



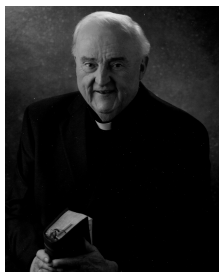
the Chalice

CALIX NEWSLETTER

Volume 40

November - December 2013

Issue No. 6



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

By Fr. Tom Gallenbach
Associate Chaplain

Why Did God Make Me?

A blessed Advent Season to all, as we prepare for the celebration of the Birth of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Opening presents was one of the fondest memories of my childhood. Another was going to Mass. As an altar boy I anticipated serving the main parish Mass. As a boy, midnight Mass was not allowed in the diocese. Our main parish Mass was 0545 (that's military time for 5:45AM) And the Mass was packed and celebrated with three priests on the altar. The three were Celebrant, Deacon and Sub Deacon. If the name, Sub Deacon, is unfamiliar, that's because the office of Sub Deacon was dropped with the Second Vatican Council.

On my way toward ordination to the priesthood, at the completion of my third year of Theology, I and my 18 seminary classmates were ordained to the office of Sub Deacon. With ordination we went beyond the point of no return. We were committed. We incurred the discipline of celibacy, the obligation of praying the divine office for the rest of our

lives, a commitment to a bishop or canonical diocese, and we wore the Roman collar. We were addressed as Rev. Mister. The following year, my fourth year of theology, I was ordained a Deacon. With that I could preach, baptize, and distribute Holy Communion. I could not yet say Mass, absolve or anoint the dying. At the end of our fourth year of theology we went home to our own diocese and were ordained to the priesthood. The end of the mandatory period of study and the beginning of a great adventure, a continued pursuit of further education and the privilege of 55 going on 56 years of service to the Lord on behalf of the people of God.

A lot has changed. I had to go back to school to restudy the science of scripture. I had five or six years of the Latin Mass, Latin formula for absolution, Mass with my back to the congregation. Along the way, I voluntarily identified myself as having a disease that placed me in fellowship with all of you. This March I will celebrate 29 years in the fellowship. And as I look at the four candles on the altar, I realize in my life all four candles are burning and doing the math, I know that in not too many more years I'll celebrate my first Christmas of fulfillment, my candle will burn in unison with the Christ Candle.

In the meantime I send you this wish. I wish you would Thank God for three things in your

Chaplain's Corner (cont. on pg. 2)

Chaplain's Corner, (cont. from pg. 1)

life. I leaned this from St. John Vianney, the patron of the Diocesan Priest. This morning I thanked God for my Catholic Faith, For Pope Francis named Time Magazine Person of the Year and for Mary the Mother of God under the titles of the Immaculate Conception and Our Lady of Guadalupe and Mother of Calix. And if this blessed season finds you carrying a heavy cross, recall to your mind the most important bit of theology ever taught me in my second grade class at St. Luke School. Why did God make me? God made me to know Him, love Him, serve Him and be happy with him in the next life. That is the most important thing to remember. Everything is passing.

A Blessed Advent and Christmas Mass,
Fr. Tom



Waffles with a Side of Humility

Gretchen and I had arrived at the Waffle House to have breakfast prior to her long ride back to Pennsylvania at the close of our Thanksgiving weekend. We visited friends and family and attended an AA meeting to hear an old timer share his experience during 34 years of sobriety. We explored possible new neighborhoods for our future and attended to the needs of Gretchen's grandmother. It had been quite busy for us – and our embraces fed our aching hearts. Being apart isn't fun.

I looked up and a disheveled older man was asking if he could pay me to take him to church – his name was John, and he wore a Shamrock on his cap. The waitress had called him a cab that wasn't arriving. Somehow, I found myself agreeing to drive him to church if he could wait until we were done with our breakfast. I told him he wouldn't need to pay me.

He went back to his seat for a small bit, and then went to the bathroom. Apparently, he had gone into the women's room and another guy at the counter went to look into John's plastic bag to let me know he had found beers in there. What are the odds? I remembered the Gospel passage where Jesus said "when you do for the least of my children, you do for me". As we finished our meal and paid the bill, we rose to leave and John followed, thanking me for my kindness.

We got into the car and John began to tell me a tale; I have no idea how much of it was real. He said that he had been in Key West and decided it was time to go home to Colorado by hitching rides, only to experience a situation where a young man threw him out of the car, taking his bags and guitars, leaving him on the highway in eastern Virginia with only the clothes on his back.

I mentioned to John that I had noticed the beers in his bag and then shared that I've been sober in AA for almost 20 years. He said there was nothing wrong with him having beer, and I assured him that I wasn't passing judgment; I was only sharing my experience that I had found help and hope when I was at my lowest point. He continued to share that he was a Vietnam Veteran, two tours. I took that oppor-

President's Column (cont. on pg. 3)

President's Column, (cont. from pg. 2)

tunity to share that I worked at the VA in the nearby town and felt he could find assistance there. It was pretty obvious to me that he was acutely homeless, full of fear, and probably had a belly full of beer. He wanted to know if they'd be kind to him, since his experience on return from Vietnam was anything but loving. I assured him that they would.

As we pulled up to the church, I reinforced the thought that he should consider asking somebody in the church to take him to the VA. I told him that I wanted him to know that hope is alive; all he had to do was ask for help. As we pulled away, I looked to Gretchen and wondered out loud if all of our experiences doing God's Will are going to be so obvious? We both knew the answer to the question.

My Christmas Prayer for us all is that we remain willing to answer God's call and direct Mary and Joseph to shelter.

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Spanish Translation Donation Campaign

As you are probably aware, the Board of Directors is seeking both personal and group donations to help defray the cost of publishing two pieces of Calix Literature that have been translated into Spanish. I want to publically thank the group in Las Vegas for their \$500 donation and the Group in Columbus, Ohio for their \$1000 donation.



OUT OF THE MOUNTAIN

By Fran
"Dancing Feather" Greer
email: frandfg@yahoo.com

Mysticism

Mysticism is defined in English as: "1. the experience of mystical union or direct communion with ultimate reality reported by mystics. 2. The belief that direct knowledge of God, spiritual truth or ultimate reality can be attained through/by subjective experience or initiation." The challenging fact of attempting to write about native mysticism is the fact that human beings around the world have various ways and means of achieving such lofty spiritual ideals. In the US alone, there are hundreds of Tribes, Creation stories and other forms of interaction with the Divine, and they are told in ways, languages and dialects that vary greatly from Tribe to Tribe with many even varying from village to village and generation to generation. This particular interpretation comes from my own extended family, whose origins are both Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe (Seneca/Ojibwe). I am not a direct translator of my native tongue, so I will not use either of my languages of origin to describe mysticism as I understand the word or its practices. This is a simple summery of the mystical world of the supernatural, as passed down from generation to generation through our Tribal elders--the Fox River Tribes of my origin.

There is one and only one Creator. He will be called the Great Spirit, the Creator or the Great Mystery throughout most of these writings. However, He is addressed throughout,

Out of the Mountain (cont. on pg. 4)

Out of the Mountain, (cont. from pg. 3)

He is still the one and only one who made everything. The non-natives mostly call Him God. *This is not to state that our Creator is only male by nature. We are not given the ability to know such things. . The use of the identity assigned to the Creator is a manifestation of the English language and the use of capitals in addressing the Creator is simply an expression of respect for our oldest living Relation*. This Creator combined His efforts with a female spirit as a kind of marriage and the mother earth or Turtle Island was the result of their union. After the organization of our planet, many other beings became involved with the continuing evolution of mother earth and the human beings. These beings interact with us as we live out our daily lives. They are everywhere. Nothing in the world happens without the interaction of the Great Spirit, the mother earth and the spirits among us. These lesser spirits can be helpful or destructive in our lives. All the spirits of the earth, the underworld and the material world and the sky, guide us along, leading us away from destructive behavior throughout our time on this planet. The goal of our mystical or supernatural interaction with the many spirits, enable us to find peace of mind, healing and long life. We do not manipulate them. They manipulate us as we strive for harmony. They appear to us most actively within the natural environment. They are the easiest to understand when we are able to achieve silence out in the wilderness areas.

Through the human activities of instinctively obtaining food, clothing and shelter, we occasionally encounter supernatural experiences that inform us that our integrity or intentions may be off course. We may become sick, injured or emotionally distraught. These mis-

fortunes are presented for the purpose of influencing us to seek an alternative course of action. When we are in harmony with the natural world and our relations, we feel healthy, satisfied and content. When we are out of harmony, the spirits of everything are trying to tell us to modify our behavior or lifestyle in order to reestablish a healthy body, mind and spirit. It's actually pretty simple but often difficult to discern the next right thought or action. That's where the Great Spirit comes into play. The time has come to pray to the Creator of all things for the knowledge, wisdom and willingness to change.

Interacting with the supernatural forces of Creation involves a surrender of our own will along with an appeal to the natural world, and the Great Spirit, for greater understanding of His will for us, rather than the obsession of imposing our will upon ourselves and others.

Calix in the 21st Century

As this is the time for annual membership renewal it is also a good time to remind you of the resources available to you on the Calix website (www.calixsociety.org) as a paying member. There are letters from Bill W., historical Calix documents, audio files of talks from previous conventions and Pope Paul VI address to Calix, as well as many other documents that would interest Catholics in recovery. There are also forums available to discuss any number of topics. Have a new topic not covered by an existing forum category? Send an email to help@philly-calix.com and we can add one. As always – any issues with the website should be reported to help@philly-calix.com.

Save the Date...2014 Convention

The 2014 Calix Convention returns to Philadelphia. We will gather together the weekend of August 1-3, 2014 at the Family Life Center located at St. (about 15 miles from Philadelphia). Planning is underway for what should be a great weekend. Fr. Brian Lawless, the Vice Postulator for the Cause for the Canonization of Venerable Matt Talbot will be traveling from Dublin, Ireland to be with us. Singer and songwriter Marty Rotella will provide the liturgical music as well as a little concert. We will be finalizing the price of the weekend and rolling out additional details on the website very soon. So circle August 1-3 on those new 2014 calendars and plan on being with us!

Mr. W.J. Montroy
1125 Meadowlake Dr. #5
Vista, CA. 92083

October 22, 1979

Pope John Paul II
Vatican City
Rome, Italy

Holy Father Pope John Paul II,
Dear Victor of Christ:

Enclosed is, in part, a partial content of the CALIX SOCIETY. The growing gravity of drugs and alcoholism is one of the most serious problems facing the world today. Much more interest and support and publicity is needed to curb this growing insidious disease. The audience that CALIX had with Pope Paul VI helped, and his approval was most gratifying to us, but the Calix Society needs a direct approval and a letter or an article by you to all Bishops to ask for more attention, and to become more familiar with its purpose and program.

To my knowledge, no other program has been studied or undertaken like CALIX. It fulfills all the requirements of the 11th step of alcoholism anonymous and has its strong approval. As a supplement to "A.A.", to not only help all alcoholics, but to maintain their sobriety. If the Church has a better method or program, let's get it out in the open, but I know of no such program.

Dear Father, can you help to bring Calix to the untold millions of alcoholics and innocent victims? This insidious disease must be given more attention. May the Holy Spirit guide you as you read this material through Mary to Christ. I long for your understanding heart to do all you can. May God keep you in His care, and Mary and Joseph interceding with their Son Jesus Christ to His compassionate Sacred Heart for the many souls that are afflicted. Too long has the Church waited to face up to this enemy of all mankind and that all will really recognize the need and be courageous in their approach regardless of the opposition and begin the leadership necessary to fulfill this need.

Holy Father, your reply would be appreciated. I write this on my own, but as I was the Founder of Calix, I am saddened at the lack of the Church in its approach to presenting the gravity of the abuse of drugs and alcohol. Your remarks while on your visit here with reference to the danger and menace to society with the abuse of drugs and alcohol gave me a great deal of hope. I know you have many grave problems and decisions as Christ's Vicar, but is not the abuse of the body, the temple of the Holy Spirit, responsible for many of the world's problems? Alcoholism and drug addiction, yes, even in moderate use, causes the soul, mind and body to make grave errors...yes, even sinful desires to become tools of Satan to destroy human dignity and truth, justice and humility. Oh! How many injustices have been done by the dependence on

Letter to John Paul II by Jim Billigmeier

In going through the Calix archives I came across a letter (inserted below) from our founder, Bill Montroy, addressed to Pope John Paul II regarding alcoholism. In our archdiocese we have been striving, somewhat unsuccessfully, to get the attention of the local Church leaders regarding the effects of alcoholism IN THE PEWS. This letter just reaffirms that we need to keep "beating the drums".

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Pope John Paul II

W.J. Montroy
Vista, CA. 92083

drugs and alcohol. Your endorsement, council and support would also help us in spreading Calix' objectives by using it in our work in the vineyard of these lost souls through our "CHALICE" newsletter and our literature, that Christ's Vicar is truly aware and that their is hope and help and love for them who want help. They must not feel they are forgotten by Christ! Your approval will take away those doubts and fears....through Holy Mother the Church, they, pray God, will hear more and get more help through a greater exposure and a louder voice from Christ's chosen Bishops, Priests and in greater participation and support.

We pray for you and ask for your blessing.

Sincerely in Christ through Mary,

Thy Will Be Done.....

Bill

W.J. "Bill" Montroy

WJM:tfe

Encl.

CC: Raymond Dickinson, Exec. Dir.
Calix International Society
7601 Waysota Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minn., 55426

Office News and Notes

Membership Renewal

Please remember that unless you paid for additional years of membership, you should renew now for 2014. You can either pay on line at www.calixsociety.org or send a check for \$25.00 to:

Calix Society

P.O. 9085

St. Paul, MN 55109

Editor of the Chalice

Beginning with the January 2014 issue the new editor for the newsletter will be your president Mike Sanders. Jim B. has been acting (and I emphasize acting!) in that role for several years, and it's time for a change. Please let Mike know if you have suggestions for changing the newsletter at drmikesanders@gmail.com.

Some Recommended Books/ DVDs/CDs

The St. Paul Unit embarked on a CD series entitled "The Spirituality of the Twelve Steps for Everyone" presented by Fr. Anthony Ciorra (can get from www.nowyouknowmedia.com for \$29.95). It is not a step by step exposition, but an encompassing view of the impact of the steps on each topic. The first session, "From the Head to the Heart" was outstanding! Fr. Anthony includes questions for each session, and our president had to set a time limit on discussion due to our member's enthusiastic outpouring of feedback.

The diocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis has an ongoing evangelization effort called Rediscover, the titled borrowed from Mathew Kelly and his book. This led to a celebration day attended by 5000 Catholics, wherein Fr. Robert Barron, George Weigel, Jeff Cavins and Mathew Kelly gave talks (these can be heard at <http://rediscover.archspm.org/>). Another outgrowth of rediscover has been on-going book groups at any parishes.. My Rediscover Group from my parish just completed a great book, Ordinary Lives, Extraordinary Mission in 6 ses-

sions. The book deals with what changes you should make in your life as you pursue becoming a saint. It can be purchased for \$3.00 plus shipping from Mathew Kelly's web site dynamiccatholic.com.

We in the Rediscover Group are thinking of doing our next session on the DVD series "Catholicism the New Evangelization" put together by Fr. Robert Barron, a leading theologian and popular speaker. If you haven't listened to or viewed Fr. Barron, just go to YouTube and type in his name. He has done several 12-15 minute vignettes on a multiplicity of topics. His web site is www.wordonfire.org. I've watched about 45 minutes of it, and I think it is very well done.

Another book to look at is Evangelical Catholicism by George Weigel, who again is a noted theologian and popular speaker. I've read through 95% of the book so far, and I've really been impressed regarding his view of the chief impetus of Vatican 2, centering of the Church on Christology, and what that portends for the Church in terms of reformation.

Unit Updates

The St. Paul Unit is holding a Day of Recollection on January 19, 2014. There will be a potluck lunch, speaker and induction ceremony for new members. There have been a number of new attendees of late.

Potential New Units

We've had recent interest from Sacramento, CA, Oklahoma City, OK, San Diego, CA and the Temple/ Austin, TX area. If you or anybody you know is interested in any of these potential units, please contact the office for details.

Please take note that our new mailing address is:

P.O. Box 9085

St. Paul, MN 55109-9969

Also, please address e-mails to secretary@calix-society.org.

In Memoriam

Please let us know when we have lost a Calix friend!

“ May their souls rest in peace...”

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

Name _____

Street _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Apt/Unit _____

Calix Unit(s) I attend _____

Telephone (_____) _____

Email _____

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

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 \$12.00 Ppd.
(Grays Ferry Chaplain)

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.

Vol. 40, Issue 6, Nov. - Dec., 2013

THE CALIX SOCIETY
P.O. Box 9085
St. Paul, MN 55109-9969

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Please check your label-

The expiration date will always be at the end of the year.

Consider joining the Gratitude Club.