



the Chalice

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN By Gretchen S

Merry Christmas Everyone!

I hope that each of you felt the peace and love of our Savior this Christmas.

As recovering alcoholics, the Christmas season is not always easy.

Like Ebenezer Scrooge, we are visited by the Ghosts of Christmas past. We forget our state of Grace, and our daily reprieve from drink. And if we manage to reconcile our past, there may be someone who is more than eager to remind us of our shortcomings. This is reason for the season. During these short dark days of winter it is easy to feel alone. Especially if our year has been difficult. Fortunately there is Calix, and the Holy Mass. We are never alone. Jesus walks with us.

We have been told that God sent his Son to bear our sins: a tiny baby that brought Magi to their knees. And the miracle is that we are not alone. The miracle is that 2000 years later God still cares enough for his children to keep us sober, and give us the gift of helping others.

When I was a child, the thing about Christmas that excited me most were the toys and the candy. Both of which I still love today. I believe that some people never escape that cycle, and the toys get more expensive and the candy turns to booze. To “wear this world as a loose garment” is lost in the show of lights and distraction. How fortunate we are to have Calix and Recovery. Our Gift is more precious than any material thing: that gift is Jesus, and through Christ, our continued sobriety. How fortunate are we to know we are loved by God.

We need suffer from our addiction no more. We are not alone, and we have a Church which loves each and every one of us.

Luke 2:10

But the angel said to them “Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people”.

Let’s pray that this joy and hope spreads during 2016.



My Dear Friends,

I have felt pulled to the topic of gratitude these past several months. I believe a grateful heart will be a generous heart, and in a world where most people think prayer is only about asking the Lord for things, we need more prayers of thankfulness.

As we prepare for Christmas, I recommend you count your blessings and thank the Lord for them. Below is something I was sent a few years ago about counting those blessings - FYE.

Count your Blessings

If you own just one Bible, you are abundantly blessed. 40% of the world does not have access to even one.

If you woke up this morning with more health than illness, you are more blessed than the million who will not survive the week.

If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture or the pangs of starvation, you are ahead of 500 million people around the world.

If you attend church without fear of harassment, arrest or torture of death, you are more blessed than almost three billion people in the world.

If you have food in your refrigerator, clothes

on your back, a roof over your head and a safe place to sleep, you are richer than 50% of this world.

If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.

If you hold up your head with a smile on your face and are truly thankful, you are blessed because the majority can, but most do not.

If you prayed yesterday and today, you are in the minority because you believe in God's willingness to hear and answer prayer.

If you believe in Jesus as the Son of God, you are part of a very small minority in the world.

If you can read this message, you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world that cannot read anything at all.



YEAR IN REVIEW:

Please accept my apologies for not sharing some of this information in a more timely fashion.

Vegas Group - Madge writes that their group had acquired a paver stone for Fr Tom G. (Chaplain Emeritus) at the St. John Paul II Memorial Garden in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. It is engraved "Fr. Tom Gallenbach, Calix Chaplain". The Marian Helpers in Stockbridge helped facilitate this

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

gift. Perhaps one day those in eastern Calix Groups might find this paver. They also had their Day of Recollection in October and the speaker spoke on the Shroud of Turin.

Ft. Wayne/South Bend - Fr John Pfister writes that he has retired. He turned 76 In October, and sadly has been afflicted with multiple health issues, including Parkinson 's disease, which makes it difficult for him. He has moved into an assisted living apartment at Saint Anne Home 1900 Randallia Drive, Apartment 30, Fort Wayne, IN 46805. There are other retired priests living there where he claims the rooms are pleasant, food is good, and the atmosphere is friendly.

Twin Cities - We have learned that a long time member, Mary A Reardon passed away in early October. She was born in 1927 in N. Minneapolis, worked in the family drug store as a child, and went on to become a nurse where she worked in obstetrics and chemical dependency. She married in 1953 to Henry; they had six children, and 16 grandchildren and 7 great grand children.

Financials and Membership - Calix ended the year with a prudent reserve and a positive cash flow. The way we've been able to find stable footing is via modernization of our operation (no physical office and way literature is handled) and the Board scrutinizes projects closely to carefully manage the affairs of YOUR organization. It seems like our Secretary is forwarding 2-3 new members information each month to put onto the Chalice Mailing list. And naturally, each month I get a few email rejections and only

can assume that folks have either changed their email or blocked my mailings as spam. Please announce at your groups to contact me if they're dues paying members who are not receiving the Chalice via email and I'll make sure to verify their address in our system.

YEAR IN PREVIEW;

2016 Retreat - The Cleveland Group will be hosting the next retreat set to occur September 9-11 at a Jesuit Retreat facility in Parma, Ohio. More details will follow as they are firmed up. For those who like to extend their Calix Retreat for local tourism, this geographic location might be of interest in that it is an easy drive to Akron where AA was founded, and we believe the Motherhouse of Sister Ignatia is still active.

Website Working Group - A few Board Members are looking into ways to improve the website. If you have any suggestions that you would care to share, drop us a line.

Election Committee - Per our Bylaws, a Nominating Committee will be formed by the Board in February to begin the process of nominating Board of Directors Members and Officers. Email me directly for a copy of the Bylaws – I'd rather not mass mail it. My email is drmikesanders@gmail.com If you or anybody in your groups are interested in service to Calix in these roles, contact any Board member or myself, we are but trusted servants.

Matt Talbot Pilgrimage to Ireland - Ken J. is organizing a Matt Talbot pilgrimage to Ireland in 2016. Contact Ken directly if you are interested ken@philly-calix.com

Thoughts on Making Resolutions

By Mary Costello

Anyone who has been reading the *Calix Chalice* for a while might remember I've been around a year or two. In fact, I'm on the north side of 70 and moving fast toward some really big numbers. I'll be the first one (and probably not the last) to tell you that things move pretty darn fast once you hit those Medicare-eligible numbers.

And even if you are up here with me, and no matter which of the many programs you're in (and many of us are in more than one) the end of the old year and the start of a new one is still a pretty good time to stop, take stock and ask ourselves some really basic questions. Now you're saying to yourself, "Been there, done that," aren't you? But wait just a minute. Have you really? Or are you saying that just because you don't want to face the fact you made some resolutions last year and didn't really do too well?

Hmmmm.

Did you keep a list of those resolutions? If you didn't, that might be a good place to start. Write a list. And to keep yourself honest, maybe you ought to share the list with someone you trust, like your sponsor, or at least someone who goes to some of the same meetings you go to. It's usually not a good idea to share it with a spouse as..... well I probably don't have to explain that, do I?

Don't make a huge, long list; one or two things is usually plenty. And in June or July you might want to check in with your "list-master," just to see how things are going.

I'll admit that in the 8 or 9 years since I've retired, the first thing on my Resolution List has been

Stop Procrastinating! And guess what? It's still there. Without a deadline, without someone standing over me, telling me I have to have this done by such and such a day, or this person needs to make a decision NOW, I would never get anything done.

I volunteer for several organizations: I'm working to get Matt Talbot canonized. I do some work for Condo Association where we live. A little writing for Right to Life. The usual. And everything is late. It's never done until the person who I've promised I'd do it for calls several times.

Right Mike Sanders? This was due before Christmas and now it's December 27. But this year I'm really going to work on my procrastination. I have a Plan. A new Plan. A notebook with colors and dates that will help me see what is due when. This is really going to work.

And I'm praying about it. Praying to St. Joseph who always seems to be on top of things. St. Joseph, Patron of Procrastinators, help us all. I'll let you all know.....in June or July.

Online Novena's

Submitted by Bruce G.

Our Calix units in Northern VA are doing a Year of Mercy Novena Chain (<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f-0f48a9a728a0f58-novena/>). A few people started doing novenas, particularly to Our Lady - Undoer of Knots, after last summer's Calix Convention. The graces received have been such that these folks have convinced the rest of us to join them in offering up this novena chain.

Other units may want to start their own chains, if you want to send out a message. They are easy to create (and free) on www.signuogenius.com.

Calix Society

International Headquarters
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St. Paul, MN 55109
secretary@calixsociety.org

Date: _____

(800) 398-0524

Membership Application

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING CALIX

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Dues/ \$25.00/ yr: **Please enclose a check to the Calix Society**

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by Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC	\$17.00 Ppd.
Calix and the Twelve Steps	
by Fr. Arnold Luger, 63 pages	\$9.00 Ppd.
The Light of Faith	
by Fr. Francis Canavan, SJ	\$9.00 Ppd.
By the Grace of God	
by Fr. Francis Canavan, SJ	\$11.00 Ppd.
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Matt Talbot Prayer Card - B & W	.20 ea.
Matt Talbot Medal	.70 ea.
Intro to Calix Packet	\$1.50 ea.
Calix Induction Ceremony	.30 ea.
Calix Pin (for members only)	\$5.00 ea.

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