing'.

(This article has been submitted by Mike M., a blessed member of the Calix Society chapter in Northern VA (NoVa) and a grateful member of Al-Anon. Mike is on the left)

Sobriety vs Drunkenness

St. Thomas Aquinas is widely recognized and regarded as the unofficial theologian of the Catholic Church. Among his many, many writings, he wrote extensively on the Virtues of man, in addition to those of God, and their countering Vices. One very pertinent perspective from St. Thomas is the Virtue of Sobriety and it's Vice, Drunkenness.

A friend of mine, Chris B. wrote a paper on this topic for her Masters in Theology program. I became intrigued with learning more on St. Thomas' thoughts on this subject, a topic that is personally near and dear to my heart. At the age of 18 yrs. old, my oldest daughter headed off to college, like many kids, and she fell into trouble with alcohol. I knew of some issues with alcohol as her mother

had been in recovery for 15 years at the time our daughter entered college. What I didn't understand was the lack of judgment or reasoning that resulted in ongoing, repeated negative behavior and the resulting consequences for our daughter.

My friend's research paper, titled St. Thomas Aquinas on the Virtue of Sobriety and the Vice of Drunkenness, provided me with the insight into the cardinal virtues of Prudence, Justice, Fortitude and Temperance and how each of these virtues can impact one's sobriety, or lack thereof, with the vice of Drunkenness. Today, I better understand the importance that the state of one's sobriety has not only on 'reason', but also on one's relationship with God and the Trinity. As so correctly stated by St. Thomas, a virtue is good, and good is God! May nothing come before Him in my life, nor before the life of my fellow man.

If anyone would like to learn more about St. Thomas' thoughts on this subject, Chris will gladly send you a copy of her research paper. Please send your email request to Chris at: christinabongiovanni@hotmail.com Chris welcomes and appreciates any feedback on her paper.

This article has been submitted by Mike M., a blessed member of the Calix Society Chapter in Northern VA (NoVa) and a grateful member of Al-Anon.

Editor Sought!

The Calix Society is seeking an editor for "The Chalice" newsletter. If you have editorial experience and are interested in volunteering your time to producing and editing this newsletter, please contact Chris B. at secretary@calixsociety.org. The newsletter is published six times a year, and graphics and layout are handled by a designer. This is a great opportunity for someone interested in doing service work!

**Note New Calix International Address:
PO Box 26
Glenside, PA 19038**

Writers Sought for "the Chalice"

Do you want to share a testimonial, inspiration or other topic with an article in "The Chalice"? The Calix Society is looking for our members to submit articles related to our Faith and our recovery to be published in the bi-monthly newsletter. No prior writing or publishing experience is required. If you have an idea for an article, or if you already have something you've written, please contact Chris B. at secretary@calixsociety.org.

Secretary's Report by Chris B.

The Board of Directors meets via video- and tele-conference once a month. Each meeting begins with a reading of the Calix credo, and prayer. Operational matters are routinely discussed, such as the treasurer's report, new / potential Calix units and member's proposals. One agenda item in the last two months have included the Act of Consecration to the Blessed Virgin Mary at the Basilica in Washington, D.C. held on March 25. Another topic of discussion has been this year's annual retreat, which will be held in Minneapolis/St. Paul on August 4-6. In addition, discussions have begun about how to introduce Calix to more Catholics in AA, Al-Anon or other recovery groups.

Retreat: Note from St. Paul

We are thrilled to invite you to the Calix 2017 Spiritual Retreat. This year we offer a Minnesota welcome on the beautiful campus of the University of St. Thomas in Saint Paul. We are merely steps from Shadow Falls Park, and the tree-lined walkway that winds along the Mississippi River. Won't you join us?

Our intrepid team is busy at work to kick off festivities starting Friday, August 4 at 12:00 PM. The aim is simple: blend the weekend into a richly diverse experience that leaves us spiritually refreshed and invigorated. The red-thread of the

Retreat: Note from St. Paul (cont. from pg. 5)

weekend comes from the Parable of the Lost Son (Luke 15:11-32). From there, the weekend is sure to include a host of speakers, spiritual workshops, meditation, food, fellowship, and other activities. Of course, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Mass, and possibly a trip to an historic site related to the early days of Calix are in order.

So please, save the date. Join us in St. Paul, from August 4-6. Let us celebrate a sober life filled with joy in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Details will follow soon. Questions? Please email Christian Wolfe, our retreat coordinator, at oorofoo@gmail.com.

<i>Calix Society</i>	Date: _____
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St. Paul, MN 55109	
secretary@calixsociety.org	
<u>Membership Application</u>	
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12-Step Review (Set) edited by Fr. Emmerich Vogt	\$15.00 Ppd
The 12 Steps and Catholic Spirituality by Fr. Leo Dolan	\$1.00 ea.
Introduction to Calix Packet	\$1.75 ea.
A Word for the Problem Drinker	\$0.40 ea
Calix, What and Why	\$0.30 ea
How it Works-Spiritually	\$0.30 ea
Information for Chaplains	\$0.30 ea
Matt Talbot Medals	\$0.80 ea
Information for New Units	\$0.30 ea
Calix Induction Ceremony	\$0.30 ea
Calix Pin (Members Only!)	\$5.00 ea

NEW! Matt Talbot Prayer/Relic Card. Color cards contain prayer for Matt's canonization, prayer asking for Matt's intercession and a piece of relic cloth that was touched to a 1st Class relic making it a 3rd class.	\$1.00 ea
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Calix and the Twelve Steps by Fr. Arnold Luger ** SPANISH EDITION **	\$9.00 Ppd
Calix, What and Why ** SPANISH EDITION **	\$1.00 ea
Matt Talbot sculpture See flyer under " resources ". Send an email to help@philly-calix.com before ordering to arrange for local pickup in Philadelphia and save the shipping cost.	\$75.00 Ppd
Matt Talbot sculptures for the UK. Due to shipping costs we need to add \$10 US to the cost.	\$85.00 Ppd
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Recovery Meditation On The Stations of The Cross by Msgr. Harrington. Great resource for your meetings during Lent!	\$5.00 Ppd
Heaven's Homecoming by Fr. Douglas McKay (Grays Ferry Spiritual Guide) Note that the Kindle version is now available at amazon.com. Use the link from the Calix homepage to get to Amazon and then look at "Kindle Books"	\$13.00 Ppd
Calix and the Twelve Steps by Fr. Arnold Luger ** NOTE ** There is also a Kindle version of this book available at Amazon.com. Go to the Calix homepage and click on the Amazon banner to purchase for \$5.99!	\$10.00 Ppd
The Light of Faith (Reprinted!) by Fr. Francis Canavan	\$9.00 Ppd
By The Grace of God by Fr. Francis Canavan	\$11.00 Ppd
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Sister Ignatia Angel of Alcoholics Anonymous by Mary Darrah	\$19.00 Ppd
A 12-Step Approach to the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius (52 Meditations, & their relation to the 12 steps) by James Harbaugh, S.J.	\$20.00 Ppd
Let the Oppressed Go Free by Cardinal Justin Rigali	\$6.00 Ppd

Vol. 44, Issue 2, March - April, 2017

THE CALIX SOCIETY

P.O. Box 9085

St. Paul, MN 55109-9969

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I am enclosing a contribution of \$25.00 because I wish to support the society in its apostate to recovering alcoholics. Please send me a membership card and place my name on "The Chalice" mailing list.

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"The Holy Father renews his Apostolic Blessing to all who collaborate in this important apostateat the service of Christ's brethren." (Letter from: Cardinal Villot, June, 1977)