



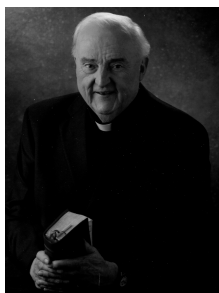
the Chalice

CALIX NEWSLETTER

Volume 39

January - February 2012

Issue No. 1



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

By Fr. Tom Gallenbach

"He must increase, I must decrease..."

John 3:30.

In the month of January we have been privileged to read and listen to the Gospel of St. John. St. John the Baptist has been the focus of much of the gospel readings, Chapter three, beginning with the 22nd verse, presents the final witness of St. John about Jesus. Both Jesus and John are baptizing in waters not far from one another. A dispute arises between some of the disciples of John and a Jew about ceremonial washings. The disciples of John seek their mentor out and say to him: "Rabbi, the one who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you testified, here he is baptizing and every one is coming to him." John responds: "No one can receive anything except what has been given him from heaven. You yourselves can testify that I said (that) I am not the messiah, but that I was sent before him. The one who has the bride is the bridegroom; the best man, who stands and listens to Him, rejoices greatly at

the bridegrooms voice. So this joy of mine has been made complete. He must increase; I must decrease."

A reflection. John, the only perfect man conceived by man and woman, hits the bulls eye in terms of the essence of a Christian life in the simple declarative sentence, "He must increase, I must decrease." Ego is the horse power in each of us to go out and win souls for Christ. Ego is the same power that can destroy us.

I just finished reading the story of Samuel anointing Saul the first King of Israel. The bible tells us that he was head and shoulders above every other man. Probably something like some NFL quarterbacks. What destroyed him? Ego..jealously...the people sang of Saul and his slaying thousands. And the people sang of David and his slaying of tens of thousands. Go back and re-read the statement of John's disciples to John.(paraphrased), " Rabbi, Jesus is getting more followers than you!! How does that make you feel John? "How does John respond?" No one can receive anything except what has been given him. He must increase, I must decrease" Easily said, but very hard to embrace and put into action.

One of the best illustrations of what I am writing about can be found in the Big Book *Chaplain's Corner (cont. on pg. 2)*

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

(I am using the third edition) in the Chapter "How it Works". Starting with, "Here are the steps we took" (page 59 in the third edition)...meditate on the words from that point to page 66 ending with the paragraph saying, "Our moments of triumph were short lived." I read it from time to time as a preparation for confession (5th step).

For a Christian, glorifying God in everything we do, is the first step to salvation. For all of us who are Christian and alcoholic it is also the first step to staying sober and alive. God bless all and God's blessings to you in the new year,
Fr. Tom G.



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Ken Johnston

A Tale of Two Cities

2012 is going to be an interesting year for the Catholic community in Philadelphia. We were warned a few weeks ago by Archbishop Charles Chaput, our new bishop, that 2012 is going to be a tough year.

The priest scandal may finally be winding down but not before three priests and a Catholic school teacher go on trial beginning in March. I am certain it will be the lead story on the nightly news.

And then two weeks ago the Archdiocese announced that they were closing four high schools and merging 44 elementary schools,

including the school that my two youngest children go to. In the last 40 years we have gone from over 200,000 kids enrolled in Catholic schools to 68,000.

I am not an expert, but these kind of numbers tell me that we are close to hitting the bottom, and that's good news. One of the benefits of being a recovered alcoholic is having the knowledge that one must hit bottom before the desire to recover starts to overcome the desire to drink. Here in Philadelphia I think we are about to experience our "bottom". Frankly, it can't get much worse! The "remnant" is starting to form, and it will be stronger and more faithful than any time in its past. I can believe this, because I've already experienced it in my own life.

Those that despise the Church, media included, are having a field day. Many Catholics don't know how things will turn out, and they are scared. Many more Catholics will leave the Church for the more "welcoming" Christian churches. Others will just plain leave and not go anywhere else, giving up on organized religion. Not me!

Even before I went to my first pro-life march this week in Washington, DC, I had been telling friends and neighbors that we will survive. That this "remnant" we are becoming will be stronger and more faithful. But we need to be prepared for the sacrifice that will come with it. The laity will have to realize that it will take more of their money and more of their time. It is only fitting that Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa, O.F.M. Cap, Preacher to the Papal Household, will be in

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

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

Philadelphia next month to speak on “The Co-responsibility of the Priest and Laity in Renewing the Church.” I am really looking forward to the two nights he’s speaking (details at www.philly-calix.com).

As I mentioned in the previous paragraph I made my first trip to the pro-life march in Washington DC just a couple days ago. Despite the slight chill and the constant drizzle, it was a great day! I haven’t been with that many people since the Philadelphia Flyers parade when they won the Stanley Cup in 1975!

The highlight of the day was seeing all the young people. Granted, most of them got out of school for the day. But they were chanting and singing, and there were thousands of them! There were lots and lots of young religious – priests, brothers, nuns, you name it! I came away from the day with a belief that we are turning the corner and we will survive.

So while Philadelphia may be reaching the lowest of lows, that Washington experience tells me that God does not abandon us! And while many friends and neighbors show signs of despair, I keep telling them the line I learned from Fr. McKay: “There’s nothing to worry about. I read the book and we win!”

I also wanted to share the most moving part of the pro-life march. Our little group hung out on the mall for awhile, listening to the different speakers. We then joined the march and headed up past the Senate offices and over towards the Supreme Court. There, along the sidewalk, were about a dozen men and women holding signs. The women held

signs that read “I REGRET MY ABORTION”. The men held signs that read “I REGRET MY LOST FATHERHOOD”. I could be a part of that group. And I know so many others in AA who could be a part of that group. When we went through it, nobody told us that it would haunt us for the rest of our lives. To see them, visibly shaken, broken, red-eyed from crying but refusing to leave was a true witness to the effects of abortion. I don’t know if Roe v. Wade will ever get repealed. I do know that at some point we need to find a way to tell people that what seems like a short, simple procedure will dramatically impact the rest of your life in ways that you can’t imagine. For me, that’s real horror of abortion.

The nicest part of the day was when my 13-year-old son, who went with me, looked at me and said, “Dad, why would anyone have an abortion?” At thirteen I probably would have said the same thing. But because of my experience, without telling him about my experience, I could explain why people who normally would never consider it start to consider it when they are scared and misguided. I pray for the day that pregnant mothers, and the men who helped put them in that situation, will be told the truth about what they are about to do and in that moment the Holy Spirit can work a little miracle. And, yes, I will be there next year for the march, the 40 year anniversary.

Membership Goal - 660

Present Membership - 396



OUT OF THE MOUNTAIN

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

Spiritual Beings

We are not physical beings having a spiritual experience, but rather spiritual beings having a physical experience. Our spirits are eternal, and our experiences are transitory. We are on a journey—a physical journey that is a part of forever. If we change the world in even the smallest way, let that change bear the mark of our love and foreverness. If we see ourselves as eternal, we are more likely to relax and enjoy the ride instead of becoming stressed and anxious in the use of our time. When we lose ourselves to resentments and shame, we waste those precious moments and hours of life that we could have spent happy, joyous and free. We are all plagued by grudges at times, but we have the 12 steps to overcome these things. There are no unique resentments. They are all the same. They are fueled by the fear that we will not get something we want or that we will lose something we cherish. Losing things we love and not always getting what we want is life-on-life's terms. We learn in recovery to strive for success but to leave the outcome to our Creator.

As spiritual beings we are able to see how our thoughts and actions are either part of the problem or part of the solution. And the direction of our thoughts and actions determine the level of joy, peace and happiness we experience. As spiritual beings we are automatically linked with all Creation, so when we pray we are heard. That's why the steps work. They bring spiritual changes

to our physical lives. They release us from addiction and insanity and set us free to move in a positive direction.

A spiritual way of life is not an easy way. The word spirituality sometimes brings to mind a frivolous or dreamy state of mind, but it's nothing like that. Life is filled with cold, hard facts that can seem devastating at times, and acceptance and action is the answer to all our problems. Spirituality enters the equation when we exercise faith in the fact that if we just do the right thing, the right things happen. Faith is an action word that requires commitment and actual effort on our part. Faith is having courage as we face the things in life that we fear, in spite of our fear. It takes practice to develop courage, faith and spirituality in an individual who has spent a lifetime expressing fear, guilt and shame. Some people express fear by carrying a gun everywhere they go, because it makes them feel safe from predators. Practicing spiritual courage is facing the same environment using the protection of a Higher Power and practicing faith in the fact that we are safe within our spiritual life. Spirituality is confidence in the positive outcome of our right actions.

We are made of spirit. The function of the human body can be explained by a system of organic functions, but our consciousness is supernatural. It cannot be recreated by man, only by our Creator. We are mystical spiritual beings, and the physical body is only the vehicle we use in this life. If we understand our natural spiritual nature, we will want to continue to nurture our recovery because addictions are only physical, not spiritual. Physical addictions remove our conscious, spiritual connection with the Greatness of all things in the natural world. To be fully alive, we want to be fully clean and sober. We embrace all our emotions rather than try to deaden them. We come to

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

Out of the Mountain, (cont. from pg. 4)

terms with our woundedness, resentments and fears through the spiritual journey of the twelve steps. This may seem very difficult at first, but as time goes on we cease to fear our feelings and learn how to deal with them as self-actualizing adults.

People of strong spirit are deeply immersed in the lives of themselves and others. They are not detached gurus who live in caves. The strength of their spirituality enables them to live fully in the moment and be honest, compassionate, self-sacrificing and straight forward with everyone in their world. There is no deceit, deception, hypocrisy or mediocrity. Every moment is valuable and precious. It is a great honor to be in the presence of a strong, recovering, human spirit!

Calix in the 21st Century

No major changes to report on the website this time. Just a few updates that you will definitely be interested in!

First and foremost, your access to the members' only areas of the website is tied to your membership being up to date. A lot of folks may start seeing their access being limited as on January 31. Remember that all memberships are now on a calendar year basis. If you are not sure if you are current on your membership or if you forget your username and/or password be sure to send an email to help@philly-calix.com or call Ken at 215-327-3236.

Thanks goes out to those who went to the Calix website before doing their Christmas shopping on Amazon.com. For the month of December Calix will receive \$77.48 from Amazon. Not bad, huh?

Please continue to use the link on our website for all of your Amazon purchases. The greater number of items purchased, the higher the percentage of the sales we receive!

We're also getting a couple dollars each month from GoodSearch (www.goodsearch.com). What you may not know is that they also have GoodShop where you select any of the 100's of websites (Macy's, overstock.com, Lowe's, etc.) to shop on and Calix gets a percentage of those sales, too!

By the time you receive this you should also be able to register for the 2012 national convention in St. Paul, MN. Go to the website and click of "resources" to download information and click on "store" to pay for your registration!

And lastly, not on the national website, but on the Philly website, www.philly-calix.com, we have started uploading Fr. McKay's homilies from the weekly Calix Mass in Grays Ferry. When you get to the website you can click on "Audio and Text Files" to download them! When the webmaster figures out how to get these large files uploaded to the national website we will have them there as well!

By the way, if you know "joomla" please get in touch with Ken!

Help with any part of the website is available by emailing help@philly-calix.com.

Working the Steps by Dan Monson

January is here, the first month of 2012, so I turn my attention to step one. When I pick up Calix and the Twelve Steps by Fr. Arnold Lugar, I read that every step has a spiritual dimension. In the Beatitudes Christ said, "Blessed are those who know they are spiritually poor", and I recognize my total dependence on God through Whom I develop spiritual goals and values. It is through the Grace of God that I can recognize my powerlessness over everything.

Calix in the 21st Century (cont. on pg. 6)

Calix in the 21st Century, (cont. from pg. 5)

In Romans 7: 18-25 Paul writes that my sinfulness is often what I think that I want to do. However, my inner being or conscience delights in doing God's will. Thus we have a war of what's right versus what's sinful, and I often become a prisoner of sin. In the past when left up to my own desires I almost always chose sin, but today, through God's grace, I often choose to follow God's laws.

In my studies of Paul this past year I was taught what pagans did in that time. I didn't think I was a pagan until I learned their behaviors; the worship of drinking, eating and sex, sadly, behaviors that I worshipped. Wow! I was a pagan! That was what Dan was when left to his own devices. Now, by the grace of God and AA, I recognize my powerlessness, and I'm a new person who can be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy forever in the next.

I believe the "we" in the first step is you, God and I. I know I could not stay sober by myself...without "we".

The first step prayer by Fr. Alfred Longley states, "Lord God you gave me a free will so that I could freely choose to serve you or give into my weakness. But you did not leave me unaided. You have told me that I can find my strength in you and my fellow sufferers. I know my alcoholic powerlessness can enslave and destroy me. It is only the healing strength that You give me that will enable me to overcome the destroying weakness that I admit, and to serve you in sober freedom and joy."

(Dan is a Calix International Director from St. Paul, MN.)

Office News & Notes

Harrisburg, PA: Harrisburg Calix welcomes visiting members from York and Philadelphia

A friend of mine had told me about a Calix Meeting she was attending in York. I loved the idea of Calix but wasn't able to attend the York meeting due to the time commitment of traveling to the meeting which included a Mass and meeting. She and Father Ed enjoyed the York meetings so much; they got a group started here in Harrisburg Area. Wow that was really exciting. I really struggled with recovery due to the redefining of my God. I do believe I had to do that in order to move forward in my recovery. So that left me with my Recovery God and with my Catholic God. I didn't and still don't want to have two different Gods, I want one God and I want my spiritual world to comingle and become one with my religious world. The Harrisburg meeting started in summer of 2011, just trying to figure out what we wanted to get out Calix. We have a core group of 7 people, and have had some wonderful meetings and discussions of our faith and recovery. On December 31, 2011, Board Members Mike (York) and Ken (Philadelphia) and about 8 folks from the York Group visited us and we received their overwhelming support.

They came to our meeting to share their experience, strength, and hope of their Calix journey. It was incredible to see that many people come to support our new meeting.

I believe what I received out of it was not only a feeling of unconditional love and support but also the ability to see the journey in others and myself. We are all on a different journey and it was exciting to see their love, acceptance, and joy of the Catholic Faith. I am excited for the journey and growth that can come from the continuation of working the Calix program.

Sarah, President of Harrisburg Calix Group

St. Paul, MN - Unit 2

The unit held a Day of Recollection on January 15. There was a pot-luck luncheon followed by a talk by Deacon Phil Stewart, the unit chaplain. An induction ceremony was held wherein 3 new members were inducted.

Las Vegas, NV

Fr. Tom reported that they do not have a lot of new members, but the unit is carrying on. They do 2 meetings per month with one being a holy hour on the first Friday of the month.

Central Arkansas

The first unit, of which the founders in Arkansas hope will be several, is forming in the Little Rock diocese. Kristy E. had a preliminary meeting, and 30 people showed up! Their next meeting will be February 16, wherein they expect to elect officers and get the forms together to apply for unit status. Please pray for their success!

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)

In Memorium

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

Phil Oknich
St. Paul Unit 2

January 20, 2012 at age 85

May his soul rest in peace....

CALIX LITERATURE

No Turning Back (New!)
by Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC \$17.00 Ppd.

Rediscover Catholicism (New!)
by Matthew Kelly \$23.00 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 (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.
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.

Vol. 39, Issue 1, Jan. - Feb., 2012

THE CALIX SOCIETY
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First Class Mail
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Your expiration date will always be at the end of the calendar year. If it's time to renew, please do it right away! Also, consider a renewal for 2 or 3 years. This will save Calix on postage!

Consider joining the Gratitude Club.