



the Chalice

Volume 43

September - October 2016

Issue No. 5



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN By Bruce G.

Dear Calix family,

“Hi, I am Bruce and I am a repentant sinner.” This is how I introduce myself at Calix meetings, so I thought it fitting to start my first “President’s Column,” with the same introduction. Born a sinner, I need reminders of God’s love for me, so I keep a quotation pinned to the bulletin board near where I write that reads, “Sacrifice began to become interesting when man, wonderstruck by God’s gratuitousness to him, intuited that there was nothing more intelligent to do than to acknowledge him.” In that spirit, let me acknowledge you, too, dear Calix reader, and thank you for this opportunity to progress in my recovery through service. It is such a blessing to be a Calix member, and it is my intention to extend that blessing as far and wide as possible, with your help, prayers, and mutual support.

My Calix journey started in York, PA, with a Mass, a meeting, and with breakfast in a local dinner with Gretchen and Mike. It is with deepest gratitude that I thank them both for warmly welcoming me into the Calix Society, and for their leadership over the past four years. I want to especially thank Gretchen for her service as outgoing president during a time when she and Mike had much going on in their personal lives, with mar-

riage and relocation. It is not easy to serve others quietly, calmly and with such serenity while making major life changes, so thank you, Gretchen, for your cheerful example. I hope to draw deeply from your well of Peace and Joy.

Friends, when you are in Northern Virginia (“NoVA” for you folks in Cleveland – what a wonderful Retreat!!), please stop by and share in our weekly Saturday, 10 a.m. meeting at Loudoun Club 12 in Leesburg. We are not far from Dulles Airport, for those visiting our nation’s capital from outside the immediate area. And bring your rosary, as we start every meeting by praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, meditating on the Sorrowful Mysteries. Don’t worry if you don’t know the Chaplet, just follow along with us, and with the pamphlets we have available.

One last thing; we keep the beautiful replica statue of Our Blessed Mother standing in front of a large Celtic cross with her hands on the shoulders of Venerable Matt Talbot on the coffee table during our Club 12 meeting. It’s a great reminder that the shortest, surest, path to recovery for all of us is via Jesus through Mary. Like Matt Talbot, I have personally consecrated myself to Mary as the Immaculate Conception; this consecration has radically changed my life. In closing, I invite you to reflect on the place Mary plays in your own recovery, and to consider how she might play a greater role in our Calix Society as a whole. More thoughts on this topic in my next column.

Pax Tecum,

-BG



The month of November is the month of Poor Souls.

When I was a little 3rd grade altar boy and I heard my pastor preach that we should be concerned for the Poor Souls, I thought to myself, well, let's take up a second collection and they would not be poor any more.

I was not the sharpest knife in the drawer as a child.

The fact is that many good faithful people die and their families do not have Christian burials for them. These are the Poor Souls.

We make an offering of our sacrifices, we offer our penances, we visit the graves of the dead, so as to pray for those who cannot pray for themselves.

In all likelihood, we will get about eight or nine words below our names on our tombstones. What will they write about you.

At this time, I believe mine will say, "Grumpy Old Priest."

My family is not particularly happy with this. :o)

In all seriousness, I have prepped my tombstone because before all four of my deployments "downrange" I had to file a will, a funeral plan, and various Powers of Attorney. So, I hope that my marker will say, "Zeal and Obedience."

Prepare for your judgement. Pray for the Poor Souls in Purgatory. And know of the mercy of the Lord.



Cleveland Retreat

I want to thank the Cleveland Group for hosting the recent retreat. Gretchen and I were forced to cancel our trip due to a 'bug' I contracted from my work in an emergency room. I was disappointed, personally, because I was anxious to learn more about Sister Ignatia, and from what Mary S. has submitted to this issue about the Retreat, I missed more than I could have imagined. It would have been a blessing to hear from a man who had been helped by Sister.

Some photos from the retreat, including a photo of 3 Calix Members sitting at Dr. Bob's kitchen table in Akron will be posted on the website. If you are reading this and have photos from the convention you wish to share, forward them to me and we'll post them on the 'Members Only' side of our website.

Election

Bruce G. was elected President and Vince L. was elected Vice-President at the Retreat plus 2 new members were elected to the Board of Directors in Cleveland. There is a biosketch introducing Gaylen in this issue. The other director, Mike M. will have a biosketch in the next issue. Welcome aboard fellas! Biosketches on Bruce and Vince were published earlier this year.

New Group in Hanceville, Alabama

A couple from Hanceville was on a pilgrimage to Medjugorje when they learned about Calix from Adrian D. who is active in Calix in London. When the couple returned to their home near Birmingham, they began the process to start a Calix Group there. It continues to amaze me what happens when fellow Catholics learn about Calix – we seem to be the pathway to unanswered prayers.

Contact Garnett (contact info on website) about the meeting held on the 1st Sunday of Each Month at 4PM at Our Lady Queen of Peace.

It's my understanding that this group is nearby to where Sister Angelica formed Eternal Word Television Network. Welcome aboard, and may your vine grow abundant fruit.

Calix Society Business issues presented in Cleveland

The Board continues to be good stewards of the monies collected as dues. We are in the black, and the Retreat was completed within a few dollars of being on budget. As you know, our dues system covers the time period from Jan 1 thru Dec 31 each year. If you want to pay yours now, there is a 'coupon' in this issue, or you can renew online via the Website.

There is a Calix Meeting by Phone held on a regular basis and the Board pays the conference call fees for that. If you'd like to participate, send an email and I'll forward it to Vince and Bruce who are essentially running this effort.

Thank You Madam President Emeritus

During the nomination process that resulted in Gretchen S's election in Philadelphia, she said she'd be willing to serve but only if she had help. She was effective in getting the Society to establish a prudent reserve for the first time, and other accomplishments without help. She has remained modest throughout and she is a testament to the powers of Step Work and adherence to our Faith. Both she and I appreciate Bruce's comments in his first column as President-elect.

Calix Retreat in Cleveland

Submitted by Mary S, Chairperson

The 59th Annual Calix Convention was held September 16-18 in Cleveland, Ohio at the Jesuit Retreat House. The theme Mercy in Action was chosen to correlate with Pope Francis' extraordinary Jubilee Holy Year of Mercy. The event was well-attended by 40+ folks from Cleveland and around the country.

After checking in and getting settled, the convention kicked off with a mass in the on-site chapel, and dinner in the retreat house dining room.

The opening night spotlight was on Sister Ignatia, an Irish-born nun who worked with Dr. Bob to get alcoholics admitted to the hospital setting for treatment. Guest speaker Sister Judith Ann Karem worked alongside Sr. Ignatia and shared memories and insights of their relationship. Following her talk was a lead given by Bobby Jackson, a 50+ year member of AA who was personally helped by Sr. Ignatia. He shared how Sister gave all the alcoholics in her ward Sacred Heart badges which they had to promise to return before they decided to ever take a drink again. Bobby still carries his in his wallet and showed his Sacred Heart badge to attendees after his lead. Several folks gathered

Calix Retreat in Cleveland, (cont. from pg. 3)

informally afterwards in the dining hall for fellowship and conversation.

The next morning started off with prayer service and breakfast, which was followed by a talk given by Mary Lou Beers. Mary Lou lives in the Cleveland area and is a nationally known speaker who shares her experiences of her life and caring for her husband, Jim. Jim suffered a massive stroke at age 29 and was almost completely paralyzed. She shared how they lived and loved and relied on God completely, and how God responded to their faith. When Mary Lou became unable to carry Jim upstairs on her back every night, the local high school football team volunteered to do so; every morning the wrestling team carried him downstairs. When they found themselves pregnant with a “miracle” baby but no money to pay for the hospital bill, their doctor tore up his bill he was so impressed by their faith in God. Jim died several years ago, but their love story remains a vivid picture of the Spiritual and Corporal Acts of Mercy in action.

That afternoon the convention traveled to Akron 40 mins. away to visit the “birthplace of Alcoholics Anonymous,” the home of Dr. Bob Smith. A museum located in the house next door showcased books, photos and other memorabilia. It was a wonderful opportunity to experience the history of AA.

A business meeting with elections followed the trip to Akron. Congratulations to all the newly elected Calix officers!

In the evening a sit-down banquet dinner was held in the dining room and it was a wonderful time getting to know Calix members from other parts of the country. The keynote speaker was Father Joe McNulty from local St. Augustine Parish. His parish carries out an unwavering ministry of mercy to the disabled, the poor, the hungry and

the homeless. He and his parish quite literally feed the hungry and clothe the naked. They distribute thousands of meals a month, as well as clothing, and help with outreach and assistance in a variety of ways. Fr. Joe shared his early days as a young priest and offered us a glimpse, in his own humorous way, of a humble yet tireless picture of mercy to all who ask, seek and knock.

The evening later wrapped up with an AA discussion meeting, with the topic being about invitations:

offering them and accepting them. As recovering alcoholics, most of us have experienced the gentle invitations inherent in the 12 Steps to get to know God more fully. When we accept that invitation we know and are healed by God’s grace & mercy. We are then asked to extend that invitation to others – to carry the message and to give freely to others what was so freely given to us - what a picture of mercy! The comments at the meeting showed that “it works, it really does.”

Sunday morning started off with stations of the cross outside on an outdoor trail in a lovely wooded setting. A few curious deer followed along at a distance as well! To show our out-of-town guests how we celebrate Calix “Cleveland-style,” we had mass followed by breakfast and then a Calix lead. Paul Bennett shared his experience, strength and hope with a beautiful and powerful lead illustrating how he “came to believe.”

The convention wrapped up with an invitation to next year’s retreat being held in Minneapolis. Thanks to all who attended the retreat and made it a success! We hope that the Jubilee Year of Mercy was a chance for you to experience spiritual growth and progress. The good news is that we can continue to improve our conscience contact with God long after the Year of Mercy ends. We in Cleveland look forward to seeing you in 2017.

Introducing Gaylen, New Board Member from Cleveland

My name is Gaylen and I'm a recovering alcoholic and grateful member of AA. My home group is Bay Sunrise and my sobriety date is January 23, 2004. I am also a grateful member of the Catholic faith and my parish is St Augustine's, the Cleveland Diocesan parish for the disabled.

I am 63 years old, and have lived in Cleveland my entire life. I am a divorced father of four, and grandfather of 8. I have worked as a Technologist in a global R&D facility for a large manufacturing corporation for the last 38 years. I am a new member of Calix, but first went to a Cleveland Calix meeting in 2008, when I was invited to share my story.

I was raised in the Catholic faith, serving as an altar boy at St Patrick's church, and attended St Ignatius high school, where I continued my religious and scholastic studies. In tenth grade I was transferred to the public school system. After a few years of CCD, my formal religious instruction ended, as did my participation in the Catholic Church. During a brief stint at college, I independently pursued some understanding of God through several Contemporary Religion classes before dropping out of both higher education and formal religion. My career as a practicing alcoholic and agnostic blossomed over the following decades.

It was not until I was driven to my knees at the age of 50, that in desperation, and with the not-so-gentle nudge from a judge, I entered AA and began the lifetime process of recovery. The message of hope, that the 12 steps could lead me to a better life, that the Fellowship would guide and support me, and that a Power greater than myself would supply the power and grace to pull it off, made miraculous

changes in my life. Eventually, after six years of sobriety and facing a pending divorce, I became really willing to get serious about the 11th Step. The Big Book directed me to "Be quick to see where religious people are right. Make use of what they offer."

I joined a Bible Study organized by AA members. In working with another alcoholic, I attended my first Christmas Eve Midnight Mass in 35 years, and was impressed by the kindly elder priest who said "we served 12,00 meals today". I joined a bi-weekly spiritual book club, again organized by AA members. I begrudgingly "walked up the church steps backwards" until I found myself standing firmly inside! It was then an easy decision to take RCIA classes and become officially welcomed back into the Catholic Church.

Coming full circle, I attended classes at the Jesuit high school of my youth, titled 'Encountering Christ Retreats' in their Ignatian Spiritual Programs for Adults. This in turn led to my participation in Calix as a member, and not just an invited speaker. I have also become a Lay Eucharistic Minister and Reader at my parish.

As a current member of Cleveland Calix, it was my proud privilege to serve as co-leader of the Agenda Committee, responsible for designing the theme and content for the 2016 Calix International Retreat. It is my sincere hope that those of you whom attended enjoyed the experience as much as we did putting it together. It was at this retreat that I was nominated for membership on the Calix Board.

I look forward to continuing to grow along spiritual lines in both instruction and service as a new member of the Calix Board.

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
NEW! Audio Version of Recovery meditations on the Stations of the Cross by Msgr. Harrington and narrated by Gerard King**	\$6.00 Ppd
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
Calix Banner - with pole and rope to hang it	\$50.00 Ppd
Calix Banner - without pole and rope	\$40.00 Ppd
Sister Ignatia DVD. Documentary on the life of Sr. Ignatia and her role in early AA	\$19.00 Ppd
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
The Soul of Sponsorship (From letters between Bill W. and Fr. Dowling) by Robert Fitzgerald, S.J.	\$14.00 Ppd
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

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

Calix Society *Date:* _____

International Headquarters

P.O. Box 9085 *(800) 398-0524*

St. Paul, MN 55109

secretary@calixsociety.org

Membership Application

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING CALIX

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone/ e-mail: _____

Unit: _____

Dues/ \$25.00/ yr: Please enclose a check to the *calix society*

Signature

Vol. 43, Issue 5, Sept. - Oct., 2016
THE CALIX SOCIETY
P.O. Box 9085
St. Paul, MN 55109-9969

Please check your label-

The expiration date will always be at the end of the year.
Consider joining the Gratitude Club.