



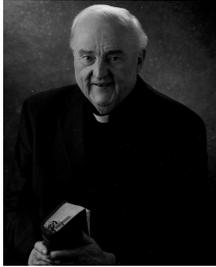
the Chalice

CALIX NEWSLETTER

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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

By Fr. Tom Gallenbach
Associate Chaplain

Hospitality and Compassion , the Fabric of Calix

At the foundation of our ministry are the two virtues of Hospitality and Compassion. As I mature as an active priest and preacher, aging is more than an unavoidable penalty of original sin. It can be a downright asset. For me, the gift of aging has taught me that in all things I do, hospitality and compassion have become two of my most important endeavors. The two virtues demand prerequisites. We must be educated; we must know the rules of living life. We must hold that the salvation of our soul is the most important goal we hope to achieve. We must know our basic catechism. We must pray every day. We must practice the basic preambles of our Catholic Faith. We must have a conscience and act upon its demands. And our conscience must be informed. I could go on *ad infinitum*, but what I have written is a pretty good start. I see my life as a Catholic Christian and priest in good standing, not as a position from which to operate but as a map for my journey.

Daily ministry has become for me a kaleidoscope, changing every day, inspiring every day, energizing every day and making me look at life every day with the wonder of a five year old. I welcome everyone who steps into my path. There's only one that I avoid if possible. That person is the one who has "been there and done that". That person puts my battery on discharge, but I honor that person with respect. For in my life I have been that person. Why look at the spec in your neighbor's eye and ignore the beam in your own. In my life the "rules" are very important, but the people are more important.

If that unsettles you, I have found a mentor and champion in Pope Francis. Did you watch him at WYD in Brazil? Did you listen to him on the lines and between the lines? In his speech I hear, and in his conduct I observe one who honors tradition, but is not compelled to stay in the shadow of its safety. In his talks he is telling us to get out of the house and into the streets. At the beginning of 2013 I stated in this platform that the new evangelization would be my focus. It still is and will be. Borrowing from the Big Book, we as a Catholic Force should operate on attraction as a means of recruitment. Attraction translates into Hospitality and Compassion. In the late 70's and the first part of the 80's I was in on the ground floor of the introduction of the RCIA

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

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

into the US parish life. I was tutored by Dr. Chriistiane Brusselmans, Fr. Tom Ivory, Fr. Jim Dunning and others whose names escape me at this time. From Vatican II the RCIA (Rite of the Christian Initiation of Adults and RCIC-Children) is the most important ministry for every parish. According to the people, along with the literature on the subject, hospitality is the necessary foundation. Why? Because with hospitality comes the opportunity to tell one's story. And only when the stranger or newcomer has a chance to tell their story to people anxious to listen, will that person truly belong. How much like AA is the RCIA. I think they are interchangeable. Compassion? Where is Compassion? Without it none of us will get into heaven.

Love to all,
Fr.. Tom G.



**Calix Society International Board of
Director Accomplishments since 2012
Convention**

My remarks to the 2013 Convention in Las Vegas

Dear Fellow Calix Member:

Due to the circumstances surrounding a

move of my household at the time of this year's convention in Las Vegas, I was unable to attend in person. I would like to personally thank the members of the Las Vegas Group (especially Joe and Madge, Fr Tom, and others) for their efforts to organize and host this year's Convention including having me connect with the Convention on Friday evening *via* Skype (on line video conferencing), where I delivered the following remarks which highlight a very successful year for Calix and the Board of Directors.

- **Officers:** I had been elected President (2012-2014) and Margo (Seattle) was elected Vice President in St. Paul. Shortly after the convention, Margo resigned. Since Ed K had received votes as President in St. Paul, I nominated Ed to fulfill the remaining portion of Margo's term as Vice President. The Board unanimously approved the nomination thereby electing Ed K. to the VP Office. Thank you Ed!

- **Dissolution of the physical Calix International Office:** In St. Paul, members of the Board began discussing ways to shift away from a physical office into a virtual office in attempts to save Calix upwards to \$6000 a year in rent and associated costs. The transformation was completed in May 2013. We are still evaluating ways to preserve the rich heritage of Calix (i.e., letters from Bill Wilson, pilgrimage to Rome, etc). The following significant contributions have made this transition possible:

- o Ed and Marlene K. have taken on the

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

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

responsibility of shipping literature orders from their home. They traveled to St. Paul and hauled the literature home where they have been doing a great job! Thank you Ed and Marlene!

o Craig C. and Margo flew into St Paul to help Jim B start sorting out the archive materials and to begin determining which of the old unit files could be discarded.

o Jim B. contributed a significant amount of time and effort in the dissolution of the physical office and has moved some of the remaining office function into his home.

• **Special Presentation:** At this point, Jim and Deb B. were called to the podium along with Fr Tom G. for a special presentation. My letter was presented to Jim and Deb and has been posted on the website in the prayer section for all to read. In addition, on behalf of the Board of Directors, I presented to Jim B. an Apostolic Blessing from the Holy Father Pope Francis in recognition of the significant contribution Jim has made to Calix over the years. As secretary, Jim B has been contributing over 20 hours a week to the operation of Calix for a very long time. Jim and Deb, thank you so very much!

• **New Units/New Board Members:** This past year, we've had new units form in Ellicott City, MD (Baltimore) and Wilmington DE. Welcome. Also, the Board elected three new members and I recommended their ratification at this convention: Jim O'K (Ellicott City), Vince L (Wilmington), and Gretchen C (York). Gretchen greeted the convention *via* Skype

(and was also introduced as my future wife).

• **Spanish Translation of selected Calix Literature:** The final touches are being made of a few pieces of Calix literature translated into Spanish, including the book, Calix and the 12 Steps and a pamphlet. Soon, they will be sent out for bids for printing. The idea for this direction was borne at the Philadelphia Convention in 2011. Thank you Amy N (Phila) and Pam K (York member) for this effort. The Board will be soliciting donations from each group to defray the costs of printing.

• **Liaison Project:** This idea was born in St. Paul as a way for the Board to communicate directly with each unit. A member of the Board has been assigned a number of groups with the idea of creating a two-way flow of communication between the Board and each Group. The Board hopes to foster cohesion a greater sense of community with this effort. We hope each group continues to identify the appropriate contact person to make this project a success!

• **Website:** We have discontinued the relationship with Amazon on our website since tax laws are changing to capture sales tax on purchases from Amazon. We continue to evolve the website as a tool to attract new members and groups and to publish items of interest (such as recorded Convention talks, previous pilgrimage to Rome, etc). Ken J. deserves a big Thank You from Calix for his efforts as webmaster.

• **Pilgrimage:** At the 2012 St Paul Convention, I asked who might be interested in a pilgrimage to Rome, thinking that I could

President's Column (cont. on pg. 4)

President's Column, (cont. from pg. 3)

use the presence of my brother at Pontifical University Lateran, as a catalyst. It then dawned on me how difficult that may be with Pope Benedict since he didn't accept private audience. HOWEVER, with Pope Francis, it may have become entirely possible, and I will begin working on this in earnest.

- **Dues:** The Board is examining simpler ways to collect dues and you will learn more about this in the months ahead.
- **Interaction with UK:** We continue to have regular interactions with Calix UK in attempts to maintain global unity.
- **Three motions submitted to the Board:** The Board received three motions late in September which require substantial conversation and consideration. There wasn't sufficient time to disperse this information prior to the convention, nor did the Board feel it was appropriate to act upon them without the participation of each group and each member; therefore, these motions were tabled. One motion would amend The Credo; another would form a fund-raising function, and the last would identify a Patron for Calix.
- **Call for Nominations:** The Board would like to receive nominations for officers to be elected at next year's convention in Philadelphia. Also, Fr Bill C. (formerly of York) whom had been elected as Associate Chaplain was asked by his bishop to return to Montana. As such, Fr Bill asked for a temporary leave of absence which was granted. We would like to receive nominations from the Groups of other Calix Chaplains to serve as Associate Chaplain to assist Fr Gallenbach.

Following my remarks, I accepted questions.

(Post Convention addendum: I have announced to the Board that I have accepted a position within the Veteran's Administration Hospital System where I will be able to provide clinical pharmacy service to our nation's war heroes. The position is located in Eastern Tennessee and also generates an opportunity to take my future wife back home to be closer with her family. I will spend time between TN and York in the transition and intend to spread Calix into Tennessee with Gretchen by my side.)



OUT OF THE MOUNTAIN

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

Faith

Faith is defined in the dictionary as "belief and trust in loyalty to God--sincerity of intentions". The women of Shaken Skunk and their descendants were trained to believe in the concept of faith. Their faith has always been impressive regarding hands-on healing and the use of prayer, natural remedies and ceremony as a way of life in our family. Grandma Ivy prayed over others for healing, not because it was some kind of religious demand, but because she enjoyed it. Listening to the stories of miraculous healing intrigued me and stirred my curiosity. Could this be real? As far-fetched as it may have appeared in the modern world, it worked more often than not, and I have never been able to put that out of my mind, no matter how archaic it may have

Out of the Mountain (cont. on pg. 5)

seemed.

Besides this unwavering "faith", there was also the constant reminder to "honor your dreams and visions". It was believed that we have dreams and/or visions or both for a reason. These experiences are not random in nature. They are purposeful and important. Hearing discussions about these things all through childhood and early adulthood left its deepest and most impressive mark on me. The quiet moments that often become filled with dramatic visualizations are often intended to guide us throughout our lives. Perhaps, the notion of such discerning thoughts being referred to as "visions" seems trite or a bit too mystical for some people to fully digest. Or maybe this spirituality seems childlike or make-believe and, perhaps, it is. Honoring dreams and visions with the faith of my ancestors seems to me to be the very best part of the story of my life and personal experiences.

I have made hundreds of thousands of wrong choices over the years of my life, and these poor choices have led to some very severe consequences that are bizarre stories in their own right, but that is not what this story is about. This story is about faith, because through it all there has always been some undeniable light just ahead that was able to pull me through what appeared to be deadly circumstances, into a place of healing and spirituality. That's what this story is about--experience, strength and hope. Faith is the secure cornerstone of survival.

During my husband's cancer treatment my faith wore very thin at times, and I would pray. I prayed both the Catholic way and the Native way, because since I sobered up I had discovered that my Creator is everywhere. He was in the American Indian sweat lodges I

attended on the reservation, and He was also at the Catholic Mass. He was in the 12-step meetings, answering the prayers of desperation of those poor souls who had lost nearly everything worthwhile in their lives. It didn't seem to matter which name we gave Him, but He did care about and love each of us. That fact was obvious to me and others who attended meetings. I had the earlier vision that Wayne had been healed, but my husband was still going through whatever pains are involved in the healing process that can test our patience and our faith at the deepest level. The chemotherapy made him weak, and every single hair on his body fell out. His face was swollen and pale, and he was cold all the time. One morning when he was scheduled for another cat scan, I saw him out in the sun drinking the liquid required to take the test. He was such an obedient patient. He was courageous and strong and spiritually fit, but he looked so frail. I cried very hard watching him through the window, and I prayed. The tears came so fast that it seemed everywhere I looked everything was blurred, as though I were underwater trying to find the surface. Then the vision came.

I suspected the things I was seeing were the result of fear and near hysteria, so I tried to ignore them. As I watched my husband sitting there in the sun, I saw an owl soaring above the pines. I didn't like owls, because many people from my culture believe they are a symbol of death. Suddenly, it looked like the owl was having difficulty flying, like one of his wings were broken, and he began flapping and struggling to remain airborne. Now I knew that I was being superstitious, because I was conscious that I was shaking all over and felt like I would collapse. The owl finally fell hard to the forest floor, and where he hit the

Out of the Mountain, (cont. from pg. 5)

ground dust rose up everywhere and filled my entire field of vision. He let out a cry and certainly died upon impact. I ran from the window in my effort to escape this horrible waking dream. I ran through the front room and kitchen and out the back door, where I could be alone so I could pull myself together from this horrible experience. I didn't want Wayne to see me like that if he came inside the house.

I sat on the back deck and sobbed, but the vision continued. Dust billowed everywhere. Finally, I was able to barely see the tops of the pine trees as the billows began to settle to the ground. Why was this awful thing continuing to happen to me? I asked my Creator to take it from me. Enough was enough, but still it continued. Finally, the dust settled to the ground and the air began to clear. As the forest calmed down I was able to see something shaped like a dog or wolf standing in the clearing where the owl had hit the ground. The sun sparkled on the pine needles and on the fur on the back of the animal. My tears stopped, and I tried to focus. The fur was shiny and then, I could see that the animal was a beautiful, strong timber wolf, whom was looking directly into my eyes. Now I was interested to see whatever else I was going to dream up in my imagination.

The wolf lowered his head to really get my attention and then, he turned and began to walk into the forest, stopping every few steps to look at me as though I were supposed to follow him. I stood up and took a couple of steps forward, and I swear it looked like he smiled at me and began to trot into the woods. Then some voice came from somewhere and said the words, "Walking Wolf". So I saw that the owl had died as he hit the earth and in his place was this beautiful teacher, the wolf.

What did it mean? I felt much better, but, perhaps, a bit weakened and woozy from the dramatic vision. I decided to go check on Wayne. I looked out the front window, and there he was finishing his cat-scan medicine. In my exhaustion there was a brief second when he looked like a beautiful timber wolf, sitting among the pines out front of the house. It was then I realized that the cancer had been a "spiritual death" to his former self, and he was certainly healed and would be a different kind of man from now on. And so he was.

Today Wayne Walking Wolf's hair is worn long in a ponytail, just like before except the color grew in with silver and gold highlights like the timber wolf. He feels his healing came directly from our Creator. He talks about miracles and healing and helps many others as they make the journey of healing from alcoholism, and he works with and prays with men who have been diagnosed with cancer.

Office News and Notes

We'll have more about the convention in the next issue, but I will mention a few items.

1. There were 46 attendees with units represented in Lincoln, NE, Omaha, NE, Columbus, OH, Madison, WI, St. Paul, MN, Philadelphia, PA (Media, Grays Ferry and Glenside), York, PA (by Skype), Pittsburgh, PA and, of course, Las Vegas, NV. Also, there were folks there from New Jersey and New York.

2. The program was recorded in audio, and it will be put up on the web site.

3. Speakers were Barrie F. (Las Vegas), Amy N. (Media), Al P. (St. Paul), Ed and Marlene K. (Omaha), Jim B. (St. Paul), Craig and Mary C. (Lincoln), Mike S. (York) and Fr. Tom for the finale. Beautiful!

4. Hats off to the LV Unit and, especially, Madge L. who did a lot of the organizing.

Office News and Notes (cont. on pg. 7)

Out of the Mountain, (cont. from pg. 6)

2014 Convention in Philadelphia, August 1-3

Ken J. from the Philly planning committee sent the following note.

“I received confirmation today that Fr. Brian Lawless, the current Vice Postulator for the Cause for Canonization for Ven. Matt Talbot will be traveling from Dublin, Ireland to be with us next August!

He will be staying on after the convention to do talks in a couple local parishes including (tentatively) my home parish of St. Luke's in Glenside and St. Gabriel's in Grays Ferry on Monday and Tuesday respectively. I don't know how long he plans to be in the US but if you think you could fill a Church and cover expenses I could always ask him about additional stops.

Start saving for Philly now - I think it's going to be a fantastic weekend!!

Ken

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.
Drop the Rock (New!) Removing Character Defects By Bill, Todd and Sara	\$10.00 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.
The Soul of Sponsorship <i>From letters between Bill W. & Fr. Dowling</i> by Robert Fitzgerald, S.J.	\$13.00 Ppd.
Sister Ignatia Angel of Alcoholics Anonymous by Mary Darrah	\$17.00 Ppd.
A 12 Step Approach to the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius <i>52 meditations, & their relation to the 12 Steps.</i> by James Harbaugh, SJ	\$18.00 Ppd.
One Day at a Time in Al-Anon	\$18.00 Ppd.
Addict in the Family by Beverly Conyers	\$15.00 Ppd.
My Name is Bill by Susan Cheever	\$10.00 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.
Lost in the Crowd (New!) by Kathleen Haberland	\$13.50 Ppd.
Recovery Rosary Booklet by Kate H. (New!)	\$5.00 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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THE CALIX SOCIETY

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