



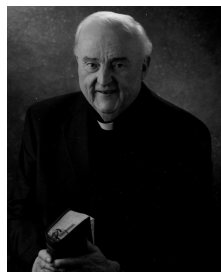
the Chalice

CALIX NEWSLETTER

Volume 39

September - October 2012

Issue No. 5



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

By Fr. Tom Gallenbach
Associate Chaplain

Fr. Gallenbach is away and Fr. Cawley has just returned from being away. Both will be back in print in the next issue.



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

By Fr. William Cawley



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Ken Johnston

Time Flies When...Well It Just Flies!

This will be my last article as the President of this wonderful society. As I said at our recent Convention, I have a bittersweet feeling as I rotate out. I had set a goal to double our membership when I was elected, and I thought it was reasonable. If every member introduced one new person to Calix, we should be able to double our membership, right? Unfortunately, we are in trying

times in many, many ways, but as a result of our time together in St. Paul I am convinced that it is only a matter of time (AND effort!) before we start to see significant growth.

The energy in St. Paul was palpable. The list of speakers was exceptional. Allow me to share some of the highlights with you.

We started Friday evening with a meal followed by the Rosary in the grotto on the grounds of St. Thomas University. Deacon Phil led us, and both he and the musicians set the tone for the weekend. It is always wonderful to gather in prayer with my fellow Calix members!

Saturday morning brought a great breakfast followed by two speakers. First, Jeff Henrich from Guest House gave us an update of the activities at Guest House followed by his personal story. Most significant about his talk was that the NCCA (National Catholic Council on Addiction, www.nccatoday.org) has been brought under the leadership of Guest House. Jeff let us know that he believes there should be greater communication between Calix, Guest House and the NCCA, and that with the new organization that will happen. This will be a great way to spread the word about Calix. Also of note was that the NCCA will help individuals start parish substance abuse programs if they are interested. See their website for more information.

After a short break, Fr. Michael O'Connor from St. Paul, addressed the group, focusing on the two

President's Column (cont. on pg. 2)

President's Column, (cont. from pg. 1)

things that Calix can provide those in recovery that the 12-step rooms cannot always provide: love and faith. What I took away from Fr. O'Connor's talk, though, was his owl call of, "Who, who, who". Who is God? Who am I? Who are you? It's in answering these three questions that we determine our relationship with God, ourselves and others.

Then we had a couple of speakers after more food at lunch. Dick Rice of The Retreat was wonderful as he told his story of recovery and his experience of steps 6, 7 and 11.

After I shared a few words of my own we had our business meeting. Jim Billigmeier brought the group up to date on the some of the important things going on at the national level including the financial report and a summary of new activity around the country. The business portion of the weekend concluded with the election of our new president and vice president, Mike S. from York, PA and Margo E. from Seattle, WA, respectively. I would also like to thank Ed. K. from Omaha for his willingness to serve the society. It is great to know that we have such dedicated members in the society that are willing to serve! Amy and I will remain on the board and look forward to maintaining the energy and momentum that we saw at the convention.

Saturday evening we had a delicious dinner followed by an outstanding talk by Dr. John McDougall from Hazelden. I was literally crying as a result of his humor. And it reminded me of how in the rooms we find ourselves smiling and even laughing out loud at some of the most tragic things that happen in one's lives. It is only because we understand that we can laugh. I think others that are not familiar with the 12-steps and recovery meetings would have been dumbfounded by

Dr. McDougall's talk of torture as a youngster, yet he shared it in such a way that we knew the tragedy, but because he was there we already knew about some of the results. My key takeaway from his talk was the idea of the "more" and "enough" buttons. "Normal" people have both; we alcoholics and addicts only have a "more" button.

Sunday morning started with Mass with Archbishop John Niensted and then breakfast and a farewell. The morning flew by and before I knew it Fr. John L., Harry M, Joe McG and I were back in the car for our trek back to Philadelphia. I calculated that between driving, meals and hotel stops we spent some 67 hours together travelling to and from St. Paul. There were many laughs as well as serious conversations about ourselves and our faith. I still laugh thinking about some of the things that went on, not the least of which was Fr. John's PTSD (post traumatic salmon disorder!) You'll have to ask him about it the next you see him.

Plans are now underway for next year's convention to be held October 4-6, 2013 in Las Vegas. We will provide information as it becomes available. In the meantime start putting away some money each week. It would be great to see you there!!

Finally – thank you for a great two years serving as President of this fine organization. As I said at the convention, twenty years ago I never would have dreamed that this is where I would be right now. I can only imagine what God has in store for me in the next twenty! Best wishes to Mike and Margo as they lead us for the next two years. I look forward to continuing to work with them, the board and any others who are enthusiastic about spreading the word about Calix!



OUT OF THE MOUNTAIN

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

Whispers of the Spirit

A whisper from the Spirit of Creation can be as subtle as a gentle breeze or as unmistakable as a siren that cuts through the silence of the night. It refuses to be ignored but hesitates to dominate. These whispers are fragments of wisdom that seek residence in the homelands of the human soul. Whispers of the Spirit have been called "aha moments", "spiritual awakenings", "epiphanies" and "messages from the Divine". They are personal revelations that change us from immature people into altruistic spiritual beings. They come in many forms and can appear any time or anywhere. Often they appear in our dreams. Other times, we may hear them spoken by someone at a meeting or in a spiritual ceremony. We can experience them in quiet reflective moments as words, phrases, ideas or even visions. I once listened to a Catholic Native American Bishop who spoke at a conference. He was discussing bridging the gap between various religions and native cultural belief systems. He talked about the remarkable number of native people who have these stirrings of the Great Spirit in the form of "visions". As a Roman Catholic priest, he referred to the spirit inside all of us as the Holy Spirit and asked us if we know where that Spirit does His best work with native peoples. When no one offered an answer, he suggested the Holy Spirit lives and

works within the human imagination! He suggested that if we are in a humble prayerful state of seeking our Creator's will for us, we will receive direction because no prayer goes unanswered.

Many of the world's ancient religions, including American Indian culture, use ceremonies of purification to help insure against misguided or unwanted messages from entities other than their own chosen Highest Deity or belief system. Some Tribes use a smudge ceremony, sweat lodge or pipe ceremony to purify the participants. Hebrew ceremonies have included ritual washings, and Christians often use holy water and make the sign of the cross. Many cultures use fasting to clear the body, mind and spirit of the distractions of worldly thoughts and desires. Often these whispers of the Great Spirit can seem quite mysterious or even be so far removed from our expectations that they are extremely difficult to comprehend, understand or accept at first. That's why it is always wise to seek the counseling of a trusted elder, spiritual director or sponsor as we attempt to enter into a spiritual journey. Sometimes the things we seek or pray for will not be revealed to us without a learning experience that prepares us for the lasting wisdom we seek. For example, we might seek a transformation into a position of leadership only to discover we are suddenly faced with an individual who is nearly impossible to tolerate. We begin to question our ability to lead anyone, as we find ourselves caught in some petty battle of wits. This can result in the awareness of a call from the Spirit to rise above the conflict, detach from the problem and live in the solution. And so we find our-

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

selves growing through the conflict and moving closer to the position of leadership. Our prayers were indeed answered by the lessons learned.

Time spent in the wilderness can provide the opportunity for higher contact with the Spiritual Force of Creation. Native peoples often talk about our relationship with animals, plants and other elements of the natural world. Various animals are considered messengers concerning our own human behavior. Their antics have the ability to tell us things about ourselves. Some people believe that any time a certain animal enters our lives; we need to pay attention to its behavior and take it personally, because our Creator may be using that animal to guide and direct our thinking and self-awareness. As we learn to observe and respect the natural environment, we feel closer to the whispers of the Great Spirit.

Calix in the 21st Century

by Ken J.

As I am writing, the vender we contracted with to build out the website is preparing to install the latest versions of all of the software that makes the website what it is. Once the updates are completed, you can look forward to some more files being uploaded, especially audio files. The St. Paul unit plans to make the audio files from all of the talks available to you for FREE! We have recordings from earlier years that we will make available as well! So check in often to see if they are there yet.

Please frequent the Forums (click on resources, then forums), and join in the con-

versations. Margo has started writing articles about nutrition and is willing to answer questions that are posted. Learn what other units are doing and, maybe borrow from them for your own unit! Start a new conversation about anything that fits into the Calix or recovery world, and, hopefully, others will join in the conversation. For some, these forums may be the only "unit" some of them belong to!

Lastly, continue to use the Amazon and GoodSearch links that are on the homepage. It is a really easy way to support Calix.

Office News and Notes

Unit News

Las Vegas, NV

The unit has already begun planning for the 2013 convention. It will be held in the fall, October 4-6, to, hopefully, experience cooler weather. Madge L. said that the committee is hoping to keep the registration under \$100.00. It will be held at the beautiful St. Joseph Husband of Mary Church. I will be following package deals on the internet, and I'll post what I see on line in the forums.

Cleveland, OH

We received a donation to the convention just before the start. Jane B. said the unit is doing fine and that she hoped that they could have a few folks attend in the future. Thanks Cleveland!

Baton Rouge, LA

We received a call from Nancy G. Nancy was excited to tell us that they had 15 attendees at their last meeting. Last year she and Janet F. made a concerted effort to revitalize the group as they had really had a falloff in attendance. Through their work with the dio-

Office News and Notes, (cont. from pg. 4)

cese and their determination, they have built back up.

At this time they are using Fr. Harbaugh's book, A 12 Step Approach to the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius, as a tool for their discussions. Nancy stated that they sometimes will only get through a paragraph in an hours discussion.

In Memoriam

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

*Cecilia Oknich
St. Paul Unit 2
June, 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)

CALIX LITERATURE

No Turning Back (New!)
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. Harrinton \$5.00 Ppd.

The Soul of Sponsorship
From letters between Bill W. & Fr. Dowling
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
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.

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
by Kathleen Haberland \$13.50 Ppd.

Recovery Rosary Booklet
by Kate H. \$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.

A Word for the Problem Drinker .40 ea.

Calix, What and Why? .30 ea.

How It Works - Spiritually .30 ea.

Information for Chaplains .30 ea.

Information for New Units .30 ea.

Calix Induction Ceremony .30 ea.

Calix Pin (for members only) \$5.00 ea.

Convention Pictures



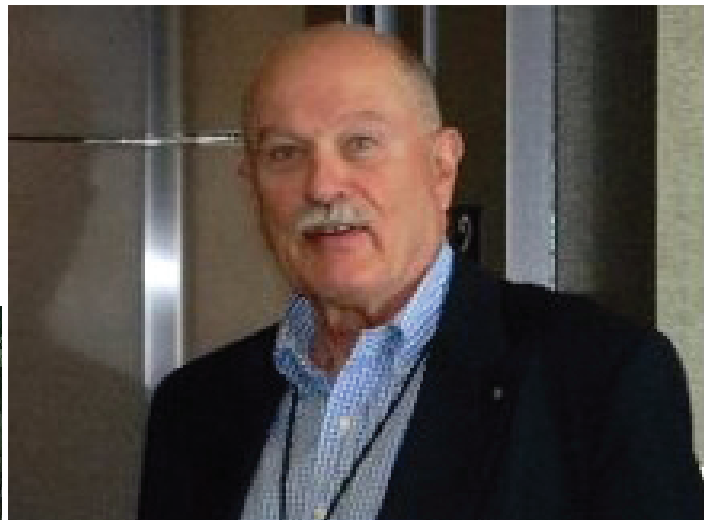
Healing Service with Deacon Phil at the Grotto



Fr. John from Glenside Unit



Healing Service



Chris P. from Columbus Unit



New President Mike S. at Saturday banquet



Joe M. from St. Paul and AB Niensted



(from F to B) Fred J. from Madison, Joe M. from St. Paul and Jim E. from Columbus



St. Paul Unit President Al Pape and Archbishop Niensted

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THE CALIX SOCIETY
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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.