



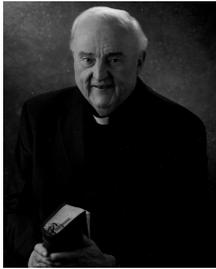
# the Chalice

CALIX NEWSLETTER

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## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

By Fr. Tom Gallenbach  
Associate Chaplain

### The Church Downstairs

This was the title of an article found in the July 13th edition of *Commonweal Magazine*. The author is a Catholic Priest, signing his name as Father Nonomen. He has been active in the role of priest for more than twenty years and is the pastor of a suburban parish. His parish sponsors an AA group in a downstairs room beneath his sanctuary. The substance of his article is one of comparing the hospitality demonstrated by the church downstairs compared to the church upstairs.

The AA group in his parish has been meeting for as long as he can remember. Its presence came to the forefront of his consciousness when a woman parishioner related to him that she started attending the church upstairs because of her experience with the community demonstrated by the church downstairs. She had been disconnected from the church of her baptism and became reconnected due to the qualities demonstrated in the church downstairs.

Not being one of us, he (the author) attends meetings as an observer and has made some

summations that I completely agree with, based on my membership in both the church upstairs and the church downstairs. Here is my summation of what Father Nonomen observed. First, the church downstairs has a low key sense of welcoming. Newcomers attending may not feel comfortable the first time or times, but they feel embraced and are not made to feel isolated. When a member tells his or her story, they feel they are listened to and feel they are not being judged. Hospitality continues more intensely after the meeting than before. No one is bolting out the door to the parking lot. The church downstairs rallies around the weak and powerless, even those living on the fringes of society. This happens because the common denominator of our brotherhood and sisterhood is that we are all powerless over alcohol.

Father states that we talk a better game than we practice (I agree). He continues...it's painfully obvious that we as the church upstairs are not so good with people who live or love differently from the dictates of the marriage canons. He continues by asking the rhetorical questions...do we try to understand the family whose children miss more catechism classes than they attend? Do we have the same regard for the person or persons who are more likely to show up for the pasta dinner than for the Sunday Eucharist? We preach a strong belief in St. Paul and the Cross and the

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doctrine of carrying our crosses. How do we judge the couple or family whose marriage or family life is a train wreck? All of us gathering together in the church upstairs need to reflect on the points that Father has presented for consideration. Father concludes that the church downstairs warmly welcomes strangers. They shore up the weak and listen intently to what everyone else has to say. Surely this is part of the reason that the church downstairs has to keep putting up more chairs, while the church upstairs, in many instances, has empty pews.

Belonging to both churches, our parish sponsored AA meeting is on Sunday Morning at 9am in a room on the same level as the church. I attend as often as I am able, as my schedule will allow. With twenty seven, going on twenty eight years in the fellowship, I understand both churches. I love both. The church upstairs operates in the public forum with schedules to keep, bills to be paid, and a multitude of serious needs which it demands of the ministers to deal with on a daily basis. And leaves one (especially myself) exhausted at the end of a day. And I attend the church downstairs for fellowship and refreshment. The church downstairs confesses faults, shortcoming and sins publicly. (4th & 5th steps) The church upstairs confesses their sins privately. I've done both many times, but my first time in doing my 5th step took me four or five days to prepare and over an hour to fulfill. If the church upstairs can learn something from the church downstairs, maybe its to look at this point. And the other benefits mentioned in Father Nonomen/s article will follow.

God bless all of you,

Fr Tom G.



## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

By Fr. William Cawley  
Associate Chaplain

**Praised be Jesus Christ! Now and forever.  
Amen.**

There is no more fitting way to begin my contributions to the Chalice than by offering a few thoughts on the “Year of Faith” declared by Pope Benedict XVI. It will begin on October 11, 2012 and conclude on November 24, 2013. Since a reflection on and a renewal of our Faith is so important, I would guess the Holy Father thought it worthwhile to make the “year” more than twelve months!

The first day of the Year of Faith is the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council by Blessed Pope John XXIII and also the twentieth anniversary of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. During this special time, we Catholics are asked to study and to reflect on the documents of Vatican II and topics/sections/chapters of the Catechism. Hopefully this experience will not only deepen our knowledge of our faith, but it will also, and I daresay more importantly, strengthen our relationship with our God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – and with one another in the Body of Christ, the Church.

The way that the Holy Father puts it is: “The upcoming Year of Faith is a summons to an authentic and renewed conversion to the Lord, the One Savior of the World.” (my emphasis) [Porta Fidei 6] In other words, the Year of Faith is an opportunity for Catholics to experience a deeper conversion – to turn back to

*Chaplain's Corner (cont. on pg. 3)*

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Jesus and/or to enter into a deeper relationship with Him. The “door of faith” was opened at our baptism, but during this year we Catholics are called to open it again, to walk through it and to rediscover and renew our relationship with Christ and His Church.

The above material was taken from the website of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops:

<http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/newevangelization/year-of-faith/>

This website will have materials like videos and internet links and references to print materials that will be helpful for our Calix groups to use during this year. I highly recommend we consult this site for further information and direction.



### **Dare to Dream Big Dreams**

I am honored to have been elected Calix Society President. I humbly accept this position and pledge to each of you that I will do my very best to keep the momentum of Calix going! I know we all appreciate the leadership and energy Ken and Amy gave us – well done faithful servants! I assure you that Margo is full of energy and dedication as well – we already have her working on a special project! My first act as President was naming Ed K. from Omaha as my trusted confidant. He and Marlene have stepped up to the chal-

lenge and are considering taking on a vital role for Calix.

The first time I spoke at the Calix Convention in St. Paul, five or six years ago, I was asked to direct my comments to the activities of our group in York. I talked about how we approached members of AA to consider joining Calix and the nature of our monthly meetings in York. In York we follow Calix Traditions and offer something that can't be found at AA meetings. It has been working well for us, and it works well for other groups. Since that convention, I have witnessed a great deal of growth and enthusiasm. A new group in Little Rock just formed and they have 30 active members of The Society! Philadelphia continues to impress us, and there is a re-birth in Seattle and Baton Rouge as well. The second York Calix member has started the RCIA process, and I couldn't be happier knowing how important our Church is to my personal recovery! Further, Calix has recently enjoyed some air time with Fr. Doug from Grey's Ferry in Philadelphia speaking about Calix on EWTN. There is movement afoot that could create additional air-time on EWTN affiliated radio. We live in exciting times for Calix!

While at that convention in St. Paul in '07, I was awed by the depth of the Society's Archives. I thought that if we could find a way to make those materials available to all, it would make recruitment into our Society much easier. So, I joined the Board of Directors, and am happy to say that we've come a very long way. Today, we have a new website that has the capacity to share these Archives and serve as a recruitment tool for new members and groups. We've begun using technology to reduce the Society's oper-

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

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

ating costs by reducing the number of the Chalice newsletters we print the old fashioned way. We hope to make further reductions here as well. Printing the Chalice at home from the website or by receiving it via email can save The Society hundreds and hundreds of dollars a year. Please consider helping us reduce this cost by accepting your copy of the Chalice from the website or via email. These funds could be effectively used to interact with other like-minded organizations such as NCCA (Nat'l Catholic Council on Alcoholism) or Guest House, where Catholic clergy and religious are treated for this disease. Interacting with these organizations may help plant seeds of forming a new Calix Group in the minds of recovering priests and deacons – we must continually seek opportunities and attract Chaplains to our organization! Do you have a seminary near your meeting? In York, we had two seminarians show up – they found us via the internet. What a blessing!

Moving forward, I can assure you that we are examining how we conduct the Society's business. We will be focusing on ways to be as efficient as possible. We will strive to demonstrate the value of membership so that we are attractive to new members, and possibly to independent groups of Catholics in recovery currently outside of our Calix Family. Beyond our borders, our Board will seek to add a Director from Calix Europe as we work to keep Calix truly International. Some of our literature is being translated into Spanish and the first pieces will be available in the next days. It only takes a dream and a little volunteerism.

Soon, each Calix Group will have a member

of the Board of Directors serve as a primary contact point. The Board Member will maintain contact with their assigned groups to both collect and distribute information that benefits the group, and Calix as a whole. We believe it will help build cohesion, offer support and help each group feel closer to The Society. In addition to that, I am making myself available to each and every member of Calix. Please feel free to contact me via email [drmichael.sanders@comcast.net](mailto:drmichael.sanders@comcast.net). I'd love to hear from you and learn what you think would help Calix grow. If you'd like, I'd be happy to call in to your meeting – put me on speaker phone, put me on the spot. Challenge me to do everything possible, as I know I will challenge you. Time permitting, I may just show up at one of your meetings in person.

Shortly, you will also learn that the groups in Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Harrisburg, and York will be holding a regional meeting. We will be posting a notice on the website with the particulars. We did this following the Pittsburgh Convention, and we had a fruitful time. I encourage you to consider doing the same and reach out to a group near you – the directory of Groups is on the website. The annual conventions are stimulating, but sometimes it isn't possible to make it to a national convention. There is something very rewarding in being in contact with other groups. Since the Calix Board of Directors is formed by members from around the US, you just never know who might show up at this type of regional meeting.

Friends, I also spoke about my brother at the St. Paul Convention(s). Father Phil. He is back in Rome at the John Paul II Institute working on his Doctorate in Sacred Theology

*President's Column (cont. on pg. 5)*

President's Column, (cont. from pg. 4)

and will be in the Eternal City for a few years. I asked the Convention in St. Paul to dare to dream big dreams. I asked "Would Calix like to make a Pilgrimage to Rome"?! I was just a little bit afraid when I received an overwhelming positive response to this question. How will we meet this goal? I have begun exploring this and will keep you informed in the weeks to months ahead. We can make this happen!

Jesus Christ, Protector of my sobriety, tells me everyday "Be Not Afraid", so let us all begin to Dare to Dream Big Dreams. Let us establish this as our mantra. Let us spread the Word about Calix. With His help, together we will expand the apostolate of the Calix Society! We will get to Rome and share from the Cup with our European brothers and sisters. I know, too, we will all stay sober in the process as we help one another seek the sanctification of our entire being!

Tell me your dreams!



**OUT OF THE MOUNTAIN**  
 By Fran  
 "Dancing Feather" Greer  
 email: frandfg@yahoo.com

### All My Relations

Who are my people? If someone of a designated "race" talks about "my people", they may be referring to the people who share the same skin color or national origin, but this is not always the case. Who are my relations? The answer to this one probably depends on

the way we, each of us, defines ourselves. We might think of our expanded family or fellow Tribal members as our relations. Maybe the real question is, "Who am I?" Some people define themselves by their career or religion or any other of a variety of self-descriptions. Do we see our race as a definitive self description that separates us from others? Or do we see ourselves as part of something much greater?

Many native people believe we are related to all things natural and supernatural or mystical. We are part of the great web of creation. I am related to the clouds, the earth and everything that lives or exists on earth. I am related to the rivers, oceans, rains and lakes and all the water spirits. I am related to the animal and plant peoples and the stone people. I am related to these members of the planet and sky, and we were all created by a huge, powerful, generous Creator, who made us all equal to one another in the natural and supernatural world and beyond. When we pray to the creator, of all things we pray together with the other relations for the good of us and all our relations. We have our extended families with all the ancestors who lived before us and all who will come after us and all those with whom we share our earthly time. When we pray, we are never ever alone because we have thousands of relations throughout time. It is a great fellowship and a wonderful relationship filled with love and companionship.

There are two large shade trees just outside my office window. They look healthy and strong, and they provide great shade with natural dignity and beauty. I feel healthy and

Out of the Mountain (cont. on pg. 6)

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

strong beside them, and they are good friends with whom to share this small area each day. The hollyhocks, humming birds and buzzing ones are around often too, and we are all related and in this relationship with one another. There is a bird bath under the nearest tree. Doves and a variety of smaller, brightly colored birds bathe in it, and wild kittens occasionally jump up and drink while teetering on the very edge. The indoor cat sleeps on a pile of books on the desk, and all of us together form a little peaceful community. The land slopes upward from the office window and across the grassy slope another twenty or more trees join us in our field of vision. The ground is speckled with shadow and sunshine. It is a good place. Brother wind stirs the late summer leaves, and we are all in harmony with one another. They help me work and pray, and I help them be who they are, and we all pray together to one Maker.

At sunrise I climb the mesa to watch the day begin with the nearby pines, deer, skunk and cotton tail. It is a special time of worship, prayer and respect for being at the very top of mother earth in the company of great high mountains, the gentle creatures and Grandmother River. The sunrise has its own special music made from the river water, wind and animals. As the autumn awakens, geese gather to begin their yearly migration, and a great squawking occurs at the water's edge beneath the cottonwood, mulberry and willow. Every sunrise is different from every other throughout the seasons and generations of time. No two are the same. If I were to miss

just one sunrise, I will miss an important part of the development of my fragile soul and spirit. I will miss the profound messages that can come from that one individual day's beginning light. Our souls can be broken many times in this life but can be healed again and again as we join together in a spiritual relationship of gratitude and healing with our Creator and all our relations.

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

Marrienne Hinderks  
 St. Paul Unit 2  
 August, 2012

**“May her soul 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)

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