



the Chalice

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN By Gretchen S

"The proof of love is in the works. Where love exists, it works great things. But when it ceases to act, it ceases to exist." -- Pope St. Gregory the Great

Hello Friends:

I hope Lent brings everyone renewal and strength in faith.

13 years ago, soon after the World Trade Center destruction, "The New Yorker" published a magazine and its cover was totally black, with the outline of the two towers as a glossy black silhouette. That is what I see in my mind when I think about writing this article, for you see, CALIX brought me to Christ. And it is profoundly disturbing to watch our Church suffer. It is incomprehensible that Christians are today being martyred for their love of Christ, just as the Apostles were martyred. I offer my prayers for comfort for all those affected by these horrible killings and ask God to guide all of our thoughts during this angry time.

It used to be that when someone told me "God has a plan," I interpreted that to mean "Shut up and quit whining." Now, I know in my heart God does have a plan, and we all

have our parts to exact. My primary purpose is to stay sober, and in order for me to do that I need to leave anger to others. I am my best when I am helping others. And so I pray and ask for God's guidance and love to fill our world.

I am a new Catholic, and was baptized after finding Jesus through Calix. I love the Church, and the peace I gain from Calix. Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life." "It is my hope that all who suffer come to know Jesus.

There is a phrase in AA "Don't leave before the miracle happens," I hope we can offer more of Calix to those who don't know of our meetings and more suffering alcoholics can find the miracle of Christ.

When I think about how much Calix has enriched my sobriety, it is my hope that through daily living we can bring our message to others who suffer the effects of alcoholism. My life changed because two members of Calix made me aware of Calix.

We have a new group starting here in East Tennessee. All of your prayers would be greatly appreciated. It truly is a blessing to have a new Calix group.

Our meeting bases continue to grow and we have a fabulous convention in the works for this summer. I hope you all can be there; the convention is a great way to get to know each other and bask in our fellowship. Everyone is welcome.

God Bless You!

Gretchen



- Since the Convention in Malvern last summer, 3 members of the Calix Board of Directors have expired and Amy N. has resigned. If you are interested in becoming involved with the management of Calix International Affairs and are a dues paying member of Calix, the Board invites you to let me or Jim B. know. There is a 90 minute conference call each month (not much of a time commitment).

- Dues can be paid online via PayPal on the website or by sending them snail-mail to the Office.

- If you are a paid member and NOT receiving your Chalice via email, please contact me (drmikesanders@gmail.com) as some emails bounce each month. Please share this at your next meeting to insure we reach everybody.

- The TriCities Tennessee Calix Group meets at the ETSU Catholic Center on the 2nd and 3rd Saturday of each month starting with Mass at noon. The Catholic Center is at 734 Locust, Johnson City, TN. Contact me for additional info or directions if you're passing through.

- The Glass Chapel at the Grotto at Mount Saint Mary's has been secured for the Convention Mass on Sunday, July 19th at 10AM. Both the Grotto and the Glass Chapel are worth the trip to the Convention!

- Bruce G., a member of the Northern Virginia group was elected to the Board of Directors at the February meeting. Welcome aboard Bruce.

An Old-timer Reflects

Tony T.

A short time ago I was corresponding with Jim B. regarding our group membership. It was just before Thanksgiving and, aside from wishing him my best, I commented about my good fortune - a terrific wife, three married children, ten grandchildren, and all living close by. (My wife, Helen, lives with me, not close by.....although there was a time!).

None of this good fortune would be possible if it were not for AA, Al Anon, Al Ateen, Calix and my Catholic faith.

We all realize that alcoholism is a family disease. Family members affected may drink heavily, may drink socially, or may not drink at all. (I was the most social drinker you would want to meet!). The alcoholic leaves his footprints on every other member, and each one must deal with that unfortunate influence. They can work through it alone or seek help in Al Ateen and Al Anon.

I lived my pre-Army years in northeast Philadelphia with my sister, my mom and her parents. My dad died when I was eleven. I never had much of a relationship with him due to his absence and his inability to grasp the A A program. I heard AA mentioned, but have no idea how effective or available it was.

My grandparents had a corner grocery store. My grandfather and later my mom was the butcher. I delivered orders to the neighbors from the time I could carry a box or a bag. Mom would drive and I would deliver. Responsibilities came early, but I had time to play sandlot baseball and high school football, and hang out on the corner with the guys in the evening. That is where, starting at about age thirteen, I honed my smoking and drinking

An Old-timer Reflects, (cont. from pg. 2)

skills. The smoking ceased seventeen years later, and the drinking did me in five years after that.

My grandparents came from Poland and were religious. We all went to Sunday Mass together until I went to parochial school for nine years; then I attended nine o'clock Mass with the school children. In tenth grade, I transferred to Frankford High, the neighborhood public school. (I was on my own by then, but Mom would check on Sunday by asking what the Gospel was about!)

I drifted away from church when I knew I could get away with it- especially in the Army and college. However, there were a few times I attended Mass or spoke with a priest, if a special event occurred - like my first parachute jump at Ft. Campbell, Kentucky.

Another occasion was by invitation. Helen had visited Holy Family Monastery for a Mass card and met Father Vincent Youngberg, a Passionist priest. In the course of conversation, he asked how things were at home. Helen said our marriage, and specifically, her husband could use a tune up! Father Vincent said he would phone me on a Sunday morning when I would be most vulnerable. He did and I was vulnerable, and we met.

I was ready for this meeting as I had a significant void in my life. Career-wise I considered myself successful. We had relocated to Connecticut. I had a responsible position with a national corporation and was a very dynamic individual - the kind that could make a round peg fit into a square hole! Outwardly, all was well!

Fr. Vince honed in on the influence of alcohol and offered three suggestions:

1. AA 2. High Watch, Kent, CT (dry out) 3. Psychiatrist at the Institute for Living

I think my response was typical:

1. I would not go to an AA meeting for fear I would be recognized

2. No way I would spend my vacation time in a rehab!

3. I felt comfortable matching wits with a psychiatrist. After only six visits, (five individual visits and a final with my wife). I thought I could convince him that I was normal.

I chose number 3.- Nothing was accomplished. I think I wasted his time. His method was a prescription for antabuse and then help out of the hole the drug created. Regardless, I was an uncooperative candidate for this type of rehab. I was convinced that I was healthy and on the right track in all areas except spirituality

Father Vincent wasn't a person to put all of his eggs in one basket. A knock on the door one evening and I was introduced to John. Father Vincent sent him to take me to AA. I said "NO!" John explained that no one said NO to Father Vincent and asked me not get him in trouble. So, I went, but - uncomfortable, wrong meetings, I couldn't relate! Slowly this changed, as I was able to see the craziness in others as a reflection of experiences in my life. Obviously I wasn't as bad as others, but similar. Slowly, I realized how thin the line was between sanity and insanity.

During these initial meetings, Father Vincent introduced me to a Matt Talbot Retreat and the spirituality amongst alcoholics. Years later, Helen and I traveled to Dublin and met Matt Talbot's niece, Lily, his last living relative.

During that early period of recovery (or was it a time of awakening?), Father Vincent invited Helen and me to a Married Couples Retreat, but dismissed us before the final Mass. All present were to renew marriage vows, but he

An Old-timer Reflects (cont. on pg. 4)

An Old-timer Reflects, (cont. from pg. 3)

thought we weren't ready, as it would be too emotional for us. What insight he had! Again, another indication that I wasn't so unique - he had seen guys like me before !

All of this was going on in the early seventies. In 1975, Calix was introduced in West Hartford. Although Helen and I were not founding members, we were early members. Our good friend, Father John O'Brien, also a Passionist, was the founding chaplain of the group which began and continues to meet at Holy Family Monastery and Retreat Center in West Hartford, CT. Father Terry Kristofak is our present chaplain and spiritual advisor.

I realize that so much of the stress in my life was caused by the disease of alcoholism and the lack of spirituality. I was not living a God-directed existence and I was trying to force the round peg of worldliness into the square void of my existence. My recovery from spiritual bankruptcy was due to the influence of friends such as Father Vincent, Father John, and Father Terry, my wife Helen, and the numerous members of Calix - they were ready and willing to share their love and compassion with another struggling human being.

The seeds planted by my new friends were spread upon fertile soil which was tilled back in those early years by my mom and the nuns at St Martin of Tours. Their influence was like an insurance policy which was kept in wraps until needed

I often joke about the drinking I continued to get Helen into Al Anon. She preceded me into the program by a year or so. And again - the wisdom of Father Vincent! As important as the spiritual aspect to my personal recovery, Helen's grasp of her program was and is the secret to the success and continuation of our marriage which has endured for more than

fifty years. Her faith is so very deep seated, going back to her early years in Europe and coming with her as a displaced person through the Bishop's Relief Fund. Also, her mom and step - father were Polish and also very strong in their faith.

Now and then, I reflect back on the early program years for Helen and me. We were being re - located to Florida for a year. Father Vincent was hospitalized with foot surgery. We paid an unannounced visit to him. His response was: "If there were ever two people I never expected to see together again, it was you". The power of sobriety and spirituality!

In a world that has become more secular, Calix is an oasis where we can freely speak about what Christ means to us and how we cope and improve our religious connectivity to one another. Putting the cork in the bottle is easier for some than others, but the real secret, I believe, is filling the void with our new- found or dusted -off spirituality. It is also very important to realize our human condition. We just have to accept that, but the acceptance is the tough part! It is the result of one of the longest and most difficult journeys of our life - from our mind to our heart.

Calix may not be the only group in which we can freely share our spirituality, but it is the only one that I know. Membership in our group is declining due to age, infirmities, or death. A long time member, Joe Lynch, recently died. Joe was with Calix from its beginning along with his wife, Dolores, a member of Al Anon. Dolores is not in the best of health and is in a care facility.

To my dismay, younger persons are not easily attracted. I wish I knew the secret to rejuvenation! The power of example may be the key! If so, we must do our utmost to meet, pray together, and show others in our program the

An Old-timer Reflects, (cont. from pg. 4)

peace and serenity we derive from our gatherings. If I could put that peace and serenity into a hypodermic needle, and give a suffering alcoholic just five minutes of refuge, they would see the tremendous possibilities that we offer.... May God continue to bless us all.

Ed. Note. Tony is a Calix Member in West Hartford, CT. This story is reprinted in total-ity as some of it was left out last time it was printed.

Remembering Jim O.

The Soul of Sponsorship contains a reprint of a 1958 article from The Grapevine written by Bill W entitled, “The Next Frontier – Emotional Sobriety.” In the article, Bill briefly discusses his “false dependencies” on others for his satisfactions in life. By applying the prayer of St. Francis, and learning to express “love appropriate to each relationship in life,” Bill finds himself “set free to live and love” in emotional sobriety.

My journey through Twelve Step recovery has been a struggle with emotional sobriety. Prior to entering these rooms, basic empathy for others was a challenge, and true compassion was nonexistent. I was reflecting on the difference between empathy and compassion recently, after comforting a distraught colleague at work. A friend to whom I mentioned the work situation sent me the link to a video clip of Pope Francis in the Philippines. In the clip two small orphan children, on stage in front of millions, approach the pope and ask him why God permits suffering to occur in the world. His answer was poignantly unexpected: that God was not indifferent to suffering, but that we also need to “learn how to cry” to be

good Christians. Over the course of the next week, I began to see how sharing another’s grief, in essence “learning to cry” with someone, provides a key differentiator between empathy and compassion. Empathy happens when we put ourselves in another’s position, and perhaps allow ourselves to imagine how they must feel. With compassion, an active sharing of another person’s feelings of grief, pain, and suffering becomes an act of appropriate love.

Intellectually, I felt I was on the right track with my analysis, and then came the email with the simple subject line: “James Francis O’Keeffe’s Obituary.” I am not ashamed to say that it was the first time in over 35 years that I actually cried. And I prayed. And I sought comfort with my fellow Calix friends -grace upon grace.

Jim was a true friend and a great collaborator in this adventure we call Calix. The news of his death reached most of us well after the fact. The email arrived the Monday before the “Rich in Mercy” weekend Day of Reflection he, Father Rapisarda and others in Ellicott City were hosting as a regional event. Jim and I had spoken earlier in the New Year, all was well, and we were going to enjoy this day together. We were going to plan our trip to Emmitsburg for a convention recon, and talk about Calix expansion plans in the Baltimore, Washington and Arlington diocese. Undoubtedly, we would have shared a few laughs as well. None of that came to pass, nor would Jim’s dreams for Calix. Nor would his dream of serving the Church as a late vocation priest, a calling for which he was actively studying. His relationship with his children, just starting to blossom, was also cut tragically short.

Remembering Jim O, (cont. from pg. 5)

In my home office, reflecting on Jim's passing and our friendship, I fired up iTunes and let the music ease my aching heart. The random shuffle called up Jimi Hendrix' "Castles Made of Sand" and I lost it a second time. The old adage says that if you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans. An image formed in my mind of Jim and me as youngsters on the Jersey shore making sandcastles, and with God the Almighty Father looking on us from above with great joy. Then it was time for us to leave our sandcastles, and for one of us to go "home." It was sad watching our castles "fall into the sea", but I have no doubt Jim is home with Our Father. And now he will be providing "Top Cover" for us as this Calix mission progresses in accordance with God's Merciful Will. Amen.

Bruce G.

Jim O. was a member of the Calix Board of Directors and one of the Founders of the Ellicott City (Baltimore), MD Group. Jim had been the driving force organizing the upcoming Convention at Mount Saint Mary's. Bruce G. is one of the Founders of the Northern Virginia Group.

Regarding Matt Talbot A letter to Mary Costello

Hello Mrs. Costello,

My name is Matthew G. I wanted to submit to you my "story" of what happened to me in October of 2011. I have been a heavy drinker since the age of 16. My alcoholism has progressed since that time. Through high school and college at the University of Maine, my heavy drinking turned into alcoholic drinking.

I did graduate from U. Maine in 1993 with a degree in Public Administration. Throughout my professional career my drinking escalated until I was drinking every day. In 2009 I admitted myself into the local alcoholic rehabilitation floor at Maine General Hospital. I was inpatient for 5 days and then went through their intensive out-patient program for six weeks. I went to AA for the next six months but relapsed back into alcoholic drinking. I continued to drink. In April 2001 I was fired from my job. I continued to drink until June of 2011. At that time my wife noticed that my legs and ankles were swollen. I was admitted into the Main General's medical-surgical floor for ascites. I spent 5 days being drained of fluid from my body because my liver was not functioning well. After that, I stopped drinking for a couple of months until Columbus Day, 2011. I went into the bathroom at my house and vomited all blood. My wife took me to the emergency room where I vomited blood a second time in their bathroom. A doctor came into the exam room to ask questions. At that moment I vomited a volume of blood that almost filled the pink bucket. I was rushed into emergency surgery because I had acute varices (*1). I had 3 bleeds in my esophagus and upper GI tract. I had lost almost four pints of blood within 30 minutes. Most people die after losing that much blood in any type of bleed out. My family came up from Portland and as practicing Catholics they prayed to Matt Talbot throughout my entire surgery. The doctor was a gastroenterologist who should not have been at the hospital at that time because it was night. After surgery I was given a 50% survival rate. There can be a second bleed within 2 days. On the second night I was losing oxygen and a nurse had to keep me alive

Regarding Matt Talbot (cont. on pg. 7)

Regarding Matt Talbot, (cont. from pg. 6)

with a very high level of oxygen as she sat next to me with mask on my face; I was in the fetal position and I strongly feel I had a near death experience that night. Through the grace of God and the prayers of my family to Matt Talbot, I lived through this ordeal. I send you my story for two reasons.

1. In AA they say you will always hear someone tell your story but for the 3 years and 3 months I have been sober I have been to more than 300 meetings in Maine, Florida and Detroit and I have never heard anyone tell my story,

2. I feel Matt Talbot interceded in my life and allowed me to live and be with me that October, Many things happened that first evening that if they did not occur I would not be alive today: 1. My wife was able to get me to the hospital within five minutes. 2. The only surgeon in the area capable of doing the surgery was in the hospital late that night. 3. I survived the second night through the concern of the nurse who agreed to stay with me throughout the night.

I found your information through a talk you gave at the Matt Talbot Kitchen this past November, in Lincoln Nebraska. I would like to get your insight about this miraculous experience.

Sincerely,

Matt G.

Needless to say, I contacted Matt and spoke to him in greater detail about his experience. I think it's a wonderful story and I've sent the information along to Fr lawless in Dublin. Even if it doesn't rise to the levels the Cardinals in Rome might need to declare

something a "miracle," it sounds like one to me! What do you think? It's a marvelous story, isn't it? – Mary C.

*1. Abnormal dilation and lengthening of veins; varicose veins (Dictionary.com)

Lenten ideas from Mary Costello

I'm such a food addict, or sugar addict or just downright undisciplined person that I don't think I ever made it through an entire Lent in my life without breaking the fasting rules. Abstinence doesn't bother me at all because I love cheese, all kinds of fish, and any other meatless meal. I've said countless rosaries, private Stations of the Cross and other penances for my inability to keep my mouth shut – food-wise anyway,

Even though I'm "over the hill," I'm in pretty good health. Don and I both think fasting is still a good Lenten penance and we try, or I should say, I try, to keep up this practice during these Forty Days. Why is it that it's so hard for me and not hard at all for him? Hmpf. Just one more reason for me to drown in self pity....

Here are a few other ideas to spice up your Lent: We can curse and rail against cell phones and iPads but I have found numerous apps you might be interested in to expand your Lenten practices. For some of you this is exciting news and the rest of you will be laughing at me since you've been using these things for years now, but let's spread the word to those of us to whom it is news! I now have three Rosary apps on my phone and have found it a blessing to have someone lead the rosary for me. It helps me concentrate and my mind does

not wander. One I have is set to music; one is a Franciscan brother leading; one is a woman. Try them all and see which one you prefer (Don doesn't like either; to each his own!!). I also have the Divine Mercies Chaplet on my phone. I don't want this to be a commercial so just look in your "Apps store" or "Apps" and you'll find several versions of that, also.

I'm sharing these especially for people like me who are housebound or feel they don't have time to get out and go to services at church. Or maybe they need a babysitter!

Another wonderful little help I have on my phone is the "Word of the Day" from gratefulness.org. I don't think I've ever enjoyed opening an e-mail as much as I enjoy opening these little words of wisdom that come 2 or 3 times a week. A perfect day brightener. Once you sign up, they will keep coming well after Easter!

Matthew Kelley, author of "Dynamic Catholic" is offering us an opportunity for the "best Lent ever" through his program of daily e-mails and weekly short videos. My grand-daughter Margaret e-mailed me an invitation to join this program and since I am familiar with Michael Kelley's writing, and the fact that the program is free, it sounded like a winner. You can still sign up through Michael Kelley's web page: info@DynamicCatholic.com

Several columnists, websites and bloggers have suggested "Five books to read for Lent." So I decided to add my own recommendations: "Surprised by Joy," by C.S. Lewis: this is your introduction to C.S. Lewis, his biography, and describes his miraculous conversion from atheist to Christian. A wonderful book and one of my all time favorites. Lewis isn't just for

kids, you know.

"Imitation of Christ," by Thomas a Kempis. A must-read book for every spiritual person -even if you have to plod through it!!

"Seven Story Mountain" by Thomas Merton. I'm always surprised when I hear someone say how moved they were by this biography, and when people, especially men, say "This book brought me back to the church." I guess I shouldn't be surprised because I love Merton's other spiritual writings such as "Seeds of Contemplation," and find myself going back to them again and again.

"The Story of a Soul: The Autobiography of the Little Flower" Every Catholic HAS to read this book; every Catholic has to know this story, just as we have to know the stories of Joan of Arc and Bernadette and Fatima. But St. Therese and her family were one of a kind and her story is simply magnificent. If you have time, find the love story of Therese' parents. Another beautiful story.

The fifth book I'd recommend to you is any book about your patron saint or a saint that has become special to you. I can never stop reading about Venerable Matt Talbot and St Philippine Duchesne. There are now several books about each of these, just as there are several books on St. Joseph (although the standard is by Fr. Francis Filas, S.J.) There are numerous books on most of the more popular saints.

An Old-timer Speaks about Calix. Lawrence Capouch

By Mike Sanders

My phone was ringing and the call was coming from Minnesota. I answered it to hear a man introduce himself as a member of Calix who has read in *The Chalice* that I was seeking the stories of Old Timers. This both surprised me and excited me at the same time. Since Larry doesn't have the capacity to submit his story in writing, we agreed to talk a few days later. The following recollection is his story – a powerful example of being in service to others. –Ed.

Larry was born in Inkster, North Dakota on July 24, 1931 into a farming family where he had 13 brothers and sisters. The Great Depression struck and the Capouch family struggled to keep the farm. Around the age of 12, as the family lost the farm, Larry and his family were dispersed to survive. Larry moved and began to work for room and board where he would receive second hand clothing and a meager existence. He claims that he was an alcoholic by the age of 13.

As Larry turned 17, his father signed the paperwork and Larry joined the US Army. Following basic training, he was sent to Germany and was stationed in Stuttgart and Hanau functioning as a drill sergeant. I asked him as an active alcoholic how he liked being in Germany with all of their beer. He liked being in Germany but didn't like the beer because it couldn't get him high enough. He preferred cognac and wine. Larry left the Army in 1953 and was fortunate to have never faced combat as the Korean War spanned his tenure of service.

He returned stateside in 1953 and found himself in Minneapolis, MN and employed by Great Northern Railroad. Three years later, he married Theresa Marie at St. Stevens in Minneapolis where he proudly states 'the first Calix Group' started. As of this writing, he is looking up who the priest and Bishop were at the time. Between 1956 and 1971, Larry and Theresa had 3 sons.

By the time Larry entered his first treatment center on December 10, 1971 at Pioneer House Theresa Maria had already begun attending Alanon meetings. He was discharged from treatment and stayed sober for a short while before he picked up the drink again. By September 17, 1973 when he entered treatment again, he was done and hasn't had a drink since (coming up on 42 years). He started attending AA meetings in the greater north-eastern section of Minneapolis and has started meetings. He was also attending Mass at St. Mary's where he saw a notice about Calix Meetings in 1975. He decided to go and that's where he met Fr. Luger. I asked Larry what benefit he obtained from Calix meetings and he was quick to respond. He stated he feels that his recovery is a rebirth – a new life after living through Hell on Earth. He feels that attending Mass in Calix, receiving the Eucharist, having breakfast and the meeting humbled him. He found God in AA, but Calix humbled him. "The more you love God, the more humble you become".

Over the next four years Larry and Theresa Marie attended Calix and they loved it. When he was discharged from his second treatment, he asked his sons to attend at least 2 AlaTeen meetings and to his surprise, they kept going. To this date, none of his sons have had any

Lawrence Capouch, (cont. from pg. 9)

problems with alcohol or drugs. Larry and Theresa shared what they found in Calix and invited other couples to join them.

Larry's difficulties weren't over. He was struggling with significant spinal injury that resulted in him being put on disability in 1979. As a result, Larry and Theresa moved to the Lawrence Lake area outside of Grand Rapids where he has started a number of AA meetings. There are no Calix groups in the area, but he has maintained his membership in Calix and stays connected with our lay organization via The Chalice. As of today, Larry has had multiple spinal surgeries, but that hasn't prevented him from helping others. He got involved with a treatment center in the Lawrence Lake area where for 25 years where he volunteered to hear 5th steps. He estimates that he has heard thousands of 5th steps and was the only non-priest, non-clergy, non-therapist to do so. He has given this work up, however. He felt that it was beginning to drain him too much.

Larry lost the love of his life, Theresa, on June 13, 1999 and states that he misses her more today than he did yesterday. His brothers and sisters thought that he'd remarry but he hasn't found a woman like Theresa Marie. He says he hugs them all at AA meetings though.

For the past year, Larry has been in a nursing home suffering from complications of his back surgeries. He recently had his 5th operation where the surgeon was able to repair a leak he had around his spinal column – the leaking of spinal fluid was causing him almost unbearable headaches. Since his surgery, he is up and around with a walker and is learning to walk again. AA has been bringing meetings to him and he is grateful for that.

I shared a little bit about my recovery, my experience in Calix and he recalled the details of my path from The Chalice. He read a few passages from our President's recent column and stated to me "you got a good one". I asked Larry why he didn't start a new Calix group in the Lawrence Lake area. He responded that he's just now getting back to church after his surgery – I guess we'll see what the Holy Spirit has planned!

Larry and I ended our call with us promising to pray for each other, and I ask you to also pray for Larry. I want to thank Larry for reaching out and sharing his story with me – I feel richer as a result.

Joe McGehrin

If you've been to many Calix Conventions, you probably have met Joe McGehrin at some point. I regret to inform the Society that Joe has passed. Joe suffered a stroke several months ago, and as a result of progressive dementia coupled with the stroke, was called home February 1, 2015.

Joe was 83, had 46 years of sobriety and was an AA champion. Joe met Bill W. in person, and he helped a number of sports celebs during his AA tenure. Joe always would say, "Don't be a sourpuss. Keep a smile on your face." Joe was the central figure in the South Jersey Calix group and regularly ordered as many Matt Talbot medals as we had in our bookstore.

Joe was a graduate of LaSalle University where he played varsity basketball. He loved the Phillies and the Eagles and hated bosses. A few years back was when he called me and asked if I could get 2 tickets to the Vikings-Eagles playoff game. I think the game was

Joe McGehrin (cont. on pg. 11)

Joe McGehrin, (cont. from pg. 10)

only about 2 weeks away, but I told Joe to stay on the phone while I went on line. The cheapest tickets I could find were \$150.00 each. I told Joe that, and I heard him ask his son Terry if that was OK. He came back with a yes. I got the details of his flight, and I picked them up and brought them to our house. They stayed with us 2 nights, and I'll never forget how amused my son was listening to the stories Joe loved to tell in his Philly accent.

When Joe and I would talk on the phone, I could always count on him asking a sports trivia question, and he always asked how the Twins or Vikings were doing and how much snow we had if it was winter. He would always add, "Keep that snow there. You're a good man, Jim and I love you guys."

Joe was unique and will be missed by both Calix and his family.

Jim B

CALIX LITERATURE	
No Turning Back	
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.
Parables and Ponderings	
by A. Fenker, SPCC, D.Min	\$9.00 Ppd.
Recovery Meditation on the Stations of the Cross (Back in Print!)	
by Msgr. Harrington	\$5.00 Ppd.
Sister Ignatia Angel of Alcoholics Anonymous	
by Mary Darrah	\$17.00 Ppd.
A 12 Step Approach to the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius	
52 meditations, & their relation to the 12 Steps.	
by James Harbaugh, SJ	\$18.00 Ppd.
One Day at a Time in Al-Anon	\$18.00 Ppd.
Heaven's Homecoming	
by Fr. Douglas Mckay (Grays Ferry Chaplain)	\$12.00 Ppd.
12 Step Review (set)	
By Fr. Emmerich Vogt	\$15.00 Ppd.
Let the Oppressed Go Free	
by Cardinal Justin Rigali	\$6.00 Ppd.
The 12 Steps and Catholic Spirituality	
by Fr. Leo Dolan	\$1.00 ea.
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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