



the Chalice

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN By Gretchen S

Hello everyone. I hope God is good to you this summer .

This year's Calix retreat is scheduled for September. We will meet in September for a lovely Spirit filled weekend in Parma, OH(very near Cleveland).

My term as president will end, and new president will be elected. Fortunately we are all members of the Christ party here. After a term of two years, one of the unanswered questions that our board discusses is the issue of membership growth. We do not have a clear path at this time.

Each of us has an individual spiritual journey that brought us to Calix. It's like taking stars in the sky or snowflakes in the air and asking for a single path. When I think about the phrase "attraction instead of promotion" my first thought is to ask myself what brought me to Calix. The short answer is God, and the prayers I practised through the 12 steps of AA. The longer answer is that a member of Calix sensed my spiritual emptiness and invited me to a meeting. As a non Catholic, I felt at home with Mass and the meeting afterwards. Father Bill made me feel as welcome and wanted as

any AA meeting. And I felt the love of Jesus in our meetings.

I found that my preconceived notions of a Christ oriented recovery group were not fact. Of course, I would never have known that had it not been for the people who reached out to me. Our priests are so important. The gifts they bring to Calix are invaluable.

As a recovering alcoholic woman who was never baptised I felt welcome, and safe. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could give our paths to others who are lost. Not everyone has the same map, but if we each became a guide we could act as lanterns for those in the dark.

We're taught that service work is the backbone of good sobriety. I would add that it's the backbone of good Christian acts as well. Please consider asking the Holy Spirit to show you someone who needs to feel safe and welcome in Calix, and be their guide.

God Bless each of you!



Why Indulgences?

In this Year of Mercy, we should seek out every opportunity to grow in our Faith.

One of the most overlooked gift that the Church has are indulgences.

Catechism of the Catholic Church, states, “An indulgence is obtained through the Church who, by virtue of the power of binding and loosing granted her by Christ Jesus, intervenes in favor of individual Christians and opens for them the treasury of the merits of Christ and the saints to obtain from the Father of mercies the remission of the temporal punishment due for their sins.” The Church does this not just to aid Christians, “but also to spur them to works of devotion, penance, and charity” (CCC 1478).

Short translation – this is extra credit in the spiritual life!

After we go to Confession, we do an act of penance in reparation for our sins. An indulgence is doing that act of penance outside the Sacrament of Penance.

It may offering certain prayers, particular acts of charity, or time reading Scripture.

The full list of indulgences is found in the Enchiridan of Indulgences.

One recommendation: After receiving Holy Communion, offer the Anima Christi – the Soul of Christ prayer. Offer it for the poor souls in purgatory.

And graces for you and those who have gone before marked by the sign of Faith.

Anima Christi

Soul of Christ, sanctify me.
 Body of Christ, save me.
 Blood of Christ, inebriate me.
 Water from the side of Christ, wash me.
 Passion of Christ, strengthen me.
 O good Jesus hear me.
 Within thy wounds hide me.
 Suffer me not to be separated from thee.
 From the malignant enemy, defend me.
 In the hour of my death, call me.
 And bid me come to thee;
 That with thy saints I may praise thee
 forever and ever. Amen.



In this Issue: We have 3 contributions: a submission from Fr. McKay in Philadelphia from his research on the origins of Calix; a first person account from Bruce G. regarding a pilgrimage to Lourdes; and a summary of a Day of Recollection held in Philadelphia from Amy N.

Retreat Update: The 59th Annual Calix Retreat will be held Sept. 16-18 in the suburbs of Cleveland at a Jesuit Retreat House in Parma, OH. A trip to Dr. Bob’s house in Akron and a talk on Sister Ignatia is planned. Registration for the Retreat Weekend is \$200 per person for lodging, meals and retreat costs and is available now on the Calix Society website. An updated registration for the meetings only, and meetings plus meals is due from

Editor's Corner, (cont. from pg. 2)

the Committee shortly. This registration with these options will be sent out via email/mail in the days ahead.

Sister Ignatia, Cause for Canonization: A few weeks ago, I learned at an AA meeting that there has been a Cause for Canonization started by a group of women in AA. As you may know, we have available on the literature list, a DVD produced by Sister's Order that summarizes her involvement in AA as well as a book published by Mary Darrah: **Sister Ignatia Angel of Alcoholics Anonymous.** Some of you may be aware that at the last AA International Convention, Sister's involvement was recognized by AA in a very big way. She was born in Ireland during the lifetime of Matt Talbot, came to the US, and answered her calling to become a nun. Following a breakdown suffered while Ignatia taught music, she was assigned to a hospital in Akron to aid in her personal recovery where she assisted the hospital administrator. She became Dr. Bob's right hand admitting alcoholics to the hospital and was instrumental in helping minister to the spouses and families of these persons, the start of Alanon to be sure. She and Dr.

Bob are credited with the start of successful institutionalized treatment for alcoholism in America, and the world. She and Dr. Bob got 5000 alcoholics started on the road to recovery in Akron during his lifetime (about 1 per day, a herculean feat). When he died, she was moved to Cleveland where she opened Rosary Hall Solarium (RHS being Dr Bob's initials) and got another 15,000 alcoholics started on their journey.

How special is it that we will have a talk on Sister Ignatia at the Retreat? Included in this issue is a card that promotes a Facebook page on the Cause for Sister Ignatia, for those who use Facebook.

Las Vegas Group Summer Hours: We have been asked to get the word out that due to renovations, the Vegas group's location and times are fluxuating. If you plan on going to Las Vegas and had hoped to include visiting the Calix Group, it is wise to first contact Madge L. for updates. Her email address is mklange@cox.net.

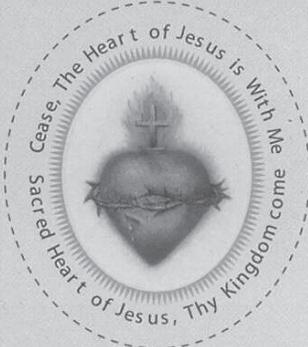
Calix Meeting via teleconference: See the website for more information.



Sister Mary Ignatia, Gavin C.S.A.
(Sisters of Charity of St Augustine)
(1889 - 1966)
"Angel of Alcoholics Anonymous"
Pray for us.

SISTER IGNATIA GAVIN
CAUSE FOR CANONIZATION

 Like Sister Ignatia



Sister Ignatia's spiritual advice to alcoholics was simple:
"Just tell him in your own words that you have made a mess of your life, and ask Him if He won't take over from here."

A Small Stone

Bruce G., Northern Virginia

Traveling to Lourdes on pilgrimage this past April was a real privilege. The area around the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, and the Grotto where Our Lady appeared to St. Bernadette, is known as “The Domain.” Peace reigns there, and spiritual healing is available to all.

Like everyone else, I brought back a few souvenirs from Lourdes. One souvenir was a small stone from the river bank near the Grotto, a piece of limestone no bigger than the first joint of my little finger. After we had our final blessing in the Domain, it went into my pocket. Later, at home in Virginia, the Lourdes stone went into a little red rosary pouch made from a priest’s used vestment. Volunteers in California sew items like rosary pouches, bible covers and such, from used vestments in order to raise money for the Roman Catholic Church in the Russian Far East. This particular pouch had not sold, and because it was cardinal red with a white, eight-point, Spanish-style cross, it became mine. It reminded me of the Order of Malta. The little stainless-steel medallion of Our Lady of Czestochowa was still in the pouch when the stone was added.

The pouch-stone-medallion stayed in my car for a while. Then one day, this “memento” went in my pocket. Everyone else brings water back from Lourdes, why bring back a stone? The answer came during the 3 O’clock Hour of Divine Mercy:

“Every one then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house upon rock; and the rain fell, and the floods came, and the wind blew and beat upon the house, but it did not fall,

because it had been founded on the rock.” - Mt 7:24-25

These words of Jesus conclude the Sermon on the Mount that begins with the Beatitudes (Mt 5 – 7). One writer has called the Beatitudes a “sort of self-portrait of Jesus.” As the Word’s self-portrait they describe the Rock that is salvation.

As I work my program for spiritual growth within my Calix family, there seems to be a real path forward in contemplating the Beatitudes (“hears these words”) and then striving to live them (“does them”). As a practical program matter, being “poor in spirit,” for example, seems like a way to practice detachment with love. The Beatitudes also suggest a way to address my “defects of character (Step 6)” and “my short-comings (Step 7).”

In contemplation, the “small stone” helped me see that the graces that come from living the Beatitudes flow like the water that flows from the rock of the Grotto, both gratuitous flows mediated by Our Lady and available to everyone.

Jesus, I trust in You.



On A Cold Winter Night

Father Douglas McKay, OFS

Chaplain, Grays Ferry Unit

As I enjoy chiming bells from Saint Gabriel's Church across from my apartment on Pentecost Sunday, 2016, and my Thirty-Fourth Anniversary of priesthood, I beseech God's help to write this first article for the Chalice about the Calix Society.

In a God letter someone wrote:

Dear God,

So far today, I've done all right. I ain't cursed, stolen, nor lied. I haven't even smoked, used drugs, or drank alcohol—I'm really thankful for that. But in a few minutes, dear God, I'll be getting

out of bed, and then I'll need all the help I can get.

Heavenly Father, on this day of my Priestly Pentecostal Anniversary, I pray send Your Spirit upon me and grant all the help I need to inspire' the Chalice' readers about our society and for our own sobriety, sanity, and sanctity that will enable us to become Recovery Evangelizers. Amen.

In this article, I write about the First Calix Founder, William J. Montroy, and his defining 'moment of truth' that happened during the mid 1940's in downtown Minneapolis through his new found friend, Earl Rooney. In this instant, the Lord Jesus revealed himself and planted the Calix seed which was to grow into the Apostolate for Catholic Recovering Addicts.

From Bill Montroy's recorded testimony, we know that his alcoholism began with few drinks making him feel like a 'Big Shot' even though he didn't like the taste. He shuddered at the thought that some of his drinking pals needed a drink to get out of bed, and it seemed

silly to him to drink alone. Yet in time, he would abuse alcohol and become just like his alcoholic buddies.

Bill's debts increased. Loan sharks hounded. Pressures mounted. Deliberately, he provoked an argument with his wife Janet, Scandinavian Lutheran, so he could blame her, slam doors, and run out of the house to get drunk. She was sick with his sickness. Even his supervisor made him sign a letter of resignation to be submitted if alcohol abuse ever again interfered with his job. Though he felt shame and sorrow, he just couldn't stop the binges.

One night in an alcoholic 'blackout', Bill drove home and tore down his garage doors. The next day, Janet and her neighbor tried to convince him to make an A.A. meeting, but he refused calling the members 'Holy Joes' and 'Know-It-Alls.' Before the insanity, he was able to borrow and steal to make ends meet. Now he couldn't even do that: people guarded themselves against his mischievous behavior. Owing creditors thousands of dollars, he wanted to kill himself but was afraid of going to hell. Total despair crept into his wounded heart.

Sick in mind, body, and soul, Bill believed he was losing his mind. In bed with his wife one dark night and afraid of committing suicide, by jumping out the window, he tied a sheet around his wife's leg and the other end around himself.

The whole next day Janet pestered him to get help. Seeing agony in her eyes and fed-up with her nagging, he agreed to anything, saying to her, "Send anybody, the devil himself, I don't care."

Janet told her neighbor who called her brother Earl Rooney, an A.A. member and devout Catholic, about the crises. Directly, on a

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street car from Saint Paul to Minneapolis, the Twelve Step messenger came to the rescue on a cold winter night. In their home, the Angel of Mercy—seeing a puffed-up face and feeling sweaty hands—gave the suffering soul a glass of whiskey to calm his jitters. Knowing the same tender love as he did from Janet and his mother, he listened to the wisdom of a new found friend.

Earl's anointed words, as he told his God Story, resonated Bill's being. Sober for three years, this A.A. sponsor shone happiness. He shared all the burdens, problems, and sufferings from his alcoholism. The way he stopped drinking, he told him, was by God's graces which he received through daily Mass and Holy Communion. These pearl eyes reflected hope as he spoke about faith: "What I started to ask you to believe (is) what really kept me going—was that I humbly and blindly accepted Jesus Christ, and what I remembered about his love and mercy, and said he must love me and will help me if I have faith."

Suddenly, hearing the Holy Name, *Jesus Christ*, spoken through the soothing voice of the Lord's prophet, the defining 'moment of truth' penetrated and dilated the heart of the upcoming First Calix Founder setting him free from his dreadful drinks.

"Why did he (meaning Earl Rooney) come to see me, on a street car on a cold winter night?" Bill asked himself.

In his own words, we have the answer: "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."

To be precise, the thought of the Calix Society began by the power of the Holy Name, Jesus Christ, who gave Bill the defining 'moment

of truth.' We can understand this fact from his testimony: "As he said Jesus Christ (*italics mine*) the sound of his voice brought this response and brought me to this decision. At this point Earl went out and came back with another glass of whiskey. I told him I had my last drink...."

Although Bill drank his last, he still needed to go through the terrible withdrawal effects of alcohol. All he wanted now and needed, he believed, was the Sacrament of

Reconciliation, daily Mass, and Holy Communion. He knew he couldn't make it over the addicted cross-road without the Lamb of God.

At the office, Bill was a wreck! His supervisor called for him to sign some forms. Shaking with papers, he couldn't write his name. The boss took the pen, threw it across the room, and in strong language told him to get out.

Straightforwardly, being divinely drawn, he ran from the building on a cold bitter day and stumbled into Saint Joseph's Church. There, at the altar steps, he fell upon his knees, crying out for divine help....

Leaving Saint Joseph's and bypassing pubs, Bill then entered his own church, Saint Stephen's, where he prayed again to Jesus Christ for help....

Making it home to his bedroom and experiencing the presence of Jesus there, he prayed a third time, crying out to Christ: "Help me! Help me!"

Because the Lord always hears the cry of the poor, Bill got better and better physically, mentally, and spiritually by acting on the Lord's amazing sacramental graces.

Through the blessings of Alcoholic Anonymous,

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On A Cold Winter Night, (cont. from pg. 5)

the blessings of Earl Rooney's daily visits, and—more importantly—the graces of the sacraments (including his marriage), Scripture, spiritual readings, Marian devotions, inspiring saints, sacramentals, and all sanctifying means of the Church, Bill gave the Lord permission to transform his life from sinfulness to gracefulness. By grace he surrendered and acted on grace; by grace he was willing to 'let go and let God'—setting the stage for the divine Calix seed to sprout, which would reveal the gracefulness of this once-upon-a-time broken man.

Here is a poem that reminds me of Mr. Montroy's graceful surrender:

Letting Go and Letting God

We mutter, we sputter

We fume and we spurt

We mumble and grumble

Our feelings get hurt

We don't understand things

Our vision grows dim

While all that we really need

Is a moment with Him

"My lover speaks; he says to me, 'Arise, my beloved, my beautiful one, and come! For see, the winter is past, the rains are over and gone.'"

Song of Songs 2: 10-11.

Inspired by the faithful examples of Earl Rooney and William J. Montroy, originators of Calix, may we surrender and act upon the Lord's sacramental graces for our own

sobriety, sanity, and sanctity. Then, as members of our society, we too will rise and become Recovery Evangelizers for God's Greater Glory and for the salvation of souls, especially on a cold winter night.

Editor's note. At the last Board Meeting, the Calix Society approved funds to support Fr. McKay's effort to travel to St. Paul and gain direct access to the Society's Archives

2016 Philadelphia day of recollection

Amy N., Philadelphia Chaplain,

Grays Ferry Unit

On Saturday April 23rd, Calix participants gathered from four states (PA, MD, DE, NC) for our annual day of recollection. We are grateful for Father Tom W. and Brother Jack M. who were our hosts at the Loyola Center of St. Joseph's University. Our retreat director Fr. Joe Devlin, of the Mother of Mercy House in the Kensington section of Philadelphia, inspired us with his reflections as well as information concerning his ministry serving the poor and those suffering from addiction. He provided insight on how we can increase our awareness of and help the poor in our midst.

His reflections included the meaning of Pope Francis' approved icon for the Year of Mercy, "Merciful like the Father," salvation through healing, and a three point action plan: see (with the eyes of Christ), judge (what needs to be done), and act (do what needs to be done). One participant commented, "The Mercy Card reminds me to 'keep my eye on Christ' and victory over my defects of character will be possible through God's Love for each of us. The Icon picture card reminds me that Christ is doing the heavy lifting and my job is to 'let go and let God guide me.'"

The day began with Mass and included the rosary, confessions, personal prayer time, miraculous medal novena, food, fun, and fellowship. As the graces continue to flow, we look forward to next year.

Calix Society **Date:** _____

International Headquarters

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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

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

Registration Information

59th Annual Calix Retreat, Sept 16-18

Cleveland, Ohio

The Retreat is being held at the Jesuit Retreat House in Parma, Ohio which is approx. 20 minutes south of Cleveland

<http://www.jrh-cleveland.org/>

- ❖ Registration fee is \$200 for the full 3-day event
- ❖ Please note all rooms are **single** person occupancy
- ❖ Preliminary agenda includes a trip to Dr. Bob's house in Akron, a banquet dinner, and talk on Sr. Ignatia. More details coming soon!

There are two ways to register:

1. Fill out a printed copy of this form and send it to The Calix Society, P.O. Box 9085, St. Paul, MN 55109 along with a check or money order made payable to **The Calix Society**
2. Download the form at www.calixsociety.org under the "resources" tab. Fill out the form and email it as an attachment to Calix_Convention@yahoo.com. Then go to the "store" tab and use PayPal to send your payment.

Registration Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Email address: _____

Phone number: _____

I am interested in visiting Dr. Bob's house Yes No

I require handicapped access Yes No

I have special dietary requests Yes No

If yes, please circle, if appropriate, or explain below:

gluten-free vegetarian vegan

Further questions? Please contact:

Mary S. at (216) 287-7291 or email Calix_Convention@yahoo.com

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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.